

# Earth Action Update



# First!

July-Sept 2009

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

"Let your life be a counter-friction to stop the machine" Henry David Thoreau

## Anti-aviation actions take off

### Airport expansion frozen

Despite the economic down-turn hitting the increase in flights, the juggernaut of airport expansion rolls forwards...if it were not for intrepid activists all over the country. It's just plane stupid.

**London City Airport** was shut-down in June by some city-types in bowler hats & pinstriped suits, with the helpful addition of lock-on arm tubes and fence cutting equipment. The five formed a human wheel-clamp around one of the airport's many small private jets. Nearby Newham has the highest level of under-30 year olds dying from asthma, and exceeds EU 'safe' levels of pollution.

**Leeds Bradford Airport** wants to expand. 60 people picnicked in the check-in hall in April - cucumber sandwiches and gingerbread aeroplanes were eaten.

**Gloucestershire Airport** was plunged into darkness the same month when campaigners took hostage some solar-powered lighting. A ransom note was later delivered demanding that the airport immediately move to a zero-carbon economy.

In March **Aberdeen Airport** had a golf course built on the taxi-way. Protesters built a security fence-stockade for themselves. Six hours of crazy golf was enough - the police blagged them into leaving and their waiting arms.

### Of bullshittus interruptus, slime & air stewardesses

Government ministers Milliband, Mandelson & Hoon have all been trying to trot out their green credentials. They have been met by protesters in slogans, a sliming with green vegan custard, and 'lie-detector air-horns'.



Virgin Atlantic's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday in June had some uninvited guests. The Heathrow check-in got more stewardesses than they'd bargained for. Virgin have promoted agrofuels as a 'solution' to the fast-increasing emissions of the airline industry – despite the resultant destruction of wilderness, soaring food prices and starvation that we're already faced with.



### More gatecrashers

On 16<sup>th</sup> June, Manchester activists had a double-date. An aviation industry conference was just about to 'celebrate' the launch of a new carbon reduction scheme at European airports which will not include emissions from aircraft. Bunches of balloons were launched, with rape alarms attached, where they continued to 'sing the praises' of the delegates oh-so-worthy efforts to make the world a better and safer place. The conference was halted. Later that evening, the delegates hard-earned gala dinner at the town hall was disrupted. Boo hoo.

### Under the radar: car sales deflate and road-building stopped

**Success at Camp Bling** has reached the end of the road, before it was even four years old. The protest camp in Southend-on-Sea has succeeded in defeating the council's plans, and so will be dismantled. The campaign against the road-widening started in 2001, and campers have learned a lot along the way about leading a more compassionate lifestyle.

"It is time for everyone to confront reality, as western industrial society continues to overshoot the ecological limits of the Earth"



The website at [campbling.org](http://campbling.org) continues to provide news about ongoing community action and the bigger picture of the climate crisis.

Haven't got enough? See inside for Camping it up this Summer, Leave it All in the Ground, global action, the Summer Gathering, hot dates and more...

Read more about all these stories at  
[www.earthfirst.org.uk](http://www.earthfirst.org.uk)

## Camp action

**Rosspport** is still the site of a vibrant & determined resistance to Shell's pipeline plans. They planned to have another go at laying the offshore pipe, and preparatory works began this spring. So far, it's not been easy! They came at the end of April to put up fencing & the works compound – lorries were locked-under, diggers were dived, cars blockaded and fencing (once put up) was taken down by the local community. Nets to prevent birds nesting on the cliffs were also removed repeatedly. In May people sat in tripods for the day to slow down the extension of the compound. The Solidarity Camp saw people remove part of a Shell causeway, attempt en masse to breach the compound, and then the Glengad pirates took to the seas in kayaks once more and delayed dredging works. Dredgers were later occupied for the day, and again overnight. Masked-up security have intimidated and assaulted people, and sunk boats. June saw roads blockaded, lorries climbed onto and under and more kayak-pirate disruption. Police have slashed boats and there have been many arrests. Shell's 'exclusion zone' is also enforced by Navy warships. Despite this, the armada has been pluckily attacked on kayaks. Actions are very much ongoing.

**Derby peace camp.** In May protesters set up camp across the road from Rolls Royce Rayensway in Derby. They are opposed to Rolls Royce's part in supplying reactors and parts for the Trident nuclear submarines.

