

Earth First! ACTION UPDATE

www.earthfirst.org.uk

January 2011

Don't Believe All You Read About Huntington Lane!

At the time the of the last AU it was believed that the site was being evicted. This was only a small satellite site however. Although mining work has commenced at the southern end, with a huge array of earthmoving equipment on display, no eviction order has been served on the occupied area, thus preventing any work from beginning on the rest of the land.

The camp was set up in April last year to defend the area against UK Coal's plans to mine the huge site set in thousands of hectares of beautiful woodland.

On October 13th UK Coal along with NET (National Eviction Team), who are currently working as security on the site, moved in at the southern end and began trashing the land.

In response to this a gathering was called in mid-December, which saw a huge variety of people taking action. Lots of defences were built, both up in the sky and the ground, to add to the site's defiance in resisting eviction threats from UK Coal.

There was a successful blockade of the front entrance to the quarrying site, effectively stopping work for the whole day, as workers had to be sent home.

Sabotage at Pumping Station

In the summer a pumping station at Axford, near Newbury was visited by environmentalists wanting to defend their local river system and the wildlife it supports. The pumping station, run by Thames Water takes almost 3.5 million cubic metres out of the river Kennet every year, severely impacting on the habitats of species such as water crowfoot, water voles, river Lampray, and brown trout. The visitors cut the fences to



The site is looking forward to hosting more gatherings in the near future and would like to call out for people to resist the mining work that is destroying this area of natural beauty in Shropshire.

Several pieces of generator machinery were also sabotaged in December.

defendhuntingtonlane.wordpress.com

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Site phone: 07503 583419

the compound, then air vents were removed and access was gained through the walls. The pumps were stopped and control room trashed. The back up generator was decommissioned and control panels smashed. The licence to remove water from the river is up for review in 2011, but as demand is increasing the chances for the Kennet are slim.

Climate Crime on Trial

In May 2010 seventeen people staged a direct action at Manchester Airport, temporarily shutting it down. In December eleven of the activists were charged with willful obstruction of a public highway, and sentenced. The remaining six face trial on 21st February. Here Mark Haworth, one of the defendants from the first trial, tells us how it all panned out.

As the media turns its attention to the undercover cops in the environmental movement, and the second Ratcliffe trial collapses, our recent court case for an action at Manchester Airport in May 2010 has progressed relatively simply.

On 24th May 2010, eleven of us blockaded the road entrance to the World Freight Centre at the airport, using two tripods. No air-freighted goods could get in or out for a few hours that morning. I found the action to be exciting, nerve-wracking and empowering all at the same time. For some of us it was the culmination of a long-running campaign in solidarity with residents at Hasty Lane, whose homes are threatened with demolition if the expansion of the World Freight Centre goes ahead.

At the same time as our road blockade, six others went air-side and formed a human wheel clamp around a Monarch Airline jet. Those six are charged with aggravated trespass and will be running a necessity defence at Trafford Magistrates Court beginning 21st February.

It may seem that sitting on top of tripod meant we were clearly guilty of the 'obstruction of the highway' charge that we faced. But both myself and my co-defendant, Amanda Walters wanted to defend ourselves. We felt that given the severity of the issue of expansion plans at Manchester Airport and its impact on the climate, local homes and biod-

iversity, our actions amounted to a 'reasonable use of the highway' to use the legal term. Given the failings and bias of the local decision-making process at Manchester City Council, which had overturned local councillors' objections to ap-

prove expansion plans, we felt our actions were justified.

The other nine activists who took part in the tripod action were also charged with obstruction of the highway and pleaded guilty at the start of the trial. Despite having heard factual witness reports from local resident Peter Johnson and local Councillor Martin Eakins on the democratic deficit, magistrates found us guilty. We were all fined a week's wages, plus court costs, amounting to around £4500 between the eleven of us.

Still, the statements of support we have received, the public campaign that is being run around the two trials, and the messages of solidarity from friends and family have made it all worth while. We were inspired by the Climate 9 (Aberdeen Airport), the Ratcliffe and Kingsnorth defendants. As we told the press after court, the fight for climate justice against regional airport expansion continues.

