

Earth First!

# Action Update

February 2002

Issue 81

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

*"One less parasite" trad. punk slogan*

## Bayerhazard!

January 27<sup>th</sup> saw German chemical, pharmaceutical and would be GM giant launch itself on the New York Stock Exchange. The occasion didn't pass unnoticed and drew protests both at the firms Newbury Headquarters and in other parts of the country.

### What's the problem?

Bayer has a long and dubious history as a major German-based company producing mainstream consumer brands like Alka-Seltzer and Baby-Bio in addition to trademarking heroin (for use as a cough medicine), involvement in making Zyklon-B for the Nazi's gas chambers and profiteering from the recent US Anthrax scare. In October 2001 Bayer attempted to purchase Aventis Cropscience to carry its interest in Biotech out of the pharmaceutical labs and into the fields. The purchase was stalled after one of the company's latest products, the anti-cholesterol drug Baycol, was found to be linked to over 30 deaths leading to a massive fall in share prices. The launch of the company on the NY Stock Exchange is intended to provide sufficient funds for the take-over to continue (subject to approval from the European Commission). The Aventis purchase will make Bayer the third biggest manufacturer of herbicides globally. It already dominates the insecticides market. Approximately 80% of this years field-scale GM trial will be carried out by Bayer\Aventis.



### Back to the action

At 7:40am around forty protestors turned up at Bayer HQ. A couple of scaffold tripods were erected across access roads leading into the staff car parks and a line of six people in arm tubes formed a human-chain between lamp posts, preventing employees from being able to enter with their cars. During the ensuing confusion, some of the protestors managed to enter the building. Others managed to lock themselves together within the revolving doors at both the main entrance and the rear doors, making further entry into the building difficult. Banners were hung saying; 'Bayer get out of GM crops', 'www.bayerhazard.com', 'Bayerbeware' etc. Throughout the action, leaflets were handed out to Bayer employees and to passers by in the nearby high street. At about 11am the blockade ended as planned and everybody left together. There were no arrests. [www.bayerhazard.com](http://www.bayerhazard.com)

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.

**Also...** In Norwich, workers arriving at the Aventis chemical factory in Norwich, were leafleted about Bayer and the GE issue. The event was good humoured, with only two fairly polite requests to go away.

### WEF Solidarity

On Jan 31<sup>st</sup> several people attempted to force their way into the Air Power 2002 conference at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, W1, London. Demonstrators sounded alarms, set off stink bombs, held banners and distributed leaflets. Walls inside the hotel were graffitied with the words 'WEF=DEATH', 'Murderers are in this hotel', 'Air Death 2002' and leaflets stuck under guests doors. The occupation coincided with enormous anti-capitalist mobilisations against the meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in New York and the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Munich Security Conference in Germany. "At a time when many are claiming that September 11 has pacified or destroyed the anti-capitalist movement, today's occupation, alongside the Argentinean uprisings and the 1000s demonstrating in the USA and Germany, shows that the agenda of capitalism will continue to be resisted."

50p where sold

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.

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## News in brief...

- ★ On Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> Ecuadoran group Accion Ecologica set up a protest camp at the Mindo Nambillo cloud forest reserve to block construction of the Heavy Crude Pipeline (OCP) project. See <http://indymedia.org>
- ★ Anarchist Radio News Online is a Eugene based online talk radio show – visit [www.redcloudthunder.org/arn](http://www.redcloudthunder.org/arn)
- ★ On Dec 11<sup>th</sup> a whale meat processing plant in Norway was destroyed by fire, 5 days earlier a whaling ship burnt and sank. The cause of the fires hasn't been established
- ★ 4 Swedish teenagers have been convicted of high treason following the pieing of King Gustaf. The 4 received fines
- ★ Katie Sierra is a 15 year old US school girl who has received threats and been suspended from school for expressing anti-war sentiments and trying to start an anarchist club. Messages of support to [anarchistgirlie@aol.com](mailto:anarchistgirlie@aol.com)
- ★ Hunting with hounds has now resumed up and down the UK, with the official end of the Foot and Mouth epidemic. Contact your local hunt sab group (see **Contacts**) if you fancy getting in the way
- ★ Rioting, involving nearly 1,000 inmates broke out in a Chiapas prison (Mexico) in January. Many are inside because of alleged connections with the Zapatista army and other protests
- ★ More than 2000 demonstrators converged on three major dams in Lesotho, S. Africa on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> during a massive co-ordinated protest. The dams affect 27,000 people and have displaced 2000.
- ★ Canadian research has confirmed GM pollen can spread further than was expected (New Scientist 24.11.01) also DNA from Monsanto GM maize was found in a remote area of Sierra Norte de Oaxaca, Mexico, 62 miles from industrially farmed crops. Mexico has had a moratorium on GM since 1998, US food aid is suspected. (Nature 28.11.01)
- ★ Last October the first outdoor trials of a genetically modified insect, a cotton bollworm, were conducted in Arizona. The 'bright idea' is to produce insects that carry lethal genes, which make their offspring unviable. This is proposed as an alternative to pesticides. See [www.wired.com/news/print/0%2C1294%2C48774%2C00.html](http://www.wired.com/news/print/0%2C1294%2C48774%2C00.html)
- ★ US ELF: Jan 26<sup>th</sup> arson on the University of Minnesotas new Microbial and Plant Genomics Centre
- ★ On Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 50 Groen Front activists occupied the Dutch governments infrastructure planning office in protest at plans to expand the A12 motorway
- ★ Peter Melchett, former head of Greenpeace, has accepted a job with PR giants Burson-Marsteller who have represented (amongst others) the Exxon Corporation, Union Carbide and err Monsanto. Apparently he doesn't feel he is compromising his ideals

