

Earth First!

ACTION UPDATE

August 2010

Airside security breached at Manchester airport

In May, climate change protesters blockaded the World Freight Terminal at Manchester Airport, preventing lorries from moving in or out for 3 – 4 hours. Another group breached security and surrounded a jet to prevent it taking off, briefly shutting down the entire airport. These 6 people cut through the perimeter fence and created a human circle around a stationary plane using arm tube lock-ons.

Large metal tripods blocked the road entrances, with people precariously perched on top of them so that they couldn't be moved without severe injury or specialist equipment, preventing airfreighted goods from being taken in or out. They unfurled a banner reading: "More air freight = more climate change. Stop all airport expansion now."

The group is protesting against the recent decision to expand the World Freight Terminal which will involve the demolition of homes on Hasty Lane. Following the recent decision to stop expansion at

Heathrow, Gatwick and Stanstead airports, the aviation industry is likely to look to regional airports such as Manchester to increase profits. A report by the Committee on Climate Change (December 2009) has predicted that

"This isn't just about airport expansion or rising carbon emissions.

This is about challenging an economic system based on the absurdity of infinite growth on a planet of finite resources."

Manchester Airport could become as busy as Heathrow with the number of flights doubling by 2050, leading to a flight taking off or landing every 70 seconds.

Lisa Jameson from Manchester Plane Stupid said, "This isn't just about airport expansion or rising carbon emissions. This is about challenging an economic system based on the absurdity of infinite growth on a planet of finite resources, a system which prioritises bail-outs for the banks and then makes us pay for it in

public service cuts. Capitalism is the cause of the problem, climate change is just a symptom."

Each round of airport expansion is justified on the promise of more and more jobs. In the 1990s Manchester Airport promised to create 50,000 jobs with the second runway – but the actual number was far lower.

The airport, which is owned by local councils, has kept local residents in the dark about the proposed expansion plans, failing to adequately inform them that their homes face demolition. It is hardly surprising then, that the locals who came out were openly supportive of the protest.



Shotton opencast coal mine sabotaged

On the morning of 24th May 13 machines were sabotaged at Shotton opencast coal mine. One excavator, two bulldozers and ten heavy earth movers were damaged. The damage included cut electrics, cut hydraulics and coal dust in oil tanks. Also 150 meters of

water pipe was slashed, flooding an area of the mine. The Shotton opencast mine near Cramlington in the North East of England is operated by Banks Mining and started working in 2008. It is expected to extract 3.4 million tonnes of coal, two million tonnes of shale and 750,000 tonnes of fireclay over an eight-year period. This action was taken by a group of autonomous people resisting total environmental destruction, climate change and 'civilised' culture, and in solidarity with all people who are struggling against the coal industry.

Delays to nuclear programme

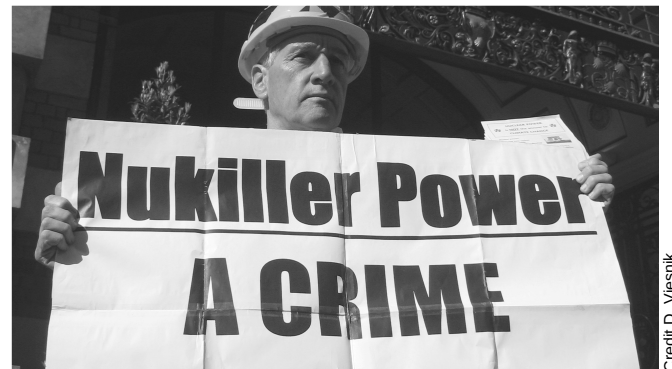
This summer anti-nuclear protesters have continued to target conferences. A spectacular die-in all over Stratford station highlighted the risk posed by the trains full of nuclear waste that trundle through our cities, inviting disaster through terrorist attack or plain old accident.

The new Liberal Con government has said it will continue with the policy of allowing ten new nuclear power stations to be built in England and Wales. However, it is reviewing the National Energy Policy Statements, particularly from the perspective of sustainability. This will throw local planning applications into disarray – instead of having a list of approved sites by the end of July, they will not be ready until spring 2011. While this is probably done to avoid legal challenges to the previous CONsultation process, as opposed to any genuine attempt to create a sustainable energy policy, it provides a vital breathing space for the anti-nuclear movement to make it very clear that the industry won't have an easy ride.

