

Earth First!

ACTION UPDATE

October 2010

Scottish Coal THWACed again!

In September a group of people occupied Happendon Wood, South Lanarkshire to defend it from destruction by Scottish Coal. The Happendon Wood Action Camp (THWAC), is just down the road from the Mainshill Solidarity Camp which served as a stronghold of direct action and community resistance before it was evicted in January.

This time Scottish Coal are being even sneakier: they've set up Scottish Resources Group (SRG) an umbrella company to submit an application for a 'mixed use development' across a 230 hectare area which would entail building a hotel, retail and industrial

buildings and other such crap to keep the capitalist system ticking along.

There's little evidence that this development will happen – the land has been on sale for years. But it provides an excuse to mine: Scottish Coal has stated that for the development to

go ahead coal must first be extracted.

The Mainshill Solidarity Camp was occupied after permission to mine had been granted by South Lanarkshire Council. This time, THWAC has got into the trees early and the camp is a base for community members to rally opposition to the plans and embarrass the council. Scottish Coal has submitted three further applications to mine in the Douglas Valley: an eastern extension to Broken Cross, a new four million tonne mine at Townhead right next to the village of Douglas and another new open cast at Auldton Heights. With the development at Happendon and an application to extend Glentaggart already submitted, the threat to communities and the environment of the Douglas Valley is at an all time high. This is Scottish Coal's smash and grab, and South Lanarkshire Council is behind them all the way.

With so many operational mines and applications for open casts in one area, there could be no better time for THWAC to have established itself. THWAC is a base for actions against the coal industry and needs you to come up with your affinity group to take action. Having learned just what the elements are capable of in the minus 20C temperatures at Mainshill, THWAC has already set up a cosy communal space with a burner and indoor kitchen. Tree defences and tunnels are popping up and being dug daily, with careful consideration being paid to the ecology of the woodland, documented in THWAC's Environmental Safer Spaces Agreement. The first gathering held October 1st-4th saw a community biodiversity walk through the threatened woodland to see the exciting array of fungi, plants and animals that inhabit Happendon Wood. The first day of the gathering also saw Sheriff Officer Roderrick McPherson egged as he served the camp its eviction papers!

For more information see the *Targets Brochure*, get a group of mates together and come to visit. Simple as that.

www.coalactionsotland.org.uk

Lay Siege to RBS!

The fifth Climate Camp and it's a smaller, spikier affair. Smaller seemed inevitable given that it appears bizarrely impossible to persuade anyone in the South of England to travel up to Scotland, but that really wasn't much of an issue because the atmosphere in the camp was inspiring, action focused, and up for it.

Camped out in their backyard

Arriving at the Climate Camp you couldn't help but be impressed by the location. Literally in their back yard.

And there was a epic grandeur to it: The fort-like building on the hill complete with moat, bridge and defenders of the keep. And there we were on the other side of the bridge a motley crew in tents laying siege to the castle.



This is a rousing

In an exciting twist on the Sunday, the day before the day of action, an impromptu mass action succeeds in a way that no other climate camp mass action has done: it got hundreds of people to the target and did some damage.

It was unannounced but open. Affinity groups had put different elements of the plan together and went around the site rousing up a crowd with a sound system. Anonymising white suits and masks were dished out and we headed for the bridge, heading for a corner where hammers were produced. Five of the plate glass windows

were smashed in an attempt to facilitate a mass occupation, but the double glazing meant a double barrier, and police got in there too fast for people to get inside. But it was a fine attempt and most arrestees were de-arrested.

Inexplicable rhinoceros

Monday is the advertised day of action. With many affinity groups focusing on the attempted break in the day before, and others doing a range of actions in the city, the most open 'mass' event of the day was the bizarre spectacle of a siege tower with the head of a rhinoceros crawling its way to the gate where it bumps into a riot van and gets stuck in a tree.

It was a fiasco, but it was a hilarious fiasco. It was patently obvious from the beginning that it would never achieve anything. The back of the Siege Tower had a picture of the Earth with the slogan "There is No Planet B", which someone had subvertised with gaffer tape so it read "There is no Plan".



Underground, overground, wombling free...

The third chapter in a retrospective series about British EF!, looking forwards to a third decade of radical audacious direct action.

As road-building waned due to the successes of the campaign, the late 90s saw increased activism around globalisation both at home and abroad. The Global Street Party against the G8 meeting in Birmingham in 1998 had not only forced the politicians to flee town for the day, but had also laid the foundations for June 18th 1999. June 18th took the form of a masked Carnival against Capital, with a series of kick-ass autonomous direct actions throughout London, and a co-ordinated attempt to seal off the city through actions on roads, bridges, stations and the tube system in the morning. Huge disruption of and economic damage to the corporate centre of the country ensued!