## Argentine fever

On Jan 10<sup>th</sup> a group of anarchists occupied the Argentine embassy in London "to highlight the illegitimacy not just of the Argentinean government, but of all governments." The occupation lasted around an hour as several activists occupied the balcony and D-locked on whilst the Argentinean flag was pulled off it's mast and replaced by a red and black flag.

Following economic collapse, Argentina has exploded into riotous scenes of mass demonstrations, banging cooking pots, burning barricades and pitched street battles with police. The events have left thirty people dead, government buildings torched, banks trashed and supermarkets looted. While mainstream news interest has waned reports are arriving of popular assemblies taking place in various parts of the country with ordinary people attempting to organise and gain a firm grip on their own destiny For more information: Argentina Solidarity Campaign: 07960 398 152. [argentinesolidarity@hotmail.com](mailto:argentinesolidarity@hotmail.com). [www.madres.org/](http://www.madres.org/) or [www.indymedia.org/](http://www.indymedia.org/) or <http://argentine.indymedia.org>.

## UK Solidarity

15 people in Norwich (ohh and 50 in London) joined together on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> in response to an international call for a global cacerolazo – a Spanish word for making lots of noise with pots and pans. Leaflets were distributed expressing solidarity with Argentinians and all those oppressed by the effects of global capitalism. This call to action coincided with the World Economic Forum meeting in New York. There was mixed response to the Norwich action but the pan bashers were joined by some enthusiastic mothers and passing kids.

## BOCM Pauls blockade

On December 13<sup>th</sup> 12 people from Bristol and Radstock visited the BOCM Pauls animal feed mill in Radstock to remind the mill owners that the GM issue has not gone away whilst GM crops are still imported to feed UK livestock. Some of the group remained outside to decorate the fence whilst the majority entered the mill, remembering to lock the gate securely on the way in. As soon as our presence was noticed all the machinery was switched off allowing us to have the freedom to roam the entire works with no fear for our safety (due to the relocation of some keys some of it probably remained off even longer!). Most of the

workers were given leaflets and some were even interested in discussions. Traffic was prevented from entering or leaving the mill for well over an hour whilst attempts were made to open the gates.

Rumour has it a similar action took place at BOCM Pauls in Exeter during the same week. However despite inquiries nobody has sent us a story – sort it out!

## Palestine direct action

In December, men and women from Manchester, Cumbria and London joined 60 other internationals to spend the Christmas period in Palestine. They were part of the International Solidarity Movement, a diverse, multicultural group taking direct action to help highlight the situation in Palestine in the eyes of the world, to show much needed solidarity with the Palestinian people and to make genuine, if small, differences to the lives of those living in the occupied West Bank. The group helped remove Israeli army roadblocks; formed human chains to protect Palestinian students; lay in front of tanks in Ramallah symbolising the dead of the conflict; and made cordons around Palestinians asserting their right to march. It was an opportunity to devote time and energy to supporting the cause of some of the most brutally oppressed people on earth. Information on future periods of direct action in Palestine which all are welcome to join can be found at [www.rapprochement.org](http://www.rapprochement.org).

## Toxic Trouble

At 7.30am on December 12<sup>th</sup>, the day before the opening of the Brussels EU summit, around 50 (mainly Dutch and Flemish) eco-activists occupied the Brussels office of CEFIC, a powerful European chemical industry lobby organisation. Within ten minutes the staircase had been barricaded and employees 'bonjourned' out of the building. Banners were dropped stating exclamations such as "CEFIC = bioterrorism" Soon another group of 50 people arrived outside with art and samba having distracted police attention by converging at a nearby metro station. Some police managed to get in through a first floor window and later a large mass of riot police entered through a door that was broken open by security personnel. After the 'loose' occupants had been dragged away, eight activists remained chained with metal 'lock-ons' for another 4 hours. More chaos followed later over police refusal to release or deport all the activists together. [vrienden@groenfront.nl](mailto:vrienden@groenfront.nl) [www.groenfront.nl](http://www.groenfront.nl)

## Bloody education!

In the early hours of November 5<sup>th</sup>, opponents of the new Said Business School in Oxford hung a large banner from the roof, proclaiming that the school was 'Built With Blood Money'. The school has been built/'bought' with £20 million from businessman/arms-dealer Wafic Said. Later, coinciding with a reception to open the school, over a hundred local people came to remind Said that he cannot buy himself a good reputation. The protesters were herded into a pen, under Section 14 and one protester was arrested for holding out leaflets!