**Mainshill anti-opencast solidarity camp** opened it's doors, as it were, in mid-June, in solidarity with communities in the UK suffering from the impacts of open casting and resisting new mines. Drilling work has since been resisted, creative fortifications built and defences reconstructed after a police raid. Local people have campaigned against this mine for many years. Scotland is one of the UK regions most under threat from new opencast mines.

**Calais No Borders camp, France** is a collaboration between British campaigners and our Continental Cousins for freedom of movement of all. In an EU where business has free rein, and migrants are on the sharp end, the system of control and borders must be dismantled.

**Lappersfort forest, Belgium** was occupied in first 2001, then in 2006 by Dutch & Belgian EF! to prevent the expansion of a nearby airport and associated development, and again in 2008. This spring, repression has mounted against the woodland dwellers, with arrests for screwdriver and wood possession, skipping, and legal flouting & leafleting. A local supporter's house was raided, and forest occupiers were threatened with deportation. Fabricom said they wanted to enter into negotiation in June, but then didn't turn up to the meeting. Resistance is ongoing.

Also see **permanent camps** on the back-page listings.

### This summer in Britain:

#### July

Saving Iceland – 18->

Peace News camp – 23-27

#### August

Scottish Camp for Climate Action - 3-10

Climate Camp Cymru - 13-16

EF! Summer Gathering - 18-24

UK Camp for Climate Action – 27-2 September

For directions, contacts and other exciting gatherings off-island, check out the actions & gatherings listings on the front page at [earthfirst.org.uk](http://earthfirst.org.uk)

### 4x4 cars in affluent areas of

**Manchester** have been targeted repeatedly this spring: tyres were deflated, and notes left informing drivers of their anti-social behaviour, the danger they were placing other road users in, how they fuelled war and imperilled the planet itself.

**Anti-road-building** actions have continued at **Tara** in Ireland up until late spring, with weekly digger-diving and blockades. The long-running campaign has continued after the protest camp was evicted. Shows what a little dering-do and a few people can achieve.



**Critical Mass bike rides** regularly take place all over these isles.

London Critical Mass continues to be mostly unhindered by police – last year the High Court ruled that the rides, which started in 1994, are a “customarily-held procession”. There are generally over 1,000 participants.

In July in protest against car culture, in a handful of towns in Britain people took their clothes off & took to their bicycles for the World Naked Bike Ride.

Manchester Critical Mass continues to attract about 200 people each month, & is linked to a host of bike events & monthly rides.

Critical Mass allows people to reclaim cities with their bikes, just by getting together and acting like they own the road just as much as anyone else.

**For your nearest ride**, see [criticalmass.wikia.com](http://criticalmass.wikia.com) (or start one up).

## More slime

In Iceland, protestors - masked-up with aluminium foil - threw green Skyr (a traditional Icelandic dairy product) over PR greenwashers during March. They were giving a presentation at the time on behalf of Icelandic energy companies.

In April, the Skyr-chuckers struck again. This time it was thrown at the election offices of three political parties, responsible for the invasion of the aluminium industry into Iceland. It covered furniture, floors and propaganda. Skyr-throwing is the Icelandic equivalent of pieing and has become a tradition in the environmental struggle.

Rio Tinto-Alcan operates an aluminium smelter in Hafnarfjörður and has wanted to enlarge it for several years. Despite the local population voting against it, the council helped their mates push it through. The energy needed would require more dams.

See [savingiceland.org](http://savingiceland.org)

## Other dam news

In May EF!ers in the US protested against Home Depot's financial involvement in Chilean dam interests, and to stop supporting the chopping down of Patagonian wilderness.

Days later their AGM was disrupted.

Peruvian & Brazilian indigenous groups are actively campaigning against threats from proposed power-generating (for industry) dams in their areas.



## Widening the cracks in the concrete – autonomous spaces update

**Squatted social centres** have come and gone in the first half of this year in Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, and not wanting to let this alphabetic hegemony hold sway, London too. There was a national squat meet-up in mid-March.

**In Bristol**, surprisingly enough, the police protected the interests of private capital & through illegal action evicted residents after 40 minutes in their new home! Despite this, solidarity call-outs for eviction threats have been strong.