EDF's application to build a new reactor at Hinkley has

been pushed back from August to December. They don't seem too concerned by this however. They have applied to the council to start preparatory work on the new power station *before* their application has even been submitted, let alone approved. This will involve the destruction of up to five hundred acres of species-rich woodland, hedgerows and fields, and the cementing over of a protected coastline.

See stopnuclearpower.blogspot.com and stophinkley.org



The growth of EF!

The first EF! Gathering was on a beautiful squatted site near Brighton in February '92. Already EF!ers had been active setting up the first anti-road protest camp at Twyford Down, peat stripping machinery in Yorkshire had been 'decommissioned' and there had been shutdowns of timber yards, Carmageddon (proto-Reclaim the Streets) road blockades, and countless smaller actions by day and night. Later that spring, EF!ers went on a roadshow round the country to stir things up.

Against this backdrop people came up with a definition for EF! in Britain, and agreed guidelines. Violence was defined as only against living beings, sabotage was to be "neither condemned nor condoned", and EF! groups were to be up for receiving anonymous 'ecotage' communiques and doing press work on behalf of the night time elves (also called 'Earth Liberation Front').

Throughout '92 and beyond, a series of Earth Nights were called – "Go out and do something for the Earth... at night!". ELF took the label Terra 1st long before the state dubbed them domestic terrorists. Their other name – Earth Liberation Fairies was an attempt to not fall into macho stereotypes. Similarly, sabotage became known as pixying. Valuable resources were published, like "Road Raging", a protest camp manual and *the Ozymandias' Collective Sabotage & Direct Action Handbook*, both still available on the internet.

The question of what Earth First! is remains open

today. It is partly this openness that makes EF! continue to be a relevant, rare and radical concept. Some have attempted to define EF! as a network or movement, but however you see it, groups are autonomous to do what they want, how they want. There is no national decision-making process. As long as you try to work non-hierarchically and use direct action to stop the trashing of the Earth and its inhabitants, as long as you're not a discriminatory fuckwit, you can call your actions Earth First! Get together with a few mates, and and do it yourself.

"And where does that leave us, dear reader? Do you intend to remain in your seat, oblivious to the impending destruction? Have you got your face pressed up against the window, watching the grim reappings of progress? Or are you engaged in throwing out anchors, sacrificing the materialistic pleasures of civilization and risking your all, that your planet and your children may live?"

The choice is unique to this generation. Future generations will not have the chance and those that came before us did not have the vision nor the knowledge. It is up to us — you and I." – Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd captain.

Let's see what we can come up with to celebrate 20 years in 2011. For the next issue, please send in your accounts of inspiring direct actions from the last twenty years.

Drilling work resisted

On 14th July kayakers and rafters took to the water in Broadhaven bay, Co.Mayo in an attempt to stop Shell's drilling rigs entering Sruth Fhada Chonn estuary. "Beat the Boreholes"; a campaign of direct action to stop Shell this summer was launched. At 7pm people tried to stop the first drilling platform entering the estuary by blocking the way with rafts and kayaks. One kayaker came close to the drilling platform and was seized by Gardai (police). He reported, "A garda then pinched my throat with his two fingers and cut off my air supply. He held me like that for about 90 seconds, allowing me to take one or two gasps. He kept saying into my ear that he had my last breath in his hands."

The following morning campaigners entered the water again to stop the second borehole drilling platform. They were met with 5 Garda water unit boats, with approximately 16 Gardaí on board and 10 security boats. Campaigners attempted to approach the platform but were prevented from doing so by Gardaí who overturned their kayaks. In total Gardaí arrested 3 campaigners for minor Public Order offences. All were released without charge. However they also seized three kayaks, a safety rib and several paddles and are refusing to return them.



Beat the boreholes!