Protest is nothing new for this school; it has been opposed at every stage of its development by a plethora of different groups. The site was the location of a five-month protest camp, attempting to protect a listed railway station and trees from a proposed six-lane traffic junction. Over 10,000 people signed a petition objecting to the development, but a public enquiry was never called, which it usually would be with a listed building.

## Peat pixies

On the morning of Nov 26<sup>th</sup> about 30 people from around the country descended upon the peat extraction site at Hatfield Moor (see Feature article last month). One group blocked the bridge leading off site whilst the rest tried to shut down machinery and occupy offices. Those blockading the bridge received a lot of hassle and after a few nasty confrontations they moved on to join everyone else in occupying the works. A lot of information was gathered and a few pixies partially damaged the back up generator. Lots of keys went missing including the key for the main computer. After 3 hours we were outnumbered by the police, who asked us to leave or be arrested for aggravated trespass. Deciding enough disruption had occurred we all left the site.

The next day there was a phone round of the firm's managers annoying them to the stage that one manager shouted 'Stop bloody hassling me!' The campaign will continue over the winter to try and stop the cutting season happening next spring. For more info contact Leeds EF!

## Disnae give a toss

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, campaigners in Manchester set up their own DISNEY<sup>TM</sup> sweatshop outside the St Anne's city centre store to raise awareness about conditions in South China factories. Passers by saw Disney favourites Minnie

Mouse<sup>TM</sup>, Pocahontas<sup>TM</sup> and Mulan<sup>TM</sup> slaving away at their cartoon sewing machines, all the time being bullied by an evil factory boss to the intensely ironic sounds of real Disney film songs. The action attracted an amazing amount of attention - a constant ring of watchers, most of them carefully reading the leaflets on display. Neither the police nor the store manager seemed willing to object and risk being cast as the pantomime villain and booed off-stage. Other similar actions took place around the country, including London, Norwich and Leicester.

Labour Behind the Label/ Women Working World-wide/ Manchester WDM group. 07816 234545 or 0161 247 1760 [jessmock@yahoo.com](mailto:jessmock@yahoo.com)  
[www.labourbehindthelabel.org](http://www.labourbehindthelabel.org)

## Manc Pedal Power

Manchester folk are trying to get Critical Masses going on a monthly basis. In November about 15 people made it and cycled down Oxford Road and into town. According to the policeman who tried to intervene there was a tailback all the way to Stockport. An irate cop finally stopped the pedal pushers; one of the cyclists described him as "acting like an angry father who's found his kids in his drinks cabinet." Manchester Critical mass, last Friday of every month, 8:00am outside the Whitworth Gallery, Oxford Road. 0161 226 6814

[mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk](mailto:mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk)  
[www.critical-mass.org/](http://www.critical-mass.org/)

## Occupational opps...

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 14 activists 'occupied' the site of a proposed women's prison, at Ashford near Staines. The CAGE network occupied the site on Bastille Day 2000; there have been numerous night visits.

The intention was to disrupt construction work and slow down the prison building. A plan was formed and worked smoothly, we were within 10 yards of work before being spotted. Unfortunately the current work on site was a pre-construction archaeological dig. When we arrived, instead of the surveyors and foundation workers we expected a group of annoyed looking archaeologists with hammers greeted us. We quickly decided that there was nothing of use we could do, so decided to leave.

**The moral of the story:** All large developments have to have an archaeological dig before construction goes ahead; so look out for them on your reccies and you could save yourself a lot of embarrassment.

## Diary Dates...

### February

16-19<sup>th</sup> Earth First! 2002 Winter Renezvous in the U.S of A. [gecko@earthfirstjournal.org](mailto:gecko@earthfirstjournal.org)  
22-24<sup>th</sup> Free weekend climate change training Rising Tide 01865 241 097  
23<sup>rd</sup> Rising Tide North East Gathering, Newcastle [northeastrisingtide@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:northeastrisingtide@yahoo.co.uk)  
23-24<sup>th</sup> Conference: Resisting The "War On Terrorism" [glenn@viwuk.freemove.co.uk](mailto:glenn@viwuk.freemove.co.uk)  
23/24<sup>th</sup> Conference on Plan Colombia 07950 923 448 colombia\_sc@hotmail.com

