

Earth First! ACTION UPDATE

www.earthfirst.org.uk

August 2011

Rossport: Resistance Intensifies

Shell's Corrib Gas Project near Rosport in Ireland is in its final stages involving the construction of an onshore high pressure gas pipeline. Levels of local resistance and international solidarity have been phenomenal from the beginning, and now seem set to intensify. Despite violent repression by gardai and Shell security, work on the project has continually been obstructed. In one week in July fences were removed from the tunnelling compound, roads were repeatedly blocked by bodies, tractors, tripods, concrete lock-on



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barrels and bikes and deliveries were delayed.

The Rosport Solidarity Camp is calling out for people to come and support in whatever way they are able. One visitor commented, "The atmosphere is incredible. People are getting out and doing real effective direct action day after day with a positive attitude that is inspirational. Get yourself over there before it's too late." rossportsolidaritycamp@gmail.com
085 114 1170
www.rossportsolidaritycamp.org

Resist the Dale Farm Eviction

On 4th July around ninety families at Dale Farm, the UK's largest Traveller site, were hand-delivered a final notice of eviction giving them until midnight on 31st August to abandon their homes, or face their entire community being bulldozed.

The Government and Basildon Council have set aside over £18m for the eviction battle that could last three weeks. It will be the biggest clearance of its kind, involving the ploughing up of fifty four separate plots created on a former scrap-yard, purchased by the Travellers ten years ago.

The date for eviction looms heavy; homes are liable to be bulldozed from midnight on 31st August. The residents are devastated.

Meanwhile, Saturday activity days at Dale Farm are growing in strength each week. Supporters from across the UK are visiting Dale Farm each Saturday, spending time with residents, taking part in legal-observer training sessions, helping with practical logistics for the

site and meeting with experts from Essex University Human Rights Clinic.

A network of committed solidarity workers is growing and preparing for resistance and civil disobedience at 'Camp Constant', a base at Dale Farm for human rights monitors and those who will engage in civil disobedience to stop the bulldozing. There is a huge amount of work to be done, but each week brings new faces, ingenuity, thoughtfulness, energy and hope.

Urgent Call-out for Support

Supporters are urgently needed to help the community resist the eviction.

Come to the camp for one of the activity weekends any Saturday between now and the end of August.

Join 'Camp Constant' from 27th August.

www.dalefarm.wordpress.com

To sign up to a txt alert in case of eviction, or to spend a night at Dale Farm so that we have a constant presence there, visit <https://smsalerts.tachanka.org/dalefarm/>

The Spuds Don't Work

Farmers and other anti-GM campaigners came together in July at the John Innes Research Centre near Norwich where trials into blight-resistant GM spuds are being conducted. Organic non-GM blight-resistant potatoes were delivered to the gates to make the point that we already have an answer to blight, so researchers can stop throwing more money after the 1.7 million of public funds that have so far been spent on the trial. Professor Jonathon Jones who is responsible for the GM trial attended to defend his research, with wife, grown-up kids, colleagues and a hefty security team in tow. He announced to the crowd that he subscribed to the Ecologist in the 70s, but failed to mention that more recently he is co-founder of Mendel Biotechnology, a company whose three "strategic partners" are Monsanto, Bayer and BP, and a director of ISAAA, a GM industry lobby group. Meanwhile in Europe German activists destroyed fields of potatoes, maize and two of wheat near Rostock. A hundred square metres of GM sunflowers were cut down near Lyon in France. In Scotland construction machinery used to build a new ASDA was sabotaged "in disgust at ASDA's open endorsement and use of GM products."

Switzerland: Nanotech Activists Sentenced

Activists accused of an attempted attack on a nanotechnology research centre, belonging to IBM in Ruschlikon, have received sentences ranging between 3 and 4 years. The three (Silvia, Costa and Billy) faced charges of intentional acts preparatory to a fire, concealment and transportation of explosive materials and unauthorized trade of explosives. Earlier in July the Swiss embassy in London was attacked in solidarity – locks were glued and windows smashed. <http://actforfreedomnow.wordpress.com/2011/07/26/ragusa-bernasconi-and-guerini-sentenced-in-switzerland-updated/> <http://sysiphus-angrynewsfromaroundtheworld.blogspot.com/2011/07/london-uk-swiss-embassy-in-london.html>

Indian Villagers Resist Steel Plant

Twenty Police battalions have been stationed in the eastern state of Odisha in India in order to quell protest over a prospective massive steel plant which will displace 22,000 people from their homes.