**In London** for over a month, an island was occupied – Raven's Ait eco-conference suite – until the police fancied dressing up in black, flying about in a helicopter & whizzing around on boats in the middle of the night...and to show there was a point to funding their expensive habits, brought the islanders ashore.

**The Justice not Crisis crew in Birmingham** have been very busy squatting and squatting some more. Vegetable gardens & workshops have sprung up in between the cracks they have created, along with community solidarity and debate around the housing crisis and numerous empty properties. On 21<sup>st</sup> April a double eviction attempt was successfully resisted when cops & bailiffs didn't manage to get everyone off the roofs and therefore couldn't take full possession. On the third attempt though, the squatted hotel (with land, don't you know) was evicted after 2 hours, with bailiffs using climbing gear and a winch to remove occupiers. Force was used by cops to remove locked-on residents.

See [justicenotcrisis.wordpress.com](http://justicenotcrisis.wordpress.com)

Long-standing autonomous spaces have had mixed fortunes: **Rampart** in London survived an attempted eviction, but **The Spike** lost their space after 10 years, and the **Hackney Downs Social Centre** faced an eviction threat after 4 years. **The Common Place** in Leeds struggle on without their entertainment & booze licence; they lost the battle in February after repeated court appearances.

**Eco-villages** at Kew Bridge in London and in the Cackle Horse Crab Social Centre in Suffolk have broken ground and cultivated community resistance, and a thriving garden by the Thames.

## Coal – so last century

Conference calls: in February a hotel where a coal award was due to take place was inconvenienced by a Climate Rush cocktail party with UK Coal's HQ near Doncaster picnicked. In June a London coal conference was first blockaded by people glued to a giant bike sculpture, then later 100s of cyclists toured from the conference building round to other climate criminals' hide-outs ending with a sit-down on Westminster Bridge.

**Holes in ground:** the same month, work ground to a halt at opencast mines at Shipley, Nottinghamshire, and Rosewell, Midlothian, when protesters climbed onto diggers and trucks; no arrests. In March Muir Dean coal mine in Fife was temporarily shut-down; police arrested five.

## Shine on you crazy lump of carbon

**Caravan of Love:** the coal caravan stood up against open cast mines and new power stations, cycling between sites in the Midlands, Yorkshire and the North East at the end of April, into May. Despite police harassment, through

evening discussions, debates, popular education & film showings, walks round areas under threat & informal chats, cyclists made good connections with local residents in many places. People came in to events from surrounding villages & towns.

• Shipley is at the centre of New Coal, with open casting already gobbling up the margins of the park, and noise and dust threatening people and wildlife around quite a radius. This was despite local planners, who turned UK Coal down, only to have the government step in on their side. The campaigns continue here however, as UK Coal own masses of surrounding land, and could apply to carry on and on....

• Fairburn Ings, near Pontefract, are a series of lakes - under threat from opencast - teeming with wildlife & birds.

• Two communities in the North East with long histories of community organising are looking forward to proposed opencast mining at Dipton and new coal-fired power station at Cambois. Heritage sites and amazing biodiversity are threatened by the huge amount of planned opencast in this region. The Pont Valley Network is campaigning to encourage local pride & to value the area; the PANiC Stations group are making the links between the local threat and global climate change.

## EF! Summer Gathering, 18-24<sup>th</sup> August in beautiful Cumbria

### Ecological Direct Action without Compromise

Join us for 5 days of workshops, networking and planning actions, run without leaders by everyone who comes along. The gathering is also a practical example of low-impact eco-living and non-hierarchical organising.

Meet people, learn skills, take action.

What's happening?

Over 80 workshops, discussions, planning, strategy and 'where next' sessions

- \*Share and learn skills for kick-ass actions on land and water!
- \*Network current campaigns against ecological destruction
- \*Think about eco-centric ethics and alternative ways of organising
- \*Practical skills for ecological restoration and sustainable living

The programme also includes...

- \*A full day of water based direct action skills training on FRIDAY 21st
  - \*An excursion to visit communities in the North East threatened by an expansion of coal mining on MONDAY 24th. Visit beautiful valleys & strong spirited communities & make links for ongoing resistance.
- As well as international campaigns round-up, networking and planning for future actions.

£20-30 according to what you can afford. Vegan food provided by Anarchist Teapot for £4 per day. The gathering is in Cumbria, the exact location will be announced the week before.