### March

1<sup>st</sup> another ASPIRE squatted social centre in Leeds. Music, comedy, political films, cafe more more more. [www.a-spire.org.uk](http://www.a-spire.org.uk)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Women in Black/Women Against Fundamentalism Teach-In 020 7482 5670.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-gm rally in Stratford. Full details contact: [iesmick@3mail.zzn.com](mailto:iesmick@3mail.zzn.com)  
8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day. 3rd global women's strike. 020 7482 2496 [womenstrike8m@server101.com](mailto:womenstrike8m@server101.com)  
8<sup>th</sup> Picket of the Lap Dancing club in Newcastle. Meet Grey's Monument at 9pm.  
8-10<sup>th</sup> "Womens Speakout" Sheffield. [wsoall@hotmail.com](mailto:wsoall@hotmail.com)  
15<sup>th</sup> Int. Day Against Police Brutality. [www.appleonline.net/justiceuk/jus.html](http://www.appleonline.net/justiceuk/jus.html)  
16-24<sup>th</sup> European wide action week against racism. [info@unitedagainstracism.org](mailto:info@unitedagainstracism.org)  
[www.unitedagainstracism.org](http://www.unitedagainstracism.org)  
21<sup>st</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
22-25<sup>th</sup> Financial activism meeting and skill share, Amsterdam. [eyfa@eyfa.org](mailto:eyfa@eyfa.org)  
25-30<sup>th</sup> Loads of actions at Hatfield Peat Bog 0113 262 9365 [leedsef@leedsef.org.uk](mailto:leedsef@leedsef.org.uk)  
30<sup>th</sup> CND national demo, London 07951 235 915 [office@stopwar.org.uk](mailto:office@stopwar.org.uk)

### April

6-7<sup>th</sup> Start of resistance is fertile season, in response to...  
8-26<sup>th</sup> UN biodiversity summit, Den Haag [rif@gn.apc.org](mailto:rif@gn.apc.org) [www.resistanceisfertile.org](http://www.resistanceisfertile.org).  
17<sup>th</sup> Global Day of Action for Farmer's Struggle [www.viacampesina.org](http://www.viacampesina.org)  
8-19<sup>th</sup> Resistance is Fertile! Actions, workshops and festivities. Contact as above

### May

4<sup>th</sup> Global Cannabis Day  
5<sup>th</sup> Radical book Fair in Manchester. Date tbc [manchesterbookfair@hotmail.com](mailto:manchesterbookfair@hotmail.com).

### June

5<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day  
8-16<sup>th</sup> Stop the Arms Trade Week [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)  
17-20<sup>th</sup> Eurosatory Arms Fair at Villepinte, France. [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)  
17-23<sup>th</sup> Refugee Week [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)

### July

19-28<sup>th</sup> International no border-action camp in Strasbourg [enoborders@aol.com](mailto:enoborders@aol.com)



## Upcoming

### Rising Tide Weekender

22-24th Feb, Oxford - a chance to get your head round the issues, the science, the politics and the confusion that is climate change, followed by campaign building, speaking skills and planning. Contact 01865 241 097 or [soaringskywards@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:soaringskywards@yahoo.co.uk) for more info.

### Rising Tide tour

Also another Rising Tide tour is planned for May, spreading the word about climate change through talks, street happenings etc. Call 01865 241 097 if you would like an event in your area.

### Peat blockade

From Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a four-day blockade of the peat processing works, run by the US multinational Scotts, at Thorne and Hatfield Moors, just south of Doncaster. The action is to resist the destruction of one of Britain's rarest and most significant wildlife habitats, the lowland raised peat bogs, which are being eradicated in the name of convenient compost. The blockade is timed to disrupt deliveries for the significant Easter weekend market. For more information 07971 073 282, [info@peatalert.org.uk](mailto:info@peatalert.org.uk) [www.peatalert.org.uk](http://www.peatalert.org.uk)

### Mayday

plans are going ahead for a week of festivities in North London for May Day

### Farm Scale Trials

The last round of the Government sponsored Farm Scale Trials (FSTs) of GM crops have now been announced - see

[www.geneticsaction.org/testsites](http://www.geneticsaction.org/testsites) for details. For more information about deliberate GM releases

[www.genewatch.org](http://www.genewatch.org) is also worth a look. The FSTs were designed to allay public fears about GE technology and pave the way for commercialisation. The

Government is now backtracking slightly after their own advisors cast serious doubt on the scientific validity of the trials. However

commercial growing is still the aim of the industry and 'political pressure' is still the only thing standing in the way. Each year of FSTs so far has seen serious disruption from public rallies to night-time trashings. 'Political pressure' is still required.

2002 [londonmayday@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:londonmayday@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to get involved.

### Commonpoverty

is a radical political arts festival, to be held in Manchester, to coincide with the commonwealth games. Half of it will be legitimate, using city centre venues the other half will be more 'spontaneous'. [june7@corporatedirtbag.com](mailto:june7@corporatedirtbag.com) if you would like to get involved.