The plant, a staggering \$12 billion, is being financed by crooked plutocratic cronies Warren Buffet, Citibank and JP Morgan Chase, and is the largest single foreign investment ever made in Indian history. A sceptic might be forgiven for thinking that they are looking for a hard asset with a decades long revenue stream to stuff their bailed out fiat dollars into while they

are still worth something. But of course it's really all about raising the standard of living for the Indian people and sharing out the wealth. Ahem.

The State, littered with notorious tax free 'Special Economic Zones', is rife with corporate corruption and other destructive infrastructure projects, and resistance is not only widespread but inspirational.

On July 16th 10 platoons of police entered the village of Nuagaon to begin evicting the locals. The police were met with an enraged army of 300 women who felled trees to block them and endured baton attacks before managing to successfully drive the police off. In Niyamgiri, Dongria tribals have been fighting UK based Vedanta's mining project.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/features/2011/07/201171711310873319.html>

May/June: Riots in Peru

Struggles are taking place across southern Peru as local people resist environmental pollution and mining and energy projects.

In May thousands of protesters, mostly Aymara Indians, took control of the city centre of Puno. Cars and buildings were torched and the main roads into the city were blockaded as the angry locals demanded an end to a Canadian silver mining project.

In June there were strikes, blockades and riots by people enraged by the

contamination of their river. The Manco Capac airport was occupied and banks and police stations attacked.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/25/us-peru-protests-idUSTRE75O1XJ20110625>

July: Mobile Phone Mast Action

In Morningside, Scotland, residents awoke to find massive steel trunks being laid over communal land where a 50ft phone mast is to be erected. They blocked trucks and halted construction until contractors eventually agreed to halt work.

<http://sysiphus-angrynewsfromaroundtheworld.blogspot.com/2011/07/morningside-scotland-residents-block.html>

Biomass Protestors Blockade Port

Seven people faced trial at Falkirk court after blockading the access roads to Grangemouth docks on 16th May in protest at plans by port owners, Forth Ports, to build four biomass power stations in East Scotland. All power stations would burn biomass, mainly in the form of imported wood and in quantities equivalent to two-thirds of the UK's entire wood production. This, the company admits, would make local sourcing of the wood impossible. Increased demand for biomass is leading to the destruction of rain forests, which are being replaced by industrial tree plantations, leading to catastrophic water and soil pollution and the displacement of communities in the global South.

EF! Contacts:

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

EF! Action Update Collective:
earthfirst.org.uk/efau
actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk

Bath Activist Network
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07852 460871

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

Networks:

Coal Action Network
coalaction.net

Fighting Government cuts
networkx@gmail.com

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 GM
info@stopgm.org.uk

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
0203 216 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@corporatewatch.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 and a new
biotech research facility*

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

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*

Grow Heathrow
transitionheathrow.com
*Squatted site of proposed third
runway, now productive market
garden and home to many people*

**The Happendon Woods Action
Camp (THWAC)**
Douglas Valley
South Lanarkshire
contact@coalactionscotland.org.uk
*Protest camp resisting coal in the
Douglas Valley and beyond*

Global Contacts:

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

AUntie Miffy's Problem Page

Dear AUntie Miffy,

I went round the campaigns fields at Glastonbury this year and went back to my tent buzzing with the thought of so many people who didn't just moan about the state of the world but did something about it. And then over the weekend there was a big tangle

at the back of my mind "GM, nukes, fracking, coal, nano, cuts" and I couldn't think which was most important or bad or urgent or where to start so I just dithered around like a child with their 50p pocket money to spend and haven't done anything at all.

Help!