The Climate 9 will be launching a handbook and short film later this Spring on the law, environmental justice, movement building and raising the stakes around trials.

Meanwhile, you can follow the preparations and progress for Manchester Airport on Trial's second court case at manchesterairportontrial.org. We are inviting people to show support outside court at 9am on Monday 21st February 2011.

mancheserairportontrial.org
climate9.com
racliffeontrial.org

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The Action Update Needs YOU!

The EF! Action Update is skint. It costs £300 per issue to bring you your favourite newsletter: £230 printing costs and £70 postage and distribution. Contributors and compilers give their time for free, occasionally spending a few quid themselves on stamps and sellotape.

So please help us by making a donation, organizing a benefit / jumble sale / sponsored streak / whatever.

**Please send cheques/postal orders payable to Earth First! Action Update to:
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We also need more distribution points, so if AU is not available near where you live, and you know a potential stockist (wholefood shop, social centre, cafe, event etc) get in touch at:

actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk

AU needs U ! U need AU ! AU needs U ! U need AU ! AU needs U !

It's all Happenin at Happendon.....!

October started with THWAC's (The Happendon Wood Action Camp) first gathering, and the sabotaging of a machine at Broken Cross (a huge opencast mine nearby), and the d-locking shut of the gates at Mainshill (formerly Solidarity Camp, now Opencast mine).

Councillors in Midlothian unanimously voted to reject Scottish Coal's application for a mine near Cousland. This was the culmination of years of work by Communities Opposed to Airfield Open Cast and campaigning by Coal Action Scotland.

To mark the first night of Scottish Coal's week of CONSULTATION events throughout South Lanarkshire, Mainsill was locked shut, keeping the morning shift out. Security measures were 'redecorated'. Seven excavation vehicles were immobilised at Broken Cross.

On the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice a banner reading "Nae Coal at Hunterston" was dropped from Clydeport's landmark crane on the Clyde.

Clydeport's owner, the massive Manchester-based Peel Holdings, has plans for a new coal-fired power station next to the port, the UK's largest coal importing facility.

Indonesian activists visited in Late October and shared stories and experience.

A borehole-drilling rig at Glentaggart East was extensively sabotaged, causing "tens of thousands of pounds in damages" and the drilling rig had to be removed from the site.

Contractors such as Apex and J&B Site Investigations are continually targeted.

RPS's Glasgow offices were attacked. (see report from Rossport, p3).

In November the second Gathering took place. Eleven activists entered Mainshill, jumped on dumper trucks and stopped work all over the site



for an hour.

Ravenstruther Rail Terminal was shut down all morning. All South Lanarkshire's coal goes via Ravenstruther to Drax coal-fired power station in Yorkshire. The access road and conveyor belt were blocked. Four were arrested. This was the fourth time that Ravenstruther has been shut down, and we estimate that it must have cost them over a million pounds so far...

In the last week of November twelve machines were sabotaged at Mainshill, having their hydraulics and electrics cut. The communiqué read: "Mainshill has been operational since spring this year, it is part of Scottish Coal's programme of open-cast mining in the Douglas valley, South Lanarkshire. This is causing ill health to local people and destroying their surroundings. It fails to provide jobs and lines the pockets of the bosses and politicians. On top of this the mining and burning of coal is a leading cause of climate change which is wiping out ecosystems and people around the world."

A new community action group STOP! (Stop The Opencast Plans) was set up. Flyers were delivered to over 5,000 houses in the area (despite blizzards and freezing temperatures), for two public meetings in Douglas and Lesmahagow. The group is solid, and resistance to Scottish Coal and South Lanarkshire Council looks set to hot up this year. Scottish Coal hope to have their applications approved, and to have started mining at Glentaggart East by April.