Up to 80 boreholes are planned in the Sruth Fhada Chonn estuary in the next three months. They are to provide a survey for the tunnel which Shell are proposing to build under the estuary to house the raw gas pipeline. Beat the Boreholes are asking people to pledge to "adopt" a borehole and take action to stop it being made. Groups are signing up fast with various actions planned such as mass walk outs on the sand, picnics on the beach and boarding the drilling rigs. The new pipeline route will be within 250 metres of several houses and the local community remains opposed to the plans. The estuary is a Specially Protected Area and part of a Special Area of Conservation; protected under EU legislation. The operation will damage parts of the estuary and disturb the wildlife there, particularly Atlantic salmon, otters and birds found on the intertidal

areas. This work was given the go ahead by minister Gormley, former Rosspport 5 and Shell to Sea supporter and member of the Irish Green party.

Join Beat the Boreholes this Summer in Mayo!

See rossportsolidaritycamp.com. om.shelltosea.com.

Contact rossportsolidaritycamp@gmail.com

What's it all about?

A consortium lead by Shell are attempting to build an inland gas refinery fed by an experimental high pressure raw gas pipeline from the offshore Corrib Gas Reserve. They have met with intense and sustained resistance from the local community and their supporters. Local fishing boats and activists in inflatable kayaks from Toys R Us faced navy warships and caused such heavy delays that the project is now nearly a decade late and three times over budget. However, the offshore pipe was finally laid in 2009, and the inland refinery is nearly complete. The only missing link is the pipeline to connect the two.

Pat O'Donnell freed!

On 17th July Pat O'Donnell was released from prison after spending 158 days inside for 'breach of the peace' and 'obstructing a garda'. Pat is a local fisherman who persistently refused attempts by Shell to buy out opposition, including an offer of 300,000 Euros in 2009. Later that year his boat was boarded by 4 masked men who held him at gunpoint and sank his boat. Fellow Shell to Sea supporter Niall Harnett is still serving a jail sentence for opposition to Shell. You can write to him at Niall Harnett, Castlerea Prison, Harristown, Castlerea, Co Roscommon, Ireland.

Merthyr to Mayo bike ride and Rosspport Gathering

Supporters from around the world joined in the annual gathering at the Rosspport Solidarity Camp at the beginning of June. A large contingent of cyclists travelled from Britain via Merthyr Tydfil in Wales where another campaign is focussed on stopping an open-cast coal mine which is destroying the environment, polluting air and water and endangering the community. The cyclists spent ten days travelling up the west coast of Ireland, distributing a specially produced newspaper, "Changing Times". Events were held along the way.

Mobile masts set alight

In May a 'T-mobile' repeater in Bristol was destroyed by fire by an unknown group. A cut tyre filled with paraffin-soaked rags was placed at the base of the antenna and wrapped around the electrical cables powering the mast. Firefighters were used to ignite the lot. In June and July three mobile phone antennas were destroyed by fire in the Nottingham area. Again, the tools were old rags, flammable liquids and a lighter.

See mastsanity.org/info-guides.html for details on problems caused by mobile phone masts.

Sabotaged machines at Cutacre coal mine

Activists entered the Cutacre coal mine near Manchester in the early hours of a June morning, and sabotaged seven monster-trucks, used to transport coal around the site. They report that metal hair-pins were cut to length, coated in superglue and inserted deep into the locks of the vehicles. Another healthy dose of glue followed for good measure. It is not known how long the vehicles were out of action – oddly nobody hung around long enough to find out.

The site is operated by "Let's trash the planet" UK Coal. It is on land owned by "Let's sell our mums for money" Peel Holdings. The activists say they were inspired by fine examples of sabotage at Mainshill, and hope that all over the country, people will resist the

destruction of ecosystems, and sabotage machinery.

Titnore Double Victory

In March 2010 Worthing borough council's planning committee rejected an application to build 875 new homes within Titnore Woods. This is one of the two remaining semi-ancient woodlands on the West Sussex coastal plain, and the site of a protest camp since 2006. Locals were stunned by this decision because over the 8 years that the development had been threatened councillors had approved ALL stages of the developers plan. What was even more of a surprise was the announcement by the developer in June that they would not appeal this decision.

However, the council also voted for a 'Core Strategy' which allocated this land for development, meaning that any other developer can submit plans which involve destruction of this greenfield site. The protest camp continues, therefore, sometimes "agitating a bit at the ridiculously big new Tesco" recently opened within spitting distance of the camp, and "sometimes enjoying the peace".