Book your trains to Penrith now!

More info: [www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk](http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk)

## News in Brief

★ **RosSPORT solidarity protests** have taken place at the dredger operators Van Oord offices in Newbury, and outside the Shell HQ. The cops were waiting at the first; the thugs who turned up in London looking for a job are still unemployed.

• What do Italy & Preston have in common? **New EF! groups** obviously! Set up an eco-action group if there's not one nearby already & just let us know.

• **10 year anniversaries** for the long-running **Solsbury Hill** anti-road protest, and the worldwide **June 18<sup>th</sup>**, when the City of London was blocked off in the morning, filled with autonomous actions and smashed up, flooded & burnt by a Carnival Against Capital.

• Whilst the rest of the country ground to a halt in the snow, EF!ers went to Brighton to have our photos taken in the sun on the way into the **EF! Winter Moot**.

• A Norwegian **whaling ship** was **sunk** by Agenda 21. A Marine Monkeywrenching Guide is available on t'interweb; link is on the EF! site.

• The **Disabled People's Direct Action Network** occupied part of Birmingham council over the lack of accessible affordable housing.

• The **annual EF! tree-planting** in the Calder Valley was on the steepest slope ever made, anywhere, and we still drank too much and planted more trees than anyone else!

• A man in Hampshire put up a **fake phone mast** to obstruct a real one being put up – he welded the box & pole so it hung over the intended site from his property.

• Another man in Essex **stopped a hedge being lopped** in his park saving 3 miles of nesting birds. It was the first time he'd stood in front of machinery.

• **Tesco is a virus** was sprayed on a Manchester shop by people concerned about its impact on the local area.

• An **anti-airport bomb hoaxer** has been jailed for 3.5 years after a long campaign against noise at Gatwick. He was unrepentant.

• **Apologies** for the puns in this issue & non-appearance of the last Action Update due.

**Over there:** March in the US saw thousands blockaded Washington's Capitol Power Plant; in Newcastle, Australia, 500 people shut down the world's largest coal port, some in boats. In May the campaign continued in West Virginia, USA, against mountain-top removal and coal sludge dams, with 17 arrests in 3 separate actions on the same day. In June, 14 people were arrested on an action which was the first time ever that a dragline, one of the largest machines on earth, has ever been shut down in a protest. This is an important escalation in the fight against mountaintop removal.

### Leave it All in the Ground

**Gold:** in March in the Philippines, as many as 4,000 villagers barricaded themselves in front of the open pit mine site. Though the army was sent to the area, they didn't move in as numbers swelled to 7,000. At the Famatina mining camp in Argentina in April, a 2 year old road blockade was rammed by Barick employees & government officials. Despite beating up the blockading women, they then went to the local cop shop to whimper. Word spread and they were besieged by almost the entire local community. Panamanian campesinos were blockading a gold mine in May when they were attacked by police, then arrested. Back to the Philippines and London-based Crew Minerals Corporation was punished for the continuing environmental destruction its operation has caused by the New People's Army disarming APEX Mining security. In June Peruvians launched a blockade of the Orcopampa gold mine. In Guatemala, after a subsidiary of the Canadian Goldcorp failed to honour its pledge to remove mining equipment, villagers torched it. Police and army stood by and watched, but later arrested 7 Mayan Mam villagers.

**Copper:** Tucson H.A.A.N.D. (Hooligans Attack At Night Duh!) in the US visited the homes of a vivisector & a mining exec., concreting the water supply off, slashing tyres & etching windows. "Mining for copper to build solar panels is a false solution and unacceptable. The Santa Ritas are part of the Sky Island Region a Biological Hotspot home to 404 bird species, 117 reptile species, 26 amphibian species, thousands of plant species."

**Bauxite/Aluminium:** Ten thousand people formed a 17 km-long human chain around the Niyamgri mountains in Orissa, India. The people were protesting against the plans of Vedanta, a British mining company, to start bauxite mining the mountains. Bauxite

is the most important raw material for aluminium production. The Dongria Kondh tribe, who live in the Niyamgiri hills, consider the hill sacred. They have been opposing the mining lease given to Vedanta for years, saying it would destroy their lives, livelihood, religion and culture. Environmentalists have also opposed plans to start bauxite mining, because they say that the area is ecologically sensitive. They say that if mining goes ahead it would lead to the destruction of forest, large scale displacement and would dry up or pollute dozens of rivers and streams. Three months later in the long-running campaign, at the end of April, several hundred people again staged a protest. One Dongria Kondh man said, "Mining only makes profit for the rich. We will become beggars if the company destroys our mountain and our forest so that they can make money. We cannot give our mountain, it is our life."