STOP! have called for a demo at the Council headquarters in Hamilton on the Saturday after the planning applications are submitted, and resistance is bound to continue. If you can come to the camp, either on your own or with an affinity group, it would be great. Whether it's doing actions, chopping veg, or handing out flyers, there is something for everyone at the camp, and all help is welcome.

contact@coalactionsotland.org.uk



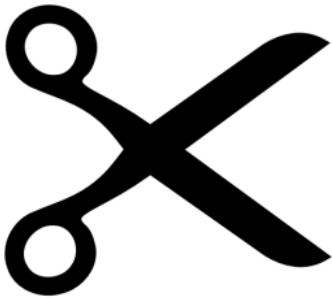
Rosport: Gas Pipeline Approved

A consortium led by Shell have been given permission by the Irish Planning Board to complete their controversial high pressure pipeline in Mayo, Ireland. Following local campaigns, the project is already ten years behind schedule and three times over budget, but this stretch of pipe, running from the offshore pipeline through the beautiful Sruwaddacon estuary and overland to the refinery is the final link in the chain. If it gets built it will involve a tunnel four metres in diameter, carrying a pipe of high pressure raw gas which could cause a serious explosion. Locals are calling for contin-

ued resistance to prevent the laying of this pipeline, and for solidarity actions all round the world against Shell and other companies involved. People in Glasgow and Ghent (Belgium) have already kick-started things. In Ghent a Shell petrol station was blockaded in January, and in October people in Glasgow damaged the locks and signage of RPS group, a large planning, engineering and environmental company whose involvement in projects like the this one provides the green credentials that Shell need.

The Cuts: Opportunity? Irrelevance? Threat?

“This is crap. What’re we gonna do to stop them pushing through all these cuts? The wealthy caused this crisis, and they want the poor to pay for it. The most vulnerable are hit the hardest. It’s not even really about the deficit; it’s an ideological choice. They’re reducing corporation tax by 4% over the next four years to 24%, the lowest level in the G20. That’s the tax on the profits of large companies. Bastards.”



“Yeah, but I dunno how much longer the welfare state is gonna be around anyway. I don’t want to be too miserable, but we’re facing financial and ecological collapse. Whatever else the state does when things get really bad I’ll bet my last glass of clean water they won’t be providing housing benefit and universities any more. We need to be sorting ourselves out to provide support within our own communities, and we need to be starting that now if we’re gonna be in with a fighting chance.”

“Look, people hardly even know their nextdoor neighbours let alone being able to organize sorting out each others housing and higher education. You’re right that people are dependant on the welfare state, and that’s exactly why we have to resist the cuts. People need public services to survive NOW, and we need to show solidarity with those people NOW!”

“Hmm..but we need to be building an ALTERNATIVE solidarity, that will really help us

when the shit hits the fan. Yeah we’re miles away from having communities that can support each other. People aren’t used to taking responsibility and organizing collectively any more, but that just means it’s time to start learning these skills now.”

“But don’t you think that fighting the cuts is a great way to get together with people in your community? Even the school kids are coming out; they’re not bogged down by a life time of committee membership and doing what the trade union bosses tell them to, and they’re at just the age to start questioning everything. You could join the local anti-cuts group and go on about organizing in a non-hierarchical way. Some people will like it; they’re getting pissed off everywhere and noticing that the world is set up to screw them. They’re fed up of being pushed around and ready for a fight.”

“Yeah, but I’m worried that the right message won’t get across. People talk about “Tory cuts” like the other parties are any better. People are only pissed off now cos their standard of living is being threatened. Nobody’s saying anything about how this country is so rich cos of years of exploitation of people on the other side of the world and plundering the planet. Like it takes about 1.8 tons of chemicals, fossil fuels and water to make a single PC, most obsolete computers end up in landfill and toxic chemicals, such as cadmium and mercury leach out into the surrounding soil.* We go on about how poor we’re getting, but compared with most of the world we’re minted. We only got so

minted from shafting poorer nations...so really the wealth ain’t even ours to redistribute!”