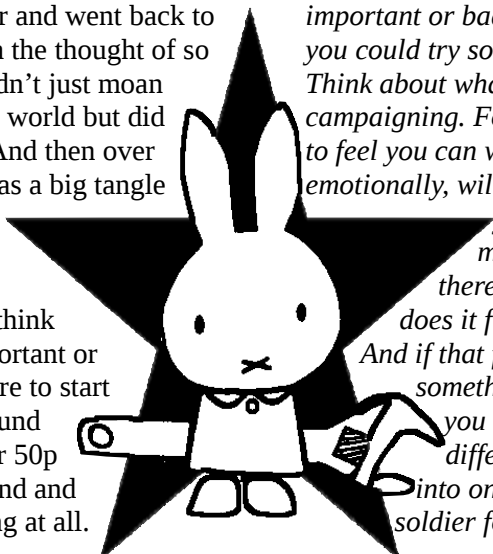
Fred, Aberdeen

Dear Fred,

I don't have an easy answer to which is most important or bad or urgent either, but maybe you could try some different questions as well. Think about what else will keep you campaigning. For example, is it small enough to feel you can win, do you care about it emotionally, will there be people nearby who

you want to work with who might also be interested, are there targets near your home, how does it fit in with your wider politics? And if that fails, draw straws – doing something is better than nothing, and you can usually make more difference putting lots of energy into one campaign than playing foot soldier for lots of them.

*All the best with it,
Miffy*



Upcoming dates in brief

26th-29th Aug Outdoor Skill-share, Talamh housing coop outdoorskillshare.noflag.org.uk

27th August onwards Dale Farm: Camp Constant dalefarm.wordpress.com

13 September 2011 Disarm DSEi: Day of Action against the world's largest arms fair. dsei.org

17th Sept Camp Frack, nr Blackpool campfrack@gmail.com

3 October 2011 Stop New Nuclear. Blockade of Hinkley Point Power Station stopnewnuclear.org.uk.

Saturday 29th Oct 11am-5pm The West Midlands Vegan Festival Wolverhampton Civic Hall Admission £1, veganmidlands.org.uk

Outdoor Skillshare 2011

Coal Action Scotland invites you to a weekend of skillsharing and workshops about outdoor life and resistance techniques. From mass catering to foraging wild foods, land defence to self defence, climbing trees to digging tunnels, come and learn new skills, meet new people and share your experiences with others. outdoorskillshare@riseup.net coalactionscotland.org.uk happendon.coalactionscotland.org.uk

for this campaign. EDF are doing their best to make it look like its already a done deal, but power stations have got closer than this one to being built and it still hasn't happened; there's still hope. Local people took things into their own hands when EDF blocked up badger setts with concrete; they not only kicked up a fuss in the papers, but also went out at night and quietly unblocked them. Soon they could be looking at having a lot more to kick up a fuss about, and we should all be supporting them."

Weekend of 17th-18th September Camp Frack

Join the resistance to the "fracking" invasion! Stop the massive expansion of shale gas extraction in the UK. We need renewables and powerdown – not another source of fossil fuel. Camp Frack will take place near the UK's first fracking operations at Singleton, Blackpool. It will involve locals, grassroots groups, individuals and NGO's in workshops and discussions on shale gas and on forming effective UK wide resistance against it. There will be an action day against the drilling activities currently in progress. campfrack@gmail.com

Huntingdon Lane Eviction call out

On 15th July Huntingdon Lane protest site was served with an eviction notice. The protest site is situated in 230 acres of ancient woodland, due to become an open cast coal mine. The site has been occupied for 18 months. Bailiffs and police are expected at any time in force. See defendhuntingdonlane.wordpress.com for how you can help.

Anti-Nuclear blockade at Hinkley: call out

Hinkley Point in Somerset is the first of eight proposed sites for nuclear new build to go ahead. We stopped them here before in the 80's, and we can do it again. If they fail at Hinkley, it is unlikely the UK's "nuclear renaissance" will have the momentum to continue.

On 3 October 2011 we will – with hundreds of people – non-violently blockade the access to existing Hinkley Point nuclear power stations for one day. Join us! While the blockade will be the key focus, there will be plenty of roles and activities for people who do not wish to risk arrest. So everyone who is anti-nuclear can come and join us on the day to express their opposition in many different ways.

In the days before the blockade, there will be local actions in Bridgwater. There will be a camp and accommodation for people over the weekend.

Visit the blockade web site to pledge your support, put October 3rd in your diary and tell friends and family to do the same. Better active today than radioactive tomorrow.

See you there! stopnewnuclear.org.uk

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