## Resources

✂ Corporate Watch have produced a new improved version of their leaflet 'What's wrong with Supermarkets'. They will be producing a guide to campaigning against supermarkets soon. PDFs available at [www.corporatewatch.org](http://www.corporatewatch.org)

✂ The Sheffield Digger is a local news pamphlet for Sheffield that ran several times in 1999. It has been restarted as a need to counter the mainstream media's biased reporting on the war and will be covering a range of eco/anti-capitalist stuff from a Sheffield slant. The latest issue is 4 sides of A4 and might be useful for anyone needing anti-war propaganda downloadable PDF at [www.sheffielddigger.org.uk](http://www.sheffielddigger.org.uk)

✂ The UK animal rights group 'Vegan Prisoner Support Group' (VPSG) now have a web site. [www.cares.demon.co.uk/](http://www.cares.demon.co.uk/)

### Help needed

The folks at the Elvaston Park protest site, in Derbyshire (going under the name of the ABC Warriors) are digging in against an eviction order, which is expected soon. All offers of help and support welcomed, particularly with defences. Contact: Site mobile 07769 534725 [dot@theadora.screaming.net](mailto:dot@theadora.screaming.net).

**EXCELLENT NEWS - Prisoners Standing Deer (AIM activist who has served more than 25 years) and Jeff 'Free' Luers (who had been facing possibly the harshest sentence ever for ecotage) are now both free**

## 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

**Jenny Gaiawyn HMP**  
Cornton Vale, Cornton Road, Stirling FK9 5NY. Breach of the Peace at Faslane.

**Greg Minns** Ward 18, Burnley General Hospital, Casterton Ave, Burnley, Lancs, BB10 2PQ. A Manchester anarchist who has been sectioned

**Gjevat Cerkini** Yarl's Wood Immigration Detention Centre, Twinwoods Road, Clapham, Bedford,

**MK41 6HL.** an ethnic Albanian, Kosovan on hunger strike after being refused asylum.

### Europe

**Grigory Pasko** SIZO Institution IZ-25/1, Partizanskiy Prospekt 28-b, 690106 Vladivostok, Russian Fed. Eco-journalist facing 2 years+ for treason. Filmed a Russian navy tanker dumping radioactive waste in the sea of Japan.

### Address change

**Paul Robinson** KVA Karlskoga, Box 7, 69121 Karlskoga, Sweden.

### International

**Yair Khilou** (aged 18) who is facing trial and imprisonment for refusing national service. Military Prison No. 4, Military postal number 02507, IDF, Israel.

**Matt Whyte and Peter Schnell**, two long-time animal and earth activists sentenced to 14 & 24 months respectively.

letters via: Santa Cruz 2 Defence Fund, P.O. Box 917, Santa Cruz, CA, 95061, USA.

**Jon Batchelor** c/o Mutual Aid Legal Fund, P.O. Box 95616, Seattle, WA. 98145-2616, U.S.A. Seattle activist, on remand on charges of aggravated assault on a cop.

**Address change Robert 'Ruckus' Middaugh** #6859467, P.O. Box 5000, Delano, CA 93216-5000, USA. Mayday 2001 prisoner.

### Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

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

*"Prison is a weapon used by the State to crush individuals who step out of line"*  
*Michael Collins, former Mayday 2000 prisoner*



# Report from the 2001 Summer Gathering Collective



Last year's summer gathering was held on a beautiful site in the Peak District. The collective (a mix of experienced and new organisers) focused on making the gathering inclusive, welcoming and accessible to people. We used surveys to ask people what they wanted. Also, for the first time we had three brilliant work weekends on site in advance. We got lots of work done, it helped us to feel at home on the site, but most importantly it involved a lot more people in making the gathering happen.

During the gathering, there were "partnering" and "shadowing" options for people who didn't know many others, or who wanted to learn skills. There was also a new "day off" in the to allow for all the "non-workshop" ways people learn and get to know each other! People got together to create two off-site actions, and there was practical skill-sharing and game-playing, finishing with a ceilidh as night fell.

While we had mostly positive feedback on the workshops, some people felt the lack of large group discussions on specific events and issues, as these were more diffused throughout various smaller sessions this time. There was also difficulty with some people not following through with the workshops they'd offered – either not turning up at all, or not having planned very well. The collective scheduled every workshop that was offered or asked for, plus more, and in the end it is up to folks who come to the gathering to make sure what they want is there, by sharing the responsibility for making it happen.

Having the gathering site nearby Nine Ladies protest camp was a deliberate choice that felt positive for both residents and visitors. The link made with the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) was exciting, as they and EF! types seem to have a lot of ideas in common, and maybe we can work together more. Also, now that we have more children growing up, we need to continue to move beyond just a crèche, and create exciting gathering projects with them.

In our debrief, this year's collective decided to make the gathering website exist year-round, with useful gathering planning info, as well as the surveys – so check [www.eco-action.org/gathering/](http://www.eco-action.org/gathering/) in a while. We also want to thank everyone who brought or offered things, you are fantastic, and love to the Anarchist Teapot who are nearly gourmet cooks now! A new collective has formed, so to join in with help or ideas, contact them on [summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk).