### Security Tips for

Some of this will vary according to

- Share information on a strict 'need to know' basis, for your own and others' protection.
- When inviting people to actions, agree a clear order with others and stick to it.
- Always have back-up plans when meeting up about, or getting ready to go on an action. If you've arranged to meet someone, stick to it. Contact other than face-to-face is a risk.
- Don't make more phone-calls or send more emails than you usually would to other activist friends, whether coded, encrypted or just chatty. Stick as closely as you can to your habits – the police probably already have a good idea of your networks & patterns.
- Don't talk about the action near any phone, ever. Also, don't talk in houses or sat in one place outside. Write notes, but burn them thoroughly; don't write on a soft surface - you'll leave a copy.
- Don't plan your travel, buy tickets or look up any info related to the action or subject from your home computer. Pay cash, and don't take discount/Oyster cards.
- Leave your mobile switched on and at home. Never bring it on an action, or to an action-planning meeting.
- Don't keep receipts, and wipe fingerprints off equipment.

**All together now:** in February, 400 members of the Mamanwa tribe in the Philippines blockaded four mining companies operating in their area. The Mamanwa previously sent notices of termination to the companies, which include nickel ore extractors. Five carpenters who helped put the blockade together went missing.



## Slick

After occupying the entrance to the oil well site and disrupting work on the new well for more than two months, the

Otaraua hapu in **Aotearoa/New Zealand** began packing up their occupation camp after finally protecting their wahi tapu, from Greymouth Petroleum's new pipeline. The hillside pa contains precious natural water springs that feed the neighbouring people and are used

for various traditional ceremonies. The pa was once home to Otaraua ancestors with urupa/burial grounds and remains of habitation still present.

Between April and June about 13,000 people from indigenous groups in the **Peruvian Amazon** blockaded roads, rivers, airports and oil & gas pipelines, and seized hydroelectric plants and pumping stations, to protest against a series of new laws that would lead to increased industrial exploitation of their lands. Police, military and extraction companies have used violence to try to break them, resulting in injuries and disappearances. The state oil company had to shut a pipeline that carries 40,000 barrels of oil each day.

Amid threats of energy rationing, the government ordered armed police to clear a stretch of road and retake a pumping station near Bagua, in Peru's northern jungle. Police opened fire from helicopters. Tens of people were killed, many more have 'disappeared', and hundreds were arrested. Eyewitnesses reported seeing the police throwing bodies from helicopters & taking others from hospitals. Following the early-morning massacre, protesters took 38 police hostage at a pumping station. A police raid to free the officers resulted in the deaths of nine of them.

The government has since issued an arrest warrant for an indigenous leader who went into exile. He and others have explicitly made the links between their local struggles and global climate chaos.

Despite two of the decrees being suspended, indigenous protesters did not let up, with a general strike and continued occupation of some energy infrastructure. With the ever present threat of more blockades, two of the 9 laws were then repealed.

There have been solidarity protests at the embassy in London.

See [www.rootforce.org](http://www.rootforce.org) for more info.



## News in Brief

- We are still living beyond our means - **Ecological Debt Day** gets earlier every year. The UK consumes the equivalent of 3.5 planets each year.

- **De-deforesters:** in Italy, the ELF cut wires & tubes on a digger that was taking down the forest.

- **RBS evicted:** in February, Manchester students occupied the roof of their own bank, following Union motions to turf the bankers out. RBS fund oil, gas & coal projects.

- **Action Against Agrofuels** occupied the Bath offices of Blue NG on Via Campesina Day, in solidarity with millions of peasant land-workers.

- **500 days of no Tesco** was celebrated on Mill Road in Cambridge with a street party in March. Last year their desired premises was the home to a Social Centre, until evicted into the car park.

- 27 London **Tescos** had **'Every Little Hurts'** stencilled on their windows for giving free Air Miles with the purchase of energy-efficient lightbulbs.