See titnore.wordpress.com

Tesco actions

Gardeners and residents in Brighton have set up a Community Garden on the site of an old petrol station, creating vital green spaces on the traffic clogged highway, and providing a venue for local people to get together. The land is contested

however: developers Alburn Minos have plans for a new Tesco. Much of the garden went into 'exile' after an eviction order in June, however in July a few protesters remaining on site managed to chase away the contractors' diggers.

See

lewesroadcommunitygarden.org. Meanwhile in Beeston near Nottingham, protesters D-locked gates shut on a Tesco construction site and scrawled 'Every little hurts' all over the walls.

BP protests

This summer actions continue against BP's attempts to clean up their tattered image, after causing the oil spill described as America's worst ever environmental catastrophe, and continuing to invest in tar sands. In June as the Tate celebrated 20 years of BP 'support' for British Art with a Summer Party, 'Liberate Tate' disrupted the proceedings inside and out by pouring hundreds of litres of 'oil' (molasses) and scattering thousands of feathers, as the UK's celebrity glitterati watched on in fascination. In July, three members of the art activist group Culture Beyond Oil poured non-toxic black oil around the British Museum's world famous Easter Island sculpture, in protest at BP's sponsorship of the museum. In June, Greenwash Guerrillas tried to contain a spillage of toxic greenwash at the prize giving ceremony for the BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery. The Guerrillas set to work to contain the leak, quarantine the area, and warn attendees against entering the building. Also in June, as oil executives gathered at a London hotel for their annual strategising conference 200 climate activists besieged the building with a samba band and a giant paper-mache oil-covered seabird.

london@climatecamp.org.uk

Outdoor skillshare a success

Over a hundred people came together in June for the Outdoor Skillshare. Held at Talamh Housing Co-op in South Lanarkshire, the weekend aimed to bring people together to share the skills needed to occupy land and defend it from eviction. Workshops covered varied topics including cooking for the



Titnore woods walk

masses, digging tunnels, radio communication and climbing trees. The temporary camp overlooked the former site of the Mainhill Solidarity Camp, now a functioning open cast mine, and was surrounded by Broken Cross and Poniel open cast coal mines. South Lanarkshire has been blighted by open cast coal mines for decades and has also been a hive of resistance by the community and environmentalists. Over the weekend people from the local communities visited the event, including some local young people who took part in the kids' climbing workshop.

earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/nod-e/23977

Update from Defend Huntington Lane

In October 2009 UK Coal were granted permission to mine 900,000 tonnes of coal from a site near Huntington Lane, Telford. The 230 acre site near the foot of The Wrekin encompasses part of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In early March 2010 a group of concerned citizens visited the site after hearing reports that some hedgerow had been removed and discovered the trees on the path of a haul road running through the woods had already been felled. All agreed that action needed to be taken and within a week a camp had sprung up in the middle of the haul road.

The camp is coming in leaps and bounds, with new tree-houses appearing on both sites A & B, new tunnels going in and many new and returning faces appearing on site daily! The local community is very supportive: without their donations of food, water and materials we would have very little indeed. On the UK Coal front their shares are down and they have discovered hold ups. The local water pumping station is not sufficient to meet their demands (not surprising as it only supplies a tiny hamlet of less than 50 houses) so now they must pay for additional infrastructure. This will be expensive, figures on the grapevine range from £40,000 to £1,500,000! Another revelation came from a contact at the local council. In order to meet the demands put on the road by the additional HGV traffic, UK Coal must first make improvements to their only access road to the site. It seems that the council have



Defend Huntington Lane camp

refused permission for these necessary road works, causing further problems for UK Coal. Originally they stated they were going to begin work in late March, that then became April, then June, then July! We are currently hearing that they want to begin work in late August, but we have yet to receive an eviction notice so it could be any day now (or they'll change their mind again)!

See stopukcoal.co.cc or defendhuntingtonlane.wordpress.com

Peat protesters not guilty

In July protesters who had chained themselves to diggers at a peat extraction site at Chat Moss near Manchester were found not guilty of harassing workers. Since the action the site has been hotly disputed, with three new planning applications submitted to extend peat extraction in the area. The Council has been making noises about an outright ban on peat extraction, but has historically approved virtually every application put forward to them. In June, for instance, permission was granted to allow coal bed methane gas mining on nearby Barton Moss. Local campaigners organised a protest walk against the exploitation of this vital habitat and carbon sponge which they describe as 'Salford's Rainforest.'