**Plans are already afoot for this years Earth First! Summer Gathering. Expected to be taking place some time in August somewhere in the South West of England e-mail [summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:summergathering2002@yahoo.co.uk) if you have any comments, anything to offer or would like to get involved.**

## EF! Culture:

### A write up of the discussion held at the gathering

Our best case scenario described EF! as a community that...

*...empowers people to take action, allows us to find people whose politics meet ours, makes us feel welcome, has a sense of solidarity, allows for people to learn, involves mutual respect, allows people to admit vulnerability, values everyone, has nice cosy spaces, gives confidence, provides equal access to knowledge, has people who don't take themselves too seriously, has parties, is persistent, and allows us to experience diversity.*

- It can break down a lot of barriers to talk about our backgrounds, or why we do what we do
- People need to learn to speak up about how they feel
- A sense of urgency means we can neglect looking after each other
- Taking the position that 'we have dealt with this and now it is resolved' forgets that 'WE' changes all the time
- If we question authority, that includes questioning ourselves if we find ourselves acting authoritatively!
- We can see being vulnerable as a positive thing. If we say when we are scared or not confident about something, others know those feelings are acceptable
- We must use the basic tools (e.g. facilitation), and spend time on the information and skill-sharing that can empower people
- An EF! Culture discussion should happen at every gathering. The people who go to it can decide the content



# International conferences and summits 2002



As many people will have noticed, the meetings and conferences of the global elite have become something of a focus for direct action over the last few years. This is a list of the conferences and summits this year we at the AU know of. This does not mean there are specific plans for action at the present time, where calls to action are known details have been included. This list may not be complete and dates can change, where possible we've included the addresses of official websites- useful if you want to follow up any dates. Particular focus has been given to those summits with an ecological dimension.

## **EU Summit March 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Barcelona, Spain.**

The official EU website is strangely uninformative with regard to ministerial summits. Interestingly 6 out of 10 sites returned by a web-search using the terms EU Summit Barcelona were activist websites – the other 4 were press reports about activism. Hmmmm...

## **UN Biodiversity summit COP6 April 8<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> The Hague, The Netherlands**

A series of workshops and actions is already planned to coincide with this, the sixth meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Going under the banner '*Resistance Is Fertile*' expect strong links with the Genetix issue. Programme of events: **April 6-7** Common Ground. A series of workshops bringing together farmers, activists and people involved in new rural initiatives. **April 8-19** Resistance is Fertile ! Actions, workshops and festivities. Tackling issues of food, agriculture and biodiversity in the age of economic globalisation. **April 17**. Global Day of Action for Farmer's Struggle called by Via Campesina. - [www.viacampesina.org](http://www.viacampesina.org)  
Contact: Resistance is Fertile c/o ASEED Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090AB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
[rif@gn.apc.org](mailto:rif@gn.apc.org) [www.resistanceisfertile.org](http://www.resistanceisfertile.org) – there is an e-mail list to keep you informed too.

## **NATO Foreign ministers meeting May 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Reykjavik, Iceland**

## **OECD Ministerial meeting May 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Paris, France**

Official website – [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

## **NATO Defence ministers meeting June 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Brussels, Belgium**

## **EU Summit June 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Seville, Spain**

## **G8 Meeting June 26<sup>th</sup> –28<sup>th</sup> Kanannaskis, Alberta, Canada**

Plans are afoot with several calls to action issued and a mobilisation expected.  
Activist website (with lots of links) <http://g8.activist.ca/> Official website [www.g8.gc.ca/](http://www.g8.gc.ca/)  
and for anyone who wants to get really annoyed [ww.kananaskig8.nt](http://ww.kananaskig8.nt) – all about the expected ecological impacts of hosting the summit in this sensitive and remote area.

## **World Summit on Sustainable Development Aug 26<sup>th</sup> – Sept 4<sup>th</sup> Johannesburg, South Africa.**

Billed as Rio+10, this summit marks 10 years since the original Earth Summit, which is now regarded, particularly in radical circles, to have been a lot of hot-air and green-wash. Hotly tipped to become an action focus for anyone who thinks it would be a good idea to do something meaningful to make the world a better place. Expect to hear more soon. Official website - [www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)

## **Annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF October 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Washington, USA**

## **EU Summit December 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Copenhagen, Denmark**

### **Abbreviation Jargon Buster**

**COP** – Conference of parties – a feature of UN treaties  
**EU** – European Union  
**G8** – Group of 8 leading industrialised nations  
**IMF** – International Monetary Fund  
**NATO** - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation  
**OECD** – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
**UN** – United Nations  
**WTO** – World Trade Organisation

### **Useful websites**

**ASEED** – [www.aseed.net](http://www.aseed.net)  
**Peoples Global Action (PGA)** – [www.agp.org](http://www.agp.org)  
**Indymedia:**  
UK – [www.uk.indymedia.org](http://www.uk.indymedia.org).  
International – [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.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, Totnes  
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