- 71 people were arrested in Copenhagen protesting against the access to December's UN climate talks given by the **World Business Summit on Climate Change**.

- BAM Nuttall, one of the firms bidding for the **Kingsnorth new coal plant construction contract**, was subject to office occupations in Surrey twice in June.

- Dutch **EF!** occupied a **director's office at the head office of energy giant E.ON** in Rotterdam against a planned coal plant there.

- The **ELF** paid a home visit to the **CEO of the dirtiest power station** in the industrialised world in Melbourne, Australia. A personal letter was left.

- Next summer there'll be a **climate or genetics action camp in Catalonia** – you heard it here first.

The Scarborough Climate Action Network have **opened a community resource centre**, 'Green Planet' in the town centre.

- A statement – the Anchorage Declaration - by indigenous representatives from around the world declared that **'Mother Earth is no longer in a period of climate change, but climate crisis.'**

## going on Actions

the appropriate level of risk/secretcy

- Do a good spring clean of your house in case of arrest & possible search. Ensure there is nothing in your room or shared areas (to be on the safe-side other people's rooms too – though illegal, the police will often try it on!) that you don't want seen or seized till you appear in court/on bail. Eg action-related info or plans, drugs and other illegal items, computers (incl. hard drives, USB memory keys, camera cards etc), phone or address books, diary, bank account or other official info, photos...
- Be aware of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras on all motorways, most major roads incl. coming into many towns.
- Only use social networking websites if you want to give the cops the info they so desire about how networks of activists communicate.
- Think about who you're doing the action with – you might trust them with your child, but can they keep quiet about things?
- Respect the amount of time and effort the organisers have put in, and if they ask you not to do something, or to do something a particular way, just do it, even if it's inconvenient or you don't understand why.

In more news about struggles against oil drilling, in May, a gunboat belonging to Peru's armed forces broke through a river blockade, together with at least one boat belonging to Anglo-French oil & gas company Perenco. They want to drill in an area inhabited by at least two of the world's last uncontacted tribes.



## Radio-active

To mark 23 years since the Chernobyl disaster, in April a vigil was held at a nuclear reactor in Suffolk. Sizewell is also one of the sites nominated for a new nuclear power station.

Meanwhile in Germany, an abseiling activist held up a train for two hours that was carrying over 1,000 tonnes of 'depleted' uranium through a densely populated region of Germany.

In May, three activists from Faslane peace camp blocked the route of a nuclear submarine using kayaks. The three delayed the subs entry into the Clyde submarine base for over 4 hours despite horrible weather conditions (raining heavily) and leaky kayaks. Luckily there was no arrests made and the submarine was unable to leave Coulport for the rest of the night.

In June, five separate groups made their way towards a blockade at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment. A fancy combo of locks, superglue, lock-on tubes installed in a dumped car & a caravan. Eleven people were arrested.

## Utter garbage

Over 1,500 people in a village outside Athens have dug trenches, built barricades and torched bulldozers in a fight over a rubbish dump. Many people have been arrested, and some injured, in pitched battles with riot police. This struggle mirrors others against rubbish dumps around Greece over the last 18 months.



## You Fools

On the eve of the G20, activists highlighted the links between the financial and the climate crises.

In Plymouth, Rising Tide penguins super-glued themselves to the entrance of RBS. RBS are one of the biggest investors in the fossil fuel industry and provided \$16 billion to coal-related companies in 2007 alone.

At Bournemouth Airport a Fossil Fool Award was kindly given for 'Outstanding contribution to local, national and global pollution'.

In other parts of Britain banners were hung, streets theatred & people leafleted. There were actions in the US, Canada & South Africa too.



## London Kicks-off for the G20

While the 'Financial Fools Day' Street Party got underway outside the Bank of England, the Camp for Climate Action set up camp outside the European Climate Exchange. Their message: "Stopping carbon markets - because nature doesn't do bailouts". The police parked a line of vans through the camp but did little else to prevent set-up.

In the morning, a Critical Mass did a tour of the sites linking financial & fossil fools. The Space Hijackers tank got quickly stopped by cops 'protecting' RBS. A spoof Financial Times, dated 2020, was distributed.