“Yeah yeah I know and we can’t change that, not yet anyway, but people for once are a bit with the programme so they’re more likely to listen to stuff like that too. Look, if we don’t get involved now the far-right will, and they’ll be scapegoating the latest easy target. Vested media interests will be blaming those at the bottom of the pile, not the real culprits and things’ll get a whole lot worse.”

“Ok, so what are you gonna do?”

“I’m gonna get involved with stuff that’s going on already and try to get them organizing in a less hierarchical way. Plus I want to get a radical message across, to try and stop people getting sold out by union bosses or bought out by minor concessions from the top. We both agree that the comfortable life we’ve lived in this country won’t last that much longer, and it’s really vital that people are ready for that. I think people need to be pissed off – that’ll get them questioning the status quo, and then doing something about it. If all this doesn’t get them fired up, then what will?”

“Yep, sounds alright. My plan is to commandeer the golf course for veg growing. We’re also setting up a support group for people getting evicted from their houses. I’m helping put on some courses like first aid, and talking to parents down the nursery about running the place themselves.”

“Wow, sounds like we’ll both be busy. Fancy a pint while we’ve still got time?”

“Make it a pair and you’re on!”

*Gartner Research



Cameron and Cronies Great Land-Grab



In order to raise £2bn, the Government is selling all 650,000 acres of our forests – a privatisation that even Margaret Thatcher blanched at. These are the most popular outdoor spaces in Britain. They are the last places where millions of people can go to escape their anxieties and glimpse what Britain looked like to our ancestors for thousands of years. They are the site of some of our most potent national myths: what would Robin Hood say if

he knew Sherwood Forest itself was now on the market? Is Cameron really taking the Sheriff of Nottingham as his role model? This is in direct contradiction to what he told us he would do before the election. In 2007, talking about forests, he promised he would “take a more effective and strategic approach to safeguarding a priceless and irreplaceable natural asset.” He said the countries that were cutting forests down were “barmy”. The Government says there is no danger to the forests in selling them to timber companies and the other highest bidders. They say they will still be standing, they will be cared for as well, and the public will have just as much access. Does this match the facts?

It is true that once a company has bought a forest, it will still need planning permission to cut the trees down. This is a crucial brake. But wait, Eric Pickles the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has just announced he is “remov(ing) the structures of control” and making it “much easier” to get planning permission across the country. Planning is

Anarchy in the UK ... well, in Kendal at Least

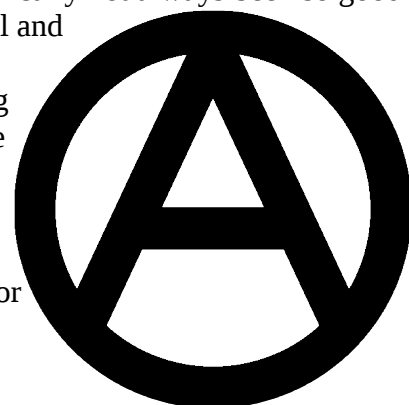
So read the headline in the local paper when Kendal saw it's first Anarchist Fair, shortly followed by Lancaster. Both events saw over a hundred people, many of them staying all day to hang out with their kids and coming with open minds to workshops like ‘What is anarchy?’ and ‘Anarchism and feminism’.

One of the organisers commented: “If the anarchist bookfairs are the one event on the calendar where anarchists expect to part with their cash, these fairs focused on the things we're already good at, like running cafes, kids' spaces, games, stalls and workshops. The other aim was to try the thing we've historically not always been so good at; engaging with ‘ordinary’ people in small towns and showing that we have ethical and practical ideas about how better to organise society. We don't spend every day in a chaotic muddle because they can't agree what to throw molotov cocktails at. Having these conversations with people becomes more and more vital as the cuts and, in the longer term, peak oil call into question a lot of our assumptions about the things we depend upon and the way we live our lives.”