Grampian EF!  
PO Box 248  
Aberdeen AB25 1JE  
[grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com](mailto:grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com)

Gwynedd & Mon EF!  
The Greenhouse  
1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor  
Gwynedd LL57 1AX  
01248 255 821  
[bangor-werdd@yahoo.com](mailto:bangor-werdd@yahoo.com)

Leeds EF!  
c/o CRC, 16 Sholebroke Av  
Leeds LS7 3HB  
0113 262 9365  
[leedsef@leedsef.org.uk](mailto:leedsef@leedsef.org.uk)

London Reclaim The Streets  
PO Box 9656  
London N4 4JY  
020 7281 4621  
[rts@gn.apc.org](mailto:rts@gn.apc.org)

Manchester EF!  
Dept 29, 22a Beswick St  
Manchester, M4 7HS  
0161 2266 814  
[mancef@nematode.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:mancef@nematode.freeseve.co.uk)

(Newcastle) TAPP  
PO Box ITA  
Newcastle NE99 1TA  
[ne991ta@yahoo.com](mailto:ne991ta@yahoo.com)

**Norfolk and Waveney EF!**  
c/o 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](mailto: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](mailto:roadbusters@gn.apc.org)

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

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

SWAN Network  
PO Box 70  
Newport NP1 0YD  
[Swangroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Swangroup@yahoo.co.uk)

# Contacts List February 2002

Warwick- the old group's folded but someone wants to set up a new one!  
[Tomgreaves@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:activistslegal@gn.apc.org)

Anarchist Teapot  
Mobile Kitchen Project  
6 Tilbury Place  
Brighton BN2 2GY  
[katchoo22@gurmail.com](mailto:katchoo22@gurmail.com)

Blatant Incitement Project  
(outreach & small group support), c/o Manchester EF!  
[doinit@nematode.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:doinit@nematode.freeseve.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@corporatereatch.org](mailto:mail@corporatereatch.org)

Earth Liberation Prisoners support Network  
BM Box 2407  
London, WC1N 3XX  
[earthlibprisoner@mail.com](mailto: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](mailto:genetics@gn.apc.org)

Primal Seeds  
[www.primalseeds.org](http://www.primalseeds.org)  
[mail@primalseeds.org](mailto:mail@primalseeds.org)

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

## Publications

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](mailto: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 Box 77, Totness  
Devon TQ9 5ZJ  
01803 840 098  
[info@togg.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:allsorts@gn.apc.org)  
[www.uk.indymedia.org](http://www.uk.indymedia.org)

## Video

i-Contact video network  
76 Mina Road, Bristol  
BS29TX 01179140188  
[i-contact@videonetwork.org](mailto:i-contact@videonetwork.org)

RadiX-video archive for direct action  
[radix@enviroweb.org](mailto:radix@enviroweb.org)  
[www.enviroweb.org/radix](http://www.enviroweb.org/radix)

## Other Contacts

Advisory Service for Squatters  
2 Saint Pauls Road  
London N1 2QN  
020 7359 8814  
[advice@squat.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:advice@squat.freeseve.co.uk)

ALF Supporters Group  
BCM Box 1160  
London WC1N 3XX  
[1003021616@compuserve.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lynx@gn.apc.org)  
[www.oneworld.org/delta](http://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](mailto:rains@fpcn-global.org)

GenetiX Snowball  
Box 13, 43 Gardner St  
Brighton BN1 1UN  
[snowball@onet.co.uk](http://snowball@onet.co.uk)

Haringey Solidarity Group  
PO Box 2474  
London N8

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.  
PO Box 2786  
Brighton BN2 2AX  
01273 622827  
[hsa@gn.apc.org](mailto: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@tlio.demon.co.uk](mailto:office@tlio.demon.co.uk)

Legal Defence & Monitoring Group  
BM Haven  
London WC1N 3XX  
[ldmg@altavista.com](mailto:ldmg@altavista.com)  
**020 8245 2930**

London GreenPeace & McLibel Campaign  
5 Caledonian Road  
London N1 9DX  
020 7713 1269  
[info@mcspotlight.org](mailto:info@mcspotlight.org)

Making Waves  
PO Box 1377  
Sheffield S36 4BZ  
01226 764279  
[pp3office@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Gloucs GL50 1YN  
0845 458 0630

Trident Ploughshares 2000  
42-46 Bethel St  
Norwich NR2 1NR  
0845 458 8366  
[tp2000@gn.apc.org](mailto:tp2000@gn.apc.org)

**Women Speak Out**  
[wsoall@hotmail.com](mailto:wsoall@hotmail.com)

## Protest Camps

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

**Elvaston Park Camp**  
[dot@theadora.screaming.net](mailto:dot@theadora.screaming.net)  
**07769 534725**

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  
**07984 793128**

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](mailto: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](http://www.apg.org)