The G20 Meltdown was thoroughly surrounded by police of a variety of descriptions (including the evidence gatherers). They 'allowed' people to smash RBS's windows, kettled protesters, wielded their batons freely, and killed one passerby with his hands in his pockets. They also had new toys – armoured personnel carriers, and nearly tasered people who'd had their hands up & they'd already forced to the floor in one of the convergence spaces.

Once those streets were pretty much cleared and under their control, at around 6pm they turned to the urban climate camp, having missed all the workshops & music. Pop-up tents were squashed as they charged in willy-nilly, then kettled everyone but eventually decided not to bother demanding ID from each person on 'release'.

Due to Ian Tomlinson's death and effective complaints about the police violence, the cops are in a damage limitation exercise of reviews and scapegoating.

See the Guide to Public Order Situations on the EF! website, and watch the video coverage to learn more about police tactics.

## Smashing EDO

With the cops on their 'best behaviour' following the G20 furor, Brighton's Mayday! street party went off well. Organisers had given the potential public order situation some thought – no meet-up place was announced until 15 minutes before the appointed time. Cyclists & a sound system helped take the road, and the Forward Intelligence Team were driven off repeatedly from taking photos. The carnival toured round buildings connected to the arms trade – banners were unfurled & paint-bombs thrown. The cops couldn't quite keep themselves under control and did start batoning people in their kidneys and legs. Later in the evening, windows were smashed of investors in the EDO MBM/ITT bomb component factory in Brighton, plus some in solidarity with the Rosspport struggle.



## Tostada

The Earth Liberation Front (FLT) has been busy in Mexico over the last months, burning diggers and trucks, to try to halt urban expansion and resultant destruction of wilderness & pollution, and to protect ecological reserves.

They were joined by the Luddites Against Domestication of Wild Nature, who set a barricade on a major road alight, halting trucks carrying 'extracted' materials. The ELF also burnt machinery in solidarity with the struggle in Peru.

## It's a Victory Virginia

A developer was pushing for a Wal-Mart supermarket (owners of ASDA here), which got defeated through a long community campaign, with a bit of help when his garden got squatted EF!-style! A young boy was killed when a

boulder rolled down from a coal mine which involves mountaintop removal (MTR) in the Appalachians – this prompted another nearby EF! group to glue and chain shut the gates. It has since been shut down allegedly due to the dumping of mining waste into streams, though all MTR involves 'valley fill'! A similar combination of using the legal system and taking action has resulted in the denial of a third nuclear reactor being added by Dominion Power to Lake Anna.

## Greenwash greenwash everywhere...and not a drop to drink

As if to add insult to injury, the Guardian Climate Change Summit was once again sponsored by e.On, the builders of the proposed new coal power station at Kingsnorth. The Greenwash Guerrillas were there to meet them, along with a spoof Grauniad newspaper; they were however, penned in by police.

## Froggy went a-courtin'

**114 people were arrested** by 200 cops at a school in Nottingham, for conspiracy to commit criminal damage and aggravated trespass. Police & e.On say that protesters planned a prolonged stay at Ratcliffe-on-Soar coal-fired power station. The police operation had been prepared for a few weeks. All were released on police bail.

**Update:** 67 people have had their cases dropped; the others were re-interviewed: "er, it's still No Comment"! The police still have a lot more homework to do, and have kept a very large

## BRISTOL CO-MUTINY

12th ~ 20th september 2009



Capitalism and its puppet de'mock'cracy are spiralling out of control: a self-created recession, rocketing unemployment, soaring national debt, the illegal and unjust occupation of Afghanistan & Iraq, apathy towards massacres in Palestine and Sri Lanka, the criminalisation of free movement, the police assaults and murders of people on the streets, the construction of larger airports and coal-fired power stations in the face of devastating environmental degradation, the privatisation of social housing, the list goes on.

But there is hope....

The days are themed, so get more info and prepare your ideas for actions

Web: [comutiny.wordpress.com](http://comutiny.wordpress.com)

amount of 'evidence' (ie people's personal possessions).

**The Drax 29 defendants**, who last year stopped & then climbed atop a coal train heading for Drax coal-fired power station, have been found guilty of obstructing a train. The judge earlier had ruled out any lawful defence arguments mentioning climate chaos – believed to be a political decision following a jury's acquittal of people who climbed up Kingsnorth's chimney. They will be sentenced in the autumn, and are looking at community service and large court costs and fines.