The organisers are keen to see other people bounce off their ideas, and will happily shares tips, resources and workshop plans. Contact anarchyupnorth@riseup.net for more information.

being massively deregulated, just as the forests are sold. The abstract idea of ‘selling forests to developers is bad’ is gathering weight nationally, but the fact that it means that patch of trees just outside town where you take pooch for a walk is only just starting to trickle through. The hugely encouraging protest in the Forest of Dean (see SchNEWS 753) has made a good start, but there are still only a small number of local groups campaigning against the sell off. The Public Bodies Bill, which proposes the corporate takeover of woodland is currently at committee stage in the House of Lords, which basically means it's passed through the initial stages of debate and now amendments are being made. It's still got to get through the House of Commons... so there is still time to get organised.

TO THE WOODS!



Sasol Day of Action

In October, activists in Johannesburg marched on the headquarters of Sasol, an energy and chemicals company responsible for around 21% of South Africa's total greenhouse gas emissions. The activists also wanted to hold Sasol to account for its more immediate effects; claiming that air pollution is filling up the local cemeteries.

earthlife.org.za

Wikileaks: Sea Shepherd is Serious Concern to Japan's Illegal Whaling

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) is an international marine wildlife conservation organization using direct-action to investigate, document, expose and confront illegal activities at sea. Their effectiveness was confirmed when Wikileaks revealed that the Japanese government views SSCS as a very serious threat to their illegal whaling activities, preventing the Japanese whaling fleet from reaching its quotas these last few years.

French Protest Against Land Development

Around fifteen miles north of Nantes, thousands of hectares have been put aside for a massive development project involving an airport, motorway and high speed train link. Local residents took up the fight from the start, with demonstrations, tractor blockades and petitions. Following early acts of sabotage, the area was guarded by over 150 police, and military officers brought in to protect the machinery. Work has now started but so has the resistance. People have come in to occupy abandoned farms and houses, to live in caravans and to set up community gardens, and these people are digging in to make sure the developers don't get an easy ride.

European Nuclear Shipments Blockaded

In Germany over 3000 activists blockaded shipments of nuclear waste, using tractors, lock-ons and sheep(!) preventing the cargo from reaching its destination for 92 hours, the longest delay ever. The German nuclear waste is re-processed in Valognes, France and transported back once a year to Gorleben in Germany: an event that is always met with massive and creative blockades and demonstrations. Before reaching Germany, the train had already been stopped for three and a half hours near Caen in France by five protesters locked to metal tubes, dug in underneath the rails.

Time Running Out for North Kelvin Meadow

North Kelvin Meadow, a well-used and supported green space in the heart of Glasgow's West End is now the subject of a planning application to build 115 flats.

The developer, New City Vision Ltd, chosen by Glasgow City Council has started the planning permission process by holding two public meetings allowing the community to comment on their design. However the fundamental question of whether any housing development is right for this land will not be up for discussion. They expect their main planning application to go in by March 2011.

In the absence of any management by the council, two and half years of hard work by the community have resulted in two successive awards from Beautiful Scotland. The land was cleared of rubbish, and a community allotment & composting project set up. This green space & wild park is in constant use, & is appreciated by all. They would like to extend their work to provide a permanent resource for the benefit of the whole community. GCC have

never consulted with the local people about what should happen to this land. The housing development will ensure there is one less public resource for the people of North Kelvin.

northkelvinmeadow.com

Royal Park School: Squatters to Leaseholders

Royal Park Primary School was closed down in 2004 with the local community frustrated in their efforts to put the building to better use. Leeds City Council decided to hand it to Rushbond PLC who were to convert the building into flats for the elderly. They pulled out eighteen months later.

In July 2009 lead from the roof was stolen. With water damage slowly destroying the building, the community acted and squatted the school. They gained much support from ex-teachers and pupils alike. During the time the building was squatted the group cleared rubbish, repaired the roof and windows, and prepared planters.

"There's nothing in the area to bind the community together any more," said Ted, a former pupil. He and twenty others squatted the building in November to highlight its plight and clean it up, before being removed by the police.