Breaky Bottom broken open

In June a bunch of walkers crossed the forbidden Access Land site of Breaky Bottom farm and vineyard, near Rodmell, East Sussex. They said: "Two fingers to the selfish landowner who wishes to remove a right of access that has taken 130 years to secure".

The campaign is determined to return and return again to Breaky Bottom until the site is re-opened to public access.

Kew Eco-Village evicted

On 27th May bailiffs evicted the Kew Bridge Eco Village. People managed to resist for a good 3 hours while one person sat on top of one of the structures and refused to come down. The site is set to be turned into a monstrous development of expensive flats and more pubs and shops, in an area with two nearby shopping centres and copious numbers of disused properties standing empty as the numbers of homeless continue to rise. Kew Bridge Eco Village promises to occupy another site and continue to stand in the way of this ridiculous development and against all unsustainable practices everywhere. growyourownvillage.blogspot.com



High speed train activists chained 5 days in tunnel

Four people in the Basque country chained themselves deep inside a tunnel that is being constructed for high speed trains. Despite intense pressure from supporters outside, police and the construction company refused to stop using explosives inside these tunnels within metres of where they were. The activists were left blocked inside and in danger of their lives for five days before they were removed. www.avatartherevolution.com/en/1

Battle For Khimki Forest

Activists and locals in the small town of Khimki near Moscow have raised barricades and set up camp to prevent an \$8 billion highway cutting through vast swathes of ancient forest in precious greenbelt land. earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/24061

Sea Shepherd attacked in Libyan Waters

800 illegally caught juvenile tuna were released from cages by Sea Shepherd divers in the Mediterranean. Following this Sea Shepherd's flagship 'Steve Irwin' was rammed in Lybian waters by an Italian fishery vessel and forced to repel a violent assault. The action to save the tuna has been praised by Malta's traditional fishermen. seashepherd.org/blue-rage

Slaughterhouse land squatted

In May, 30 activists squatted a field in Wietze near Hannover, Germany,

where Europe's largest chicken-slaughterhouse (2.5 million birds/week) is to be built. A tripod and concrete-barrels with chains are in place to avoid easy eviction. The situation is positive with the police having no legal ground for eviction, lots of support from locals supplying vegan food and skill sharing workshops. antiindustryfarm.blogspot.de/english

Eagle Rock Defenders camp 'crushed' by Police

A month-long effort to protect a sacred site in Michigan USA from a controversial sulfide mine has been crushed by dozens of armed police. Two protesters were arrested and the camp destroyed by bulldozers. earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/23947

Penan tribe fights rainforest destruction with blockade

Nomadic tribespeople of the Penan tribe in Borneo are blockading a road to stop loggers destroying their rainforest. The proposed plantations of fast growing trees for paper will leave the Penan without any traditional means of hunting, gathering and fishing and will destroy the forests they depend on for their survival. survivalinternational.org/news/6188

Earth First! blocks the blade

Earth First! activists in the USA concluded the Summer Rendezvous by blockading an access road to the latest land destroying development scheme: the clearcutting of Maine's Sisk Mountain for

TransCanada's wind turbines. The access road was further blocked by a cavalcade of police cars ensuring turbine blades were unable to pass. "The false solutions of wind power in wild areas, 'clean coal' and biomass need to be resisted." earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/24021

Brazilian tribal opposition to Belo Monte dam

Recent action in opposition to the Belo Monte dam in Brazil includes a two month long blockade of the Xingu river ferry, disrupting a major transportation artery for commercial goods in the region. With thousands of tribespeople willing to take up arms there is now a plan to occupy the area of the proposed dam. earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/23949

Tibetans mobilise to defend sacred mountains

Thousands of Tibetan villagers mobilized to defend their sacred mountains from exploitation and to halt three new gold mines amid concerns that drinking water sources would be contaminated. 5,000 Chinese troops were called and in spite of a tense stand off, the villagers achieved a peaceful accord with government officials who agreed to abandon the mine, withdraw the troops and to build a concrete barrier to stop any old mining waste from leaching into the local water system. earthfirst.org.uk/actionreports/node/23951