## Cascading Summer

EF! set up tree-sits high up in the forest canopy of this ancient forest in August of last year, in California. Recently, people locked to a van, as well as barrels full of concrete, to block the access road. Others perched high atop structures that have support ropes tied to these obstacles. Any attempt to move them would cause the collapse of the structures and harm the activists.

See more below, and on our website.



## A View from the Trees

"Cutten, South Cascadia, the McKay Tract canopy. The landscape unfolds below us as a patchwork quilt of war. Looking west, one sees the suburb, progress enacting its will upon the occupied countryside. More development is planned, but it is not yet happening... We look east and see the tops of enormous old-growth redwoods towering above the hundred-year-old second growth. Some friends live here, including spotted owls, ospreys, turkey vultures, black bears, newts, voles, flying squirrels and arboreal humans.

To the north lies a clearcut. Three years ago, Green Diamond (GD), formerly Simpson Timber Company, came in and cut down every last tree in the unit, leaving a few huge burned-out snags. Pampas grass and milkweed grow to human height in the trees' absence, but this area is dry and getting dryer.

They planted a few baby conifers, redwoods and others after they cut. Those trees are now three years old, meaning they can cut a couple more units and then start re-zoning the land from timberland to residential. More mini-mansions are planned. So it goes....

However our forest friends disagree with these plans. They want to live, and our solution is to live with them. For the past several months, we've been occupying two tree villages in the McKay, tying in as many giant trees as possible with traverses to protect them with our own bodies from being cut down. Tree-sitting has been used to defend forests in Humboldt for decades, and traverses enable a few humans to defend a large number of trees without leaving the canopy.

We chose this grove because the trees stand directly against the march of Leviathan in the form of suburban development, and the neighbours (in house down below) stand with us, and give us love and support. The other grove (also slated to be clearcut) features an osprey nest, at least one spotted owl nest, flocks of turkey vultures circling overhead, a trail and campsite used frequently by bears, and a creek that serves as watershed for the Humboldt Bay's healthiest population of Coho salmon. These critters have also shown much love to the treesitters, particularly the flying squirrels who share our food at night and the owls who hang out, provide moral support and watch us climb"

## 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 October, so if you've got news to share send us your articles (150 words max.), **actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk**, mail to the address below or post straight onto our website: **earthfirst.org.uk**

## Contacts for Taking Action

### 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**  
PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD  
07949 611912  
bathactivistnet@yahoo.co.uk

**Derby EF!**  
derby@earthfirst.org.uk  
07852 460871

**Lancaster EF!**  
The Basement, 78a Penny St, Lancaster LA1 1XN  
lancasterbasement@aktivix.org

**Leeds EF!**  
leeds@earthfirst.org.uk

**Manchester Climate Action**  
manchester@climatecamp.org.uk

**Norfolk & Waveney EF!** PO box 487, Norwich NR5 8WE  
norfolk@earthfirst.org.uk

**Nottingham EF!**  
245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX  
notts@earthfirst.org.uk

**Preston EF!**  
preston@earthfirst.org.uk

**Plymouth EF!**  
plymouth@earthfirst.org.uk

**Scotland EF!**  
scotland@earthfirst.org.uk

**Thames Valley Climate Action**  
oxford@climatecamp.org.uk

**West Wales EF!**  
westwales@earthfirst.org.uk

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

### Networks

**Coal Action Network**  
coalaction.net

**Genetic Engineering Network**  
www.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

### 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

**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

**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.

**Faslane Peace Camp**  
Shandon, Nr Rhu, Helensburgh, Scotland G84 8NT  
faslane.co.nr  
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  
www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/camp-titnore.html

Camp opposing road building, a Tesco Hypermarket and a housing / commercial development

### Global

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

## Subscribe to the EF! Action Update

To receive by email: send a message to [actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk](mailto:actionupdate@earthfirst.org.uk)

To receive by post: send us this slip:

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Subscriptions cost a minimum of £5 for 10 issues. Send more so we can distribute it free to political prisoners and at events. Cheques/Postal Orders payable to Earth First! Action Update. Worried about security? You may wish to consider a pseudonym and a care of address.

**EF! Action Update c/o The Basement, 78a Penny Street, Lancaster LA1 1XN**