The council took the squatters to court and in a packed courtroom the judge evicted the squatters and awarded £3 000 legal costs to the council. Even with this setback, many people became involved and energised. They have set up a consortium of over three hundred members from the local community. The Royal Park Consortium now has until August to raise £750 000 so the first phases of the work can be completed.

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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:

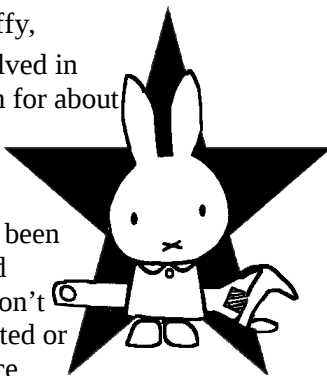
See earthfirst.org.uk for EF!
groups in North America, Mexico,
Australia, Philippines, Nigeria,
Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy,
Poland, Netherlands and Belgium.

AUntie Miffy's Problem Page

Dear AUntie Miffy,

I have been involved in political activism for about eighteen months now. I've done a couple of covert actions, and also been on blockades and mass actions. I don't mind being arrested or confronting police and security guards.

My problem is meetings; I get really intimidated by other people. They are always so knowledgeable and articulate that I freeze up and can hardly mutter a word. Normally I know most people at the meetings, but it's not getting any easier. I feel so embarrassed.
Love Speechless, Redcar.



Dear Speechless,

Two things; first relax and be yourself. I can guarantee people will appreciate your contributions. I know that is easier said than done, but with practice it will get better.

Second, maybe the others at the meetings are unaware of how they appear. How are the meetings run? Are there a couple of dominant voices? Is everyone given a fair chance to speak? You said you know people at the meetings, you could tell them that you find it difficult. Suggest a "check-in" at the start, where people say how they are. I'm not pretending it's easy, but you have obviously got plenty to say, and perhaps you will start to feel more confident if people are talking about something that was your idea.

Good luck, and we only notice our own red face!

AUntie Miffy.

Upcoming dates

11th-13th March, UK
*Animal Rights Spring
Gathering 1 in 12 Club,
21-23 Albion St., Bradford
contact@argathering.org.uk*

26th March, Demo
*Against the Cuts, central
London*

**Late April, Camp Against
Nuclear New Build,**
Sizewell, Suffolk see
stopnuclearpower.blogspot.com
for dates

Nuclear Protesters Freed

In January two activists involved in a blockade of Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk walked free from court after their trial collapsed, due to a Crown Prosecution Service administrative error. This was after a blockade of Hinkley power station took place last October and protesters were able to leave without arrest or charges.

Sizewell and Hinkley remain the focus for anti-nuclear campaigning, being the first two power stations scheduled to be built. Locals round Sizewell are planning the now annual camp to build up resistance to the new power station during Chernobyl Week in April, (see stopnuclearpower.blogspot.com for dates). Meanwhile in Hinkley, EDF are continuing to push through their planning application for preparatory work before they have been granted permission for the power station as a whole. This would involve destroying the habitat of threatened species such as nightingales and 260 skylarks, and chopping down oak trees of over a hundred years old.

The community are redoubling their efforts to resist, both fighting the application and building connections with national activists and other affected communities. One activist commented "This is a really crucial time

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."

GM: Gathering Momentum

The indications are that the GM industry is preparing for an assault on Europe. According to Cornish farmer Michael Hart this is largely because American farmers are discovering the technology does not work, so they need to get a stranglehold here before we notice. The resistance is also gathering momentum; in January over 120 growers, grassroots activists and NGOs came together to swap stories and strategies. Information from the weekend included details about the GM that is already here: GM agro-fuels in petrol stations, GM feed for meat and dairy, and GM KTC and Pride cooking oils, used by many take-aways. See stopgm.org.uk for more.

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.

The Earth First! Action Update brings you a quarterly collection of news and updates on ecological direct action from the UK and beyond.

You can pick up copies from your local social centre, or even better: subscribe and get it direct.

The next issue will be out in June, so if you've got news to share send articles (150 words max.) to: actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk or send to the address below, or post straight onto our website: earthfirst.org.uk

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