GM actions

In May, 50 people from "Roundup Monsanto"

blockaded the Monsanto office in the Netherlands and demanded the end to patents on seeds and living organisms. With 80% of GM crops in the EU being harvested in Spain, dozens of people in Catalonia sabotaged two GM Maize trials belonging to Syngenta, the world's third largest seed company. Meanwhile changes in EU law mean that it will be much easier for new GM crop trials to be approved. gmwatch.org

Activists occupy Cargill US HQ

Activists from Rainforest Action Network locked themselves to the staircase of Cargill, the largest agribusiness company in the USA. Cargill is responsible for rainforest destruction in Borneo through palm oil plantations. They stayed for two hours, playing a loud recording of chainsaws and holding signs which read "This is the sound of your supply chain." ran.org/cargillreport

150 people arrested in Zagreb

In July 150 people were arrested during peaceful protests in Zagreb, Croatia, as works began on a deeply unpopular entrance ramp to a private underground car park, which would destroy part of the city's pedestrian zone. Contractors have been attempting to start work since early 2010, but have so far been seen off by protesters. www.nedamovarsavsku.net/search/label/en...



EF! Contacts

EF! Gathering Collective
earthfirstgathering.org.uk
summergathering@earthfirst.org.uk

EF! Action Update Collective
earthfirst.org.uk/efau
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PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD, 07794
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preston@earthfirst.org.uk

Scotland EF!
scotland@earthfirst.org.uk

Thames Valley Climate Action
oxford@climatecamp.org.uk

Worthing Eco-Action
PO Box 4144 Worthing BN14
7NZ worthing@eco-action.org

Kernow Action Now!
c/o Unit 1356, PO Box 7169, Poole
BH15 9EL
kernowaction.wordpress.com
kernowaction@gmail.com

Networks

Coal Action Network
coalaction.net

Genetic Engineering Network
geneticsaction.org.uk
(website out of date)

Network for Climate Action
networkforclimateaction.org.uk

Plane Stupid
planestupid.com

Rising Tide UK
62 Fieldgate Street, London, E1 1ES
risingtide.org.uk
07708 794665

Saving Iceland
savingiceland.org

Stop Nanotech campaign
eco-action.org/nanotech

Support

Activists Legal Project
activistslegalproject.org.uk

Activist Mediation Network
activistmediation.org.uk

Activist Security website
activistsecurity.org

Advisory Service for Squatters
020 3216 0099
squatter.org.uk

Activist Tat Collective
atcoop.org.uk

Activist Trauma Support
activist-trauma.net
07962 406940

Corporate Watch c/o Freedom
Press, Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel
High Street, London, E1 7QX
0207 426 0005
contact@corporatwatch.org
corporatwatch.org

Earth Liberation Prisoners
Prisoner support
spiritoffreedom.org.uk

FreeBeagles
Activist legal stuff
freebeagles.org

Indymedia UK
For (non-eco) news & views
indymedia.org.uk

Schnews
Free weekly news sheet and
website. schnews.org.uk

Seeds for Change
Action training.
seedsforchange.org.uk

**Tripod Training for
creative social action**
tripodtraining.org

UK Action Medics
actionmedics.org.uk

Protest Camps

Bilston Woods Anti-Bypass Camp
c/o ACE, 17 West Montgomery
Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA
0775 3280009
bilstonglen-abs.org.uk
Occupied since 2002 to
block road building & a new
biotech research facility.

**Defend Huntingdon Lane Protest
Camp**
defendhuntingdonlane@hushmail.co
m
Site contact 07727 295232
defendhuntingdonlane.wordpress.com
Protest camp resisting planned coal
mine near Telford, Wrekin.

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Nr Rhu, Helensburgh,
Scotland G84 8NT
01436 820901
Opposing nuclear weapons
since 1982 at Faslane Naval
Base, 30 miles from Glasgow.

Titnore Emergency Action (TEA)
Box 4144, Worthing, West Sussex
07913 534083
eco-action.org/porkbolter/
camp-titnore....
Camp opposing road building, and a
housing/commercial development.