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

## Sheffield anti-war demo

Sheffield's second demo against the war was held on Sat 8<sup>th</sup> December with an estimated 1200-1500 people attending. Several local groups organised feeder marches from their local areas walking to the rendezvous point. There was also a bicycle demo, complete with sound system that cruised around town in the morning. Some kids spontaneously joined the slow moving bike ride which finished outside the town hall with the kids dancing and people giving out the Sheffield Digger all before moving to the main march. The bike and feeder marches were very worthwhile, even though quite small. They created a bit of a pre-demo buzz in the town before the main event. Later some people went to visit a PR exercise by Onyx, the new Sheffield waste company that is building a new incinerator in Sheffield to protest against that too.

## Sodexo occupation

At 8:45am on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 activists calling themselves "Sodexo Screws Refugees for Money" occupied the Sodexo European Management Centre.

They quickly but calmly walked through reception and up the stairs before entering an office where they proceeded to attach themselves to the only lockable on feature in the office - a chair. Two of the activists were secured using D-locks, and another two used chains and blag. They then contacted the local newspaper with their simple demands - an end to Sodexo's profiteering from the government's cruel oppression of asylum seekers. While the cops arrived to remove the activists the situation remained light-hearted, though the very serious issues were repeatedly restated. It is not clear what was going on in the rest of the building at

To find out what this box is for you're going to have to subscribe!

**Contact** EF!AU, PO Box 487  
Norwich, NR2 3AL  
★ us! ★ Tel: 07944 874 393  
[www.eco-action.org/efau](http://www.eco-action.org/efau)  
[efactionupdate@bigfoot.com](mailto:efactionupdate@bigfoot.com)

this time, though it is likely that Sodexo's evil work was seriously disrupted.

## New AU collective

We're pleased to announce a new collective, based in Manchester, will take over editorship of the Action Update after the next issue. We hope you'll offer them your help and support. We are hoping, with the move, the AU will get a new permanent address and phone number. Details will be announced ASAP

## Hackney Pie Sticks

On the morning of Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Cllr. Jules Pipe, Leader of Hackney's Labour Council was hit in the face with a large carrot cake. A woman (agent 'Just Deserts' of the London cell of the BBB) approached Cllr. Pipe in the street saying that she had a message for him from some Hackney residents, she then threw the pie and said "That is for your involvement in the selling off of Hackney." Back in November two other Hackney women took a similar action against Guy Nichollson, head of Hackney's regeneration committee. Pipe, Nichollson and the rest of the the Labour council are hell bent on destroying not only Hackney streets, but essential services, council worker's jobs and Hackney itself. For further Hackney info: [hackneyNOT4sale@yahoo.com](mailto:hackneyNOT4sale@yahoo.com) For more baking exploits see: [www.asis.com/~agit-prop/bbb/](http://www.asis.com/~agit-prop/bbb/)

## Eviction resistance

On the morning of December 18<sup>th</sup>, the ex-Social Services building in Clapton

Square, Hackney was repossessed by a bunch of builders from Furlongs Homes. After 4 days of resistance by a band of around 20 people following unsuccessful eviction attempts the previous Friday (14<sup>th</sup>), numbers dwindled after the weekend as people thought it was safe to go to off site. There was only one person on site when a group of contractors broke in and starting smashing the place to bits

The building formed part of the Clapton Square Campaign one of many protests about defending public space and trees against private development in Hackney. The building also offered homeless artists a chance at setting up a base hosting community art events, cinema nights workshop/rehearsal space for future talent.

Contact: [hackneynot4sale@yahoo.com](mailto:hackneynot4sale@yahoo.com)

## Other news snippits...

★ The folk carrying out the vigil and blockade against the farm scale trial, in Munloch, Flintshire, have been given permission to continue their vigil on adjacent council land, despite Scottish executive attempts to have them removed. [info@togg.org.uk](mailto:info@togg.org.uk)

★ December 3<sup>rd</sup>: 30 supporters of the Simon Jones Memorial campaign blockaded Euromin's Shoreham dock where Simon was killed at work in 1998. Five have now been charged under section 241 of the 1992 Trade Union Act . [action@simonjones.org.uk](mailto:action@simonjones.org.uk)

★ December 10<sup>th</sup>: Vigil held in Bristol against the US intervention in Columbia, banners included 'plan Colombia=New US Imperialism' and 'Stop the US intervention in Colombia'. Contact [kebele@marsbard.com](mailto:kebele@marsbard.com)

★ December 3<sup>rd</sup>: 50 people demonstrated at the Menworth Hill US spy base in Yorkshire. Contact 161 237 8283.

## Subscribe to the EF! Action Update

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PO Box 487** Action Update. Worried about security? You may wish to consider  
**Norwich** a false name & c/o address.  If this circle is ticked your subscription has run out - Please renew it NOW!  
**NR2 3AL**  
**England**