Global Contacts

See earthfirst.org.uk for EF!
groups in North America, Mexico,
Australia, Philippines, Nigeria,
Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy,
Poland, Netherlands, & Belgium.

AUntie Miffy's Problem Page

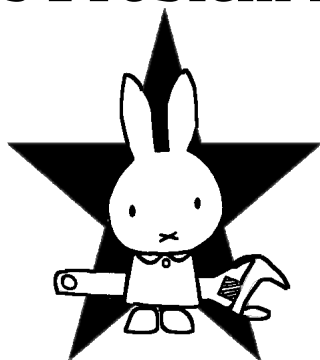
Dear AUntie Miffy,

I really hope you can help coz I'm feeling desperate. I want to take kick-ass direct action against the destruction of the planet but I've just moved to Small Town in Countyshire and I aint got no-one to do it with. I went to a meeting in Big City last week, but I didn't open my mouth all evening. It felt like everyone was looking at me out the corner of their eyes and trying to work out whether I was an undercover cop, so i didn't dare sign up to do anything. But back home in Small Town there aren't even any meetings to feel excluded from. What can I do?

Anon.

Dear Anon,

I quite understand how difficult it can feel to be in your situation but take heart! The world is full of people who feel the same and are just waiting to get together with someone like you and make things happen.



When joining a new group it is natural to feel a bit self-conscious, but people probably aren't nearly as suspicious as you think they are. And if they are it isn't personal, taking action with people requires trust and it takes time for that to develop. If you're keen to get involved, turn up to social things, help out with organising events and gradually get to know people as people.

Alternatively, Small Town probably isn't as much of a desert as you think it is. Try going to like-minded national or regional events like Earth First! gatherings and putting up posters asking if anyone wants to travel with you from Small Town. And once you get there look out for other people from your area and arrange to meet up again at home. Or try organising a low key event like a film screening about direct action or a local issue that you want to campaign on. Make sure there's time for informal chats afterwards – listen to what people are passionate about and see where you can go from there. Remember, there doesn't need to be loads of you – two or three people who get on with things can achieve a lot more than 20 people waiting for someone else to tell them what to do.

Upcoming Events

Ecotopia Bike Tour Yorkshire to Cologne, Germany

Cycle for climate justice in Western Europe! Our 1700km itinerary is focused around mobilisations for climate justice. Some of the biggest stops will be the Camp Action Climat near Le Havre, the Klima Camp near Erkelenz! ecotopiabiketour.net



Saving Iceland

Icelandic activists are inviting environmentalists from around the world to join their resistance against the industrialisation of Europe's last remaining great wilderness and take direct action against the heavy industry of aluminium smelters, mega-dams and geothermal power plants. savingiceland.org

Camp for Climate Action 2010

19th – 25th August, near Edinburgh Break the Bank! Occupy and set up the basecamp: 19th–20th August. Four days of training and direct action: 21st–24th August. Day of action against RBS: 23rd August. The sustainable and collectively organised basecamp will give

people the chance to meet people, train up, and plot actions. climatecamp.org.uk



Camp for Climate Action Cymru

13th – 17 August, near Cardiff The target will be coal and the focus will be on getting out there and taking action! climatecampcymru.org

London Anarchist Bookfair

Sat 23rd October, 10am – 7pm at Queen Mary's, University of London on the Mile End Road. anarchistbookfair.org.uk

Bristol Anarchist Bookfair

Sat 11th September, 10.30am – 6.00pm at Hamilton House, 80 Stokes Croft, BS1 3QY bristolanarchistbookfair.org

Kendal Anarchist Fair

25th September, 11 - 5pm, Shakespeare Centre, LA9 4HE

About Earth First!

Earth First! is about direct action to halt the destruction of the Earth. We believe we can make a real difference by doing it ourselves rather than relying on leaders, governments or industry. We're a loose network of people, groups and campaigns coming together for ecological direct action and we believe in non-hierarchical organisation.

The name Earth First! is a banner for anyone who shares a similar philosophy to work under.

In the UK people have been taking direct action using the Earth First! name since the early 90s – stopping road building, the quarrying of coal, rock and peat, freeing our fields of genetically modified crops,

protesting against climate criminals, fighting corporate power and much, much more.

If you believe action speaks louder than words, then Earth First! is for you.

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