The following year a mainly British, mainly EF! bloc

travelled to Prague for the World Bank & anti-IMF summit protests – and through preparation and guile, succeeded in getting some people into the sealed conference complex. We also experimented with ways of organising mass protests made up of many affinity groups, using a system of scouts and decision-making on the move.

Whilst all this big headline activism involved masses of people and samba bands, many small groups of people were busy in the fields of Britain, going out there and trashing GM crops. See pages 4 – 5 of this issue for more on this.

Next year will be the 20-year anniversary of EF! in Britain. Plans so far include tours, a puppet show and a few new publications to inform, inspire and incite. With it also being the 200th anniversary of the Luddites, there's a chance some pixies might come out to play...

Beat the Boreholes!

While Shell battles for legal permission to build their onshore gas pipeline, a sustained direct action campaign 'Beat the Boreholes' continues to thwart them. Since late July locals and activists from further afield have been out repeatedly to disrupt work.

So far a consortium lead by Shell has built an onshore gas refinery, and laid a deep-sea pipeline towards it from the offshore Corrib gas fields. A vital link is still missing; the highly controversial onshore gas pipeline that would connect the two. The previous route proposed for the onshore pipeline was rejected because it was too close to peoples' houses, and the current proposal that Shell is trying to push through involves nearly five kilometres of tunnel underneath the Special Area of Conservation, Sruwaddacon estuary. The boreholes are being used to test the stability of the

ground underneath the estuary.

However, accidents with high pressure gas pipelines are common – recently in San Fransisco four people were killed and 57 injured by an explosion, and an accident in Masshad, Iran killed another four people and injured sixteen. In Rossport, local houses will still be in the killzone, and the pipe goes directly under a road.

It's hardly surprising then that people are determined to obstruct work wherever they can. Tactics have varied – some sunny days work has been stopped simply by locals walking out at low tide in the sunshine, sometimes accompaied by bag-pipes, banners, dancing and children playing in the sand. On another occasion people chained themselves to the legs of the drill rigs while others played cat and mouse with the privately-contracted security guards, causing three hours

worth of delay. At high tide people came in kayaks, with supporters from the Solidarity Camp and cheering tourists watching from the shore. At times the security guards defended the drill rigs with aggression – seizing kayak paddles, pulling swimmers' hair and stealing and destroying cameras. One kayaker whose boat was forcibly capsized turned the tables by swimming under the platform and clinging to the bore shaft, successfully stopping work for quite a while as the security forces scratched their heads and tried to work out how to remove him.

It's not too late to get involved! Skill up at the Activist Skillshare Weekend on the 29th – 31st October, and then see what's to be done.

shelltosea.com

Email via.rossportsolidaritycamp.org to book a place on the skillshare.

Wildlife blockades Nuke plant

In October a group of seven people dressed in badger costumes locked together across the only access road to Hinkley nuclear power station, blockading the entrance. They managed to stay for four hours during the morning rush before leaving without a single arrest.

The group, made up of locals and people acting in solidarity from across the country, were protesting against the flawed EDF consultation for a new reactor at the site. The destruction of wildlife habitats is already taking place before permission for the reactor has even been granted.

Nikki, a Bridgwater Mum said: "From this autumn on, EDF wants to dynamite and bulldoze 435 acres of green fields; habitats for badgers, bats, and other wildlife, and in close proximity to Bridgwater Bay, which is a sanctuary for thousands of waders, ducks, and other sea birds. It



is a joke to think this land could be restored, as EDF claims, should Hinkley C not be built."

"This EDF-led consultation is a con" said Mell, a teacher from near the reactors at Sizewell in Suffolk "The main question, whether a new nuclear power station should be built or not, is not part of the consultation."

Earlier, in September 'Stop Hinkley' organised a successful action-weekend, bringing together local residents with people from Bristol and much further afield. The weekend included discussions around the role of direct action in campaigns, and speeches covering a range of topics such as alternatives

to nuclear power. On the Sunday the group spontaneously blocked the entrance to the station for over an hour.

Has all this whetted your appetite for some action? Good - the Stop Nuclear Power network is gathering in Bristol on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th October, to build links with the Stop Hinkley campaigners, to plot against EDF and develop action plans against the third government CONsultaion. If you cannot get along for the weekend, get in touch and we will put you in contact with others in your area.

For gathering information and an action report see:

stopnuclearpower.blogspot.com

Genetically Modified Crop Trials Ret

GM commercialisation in Britain could be imminent

A new law proposed by the European Commission in July 2010 could mean that GM crops are in our fields by 2013. The new law is a way to fast-track the EU approval process which has been the major barrier to Europe-wide commercialisation of GM crops up to this point. Superficially it looks like a victory for the anti-GM lobby because it allows individual states to ban specific GM varieties, but this concession comes with a price; members of the European parliament will no longer be allowed to block EU wide approval, ending a deadlock that effectively extended the EU moratorium on new GM approvals to a total of twelve years. With sixteen GM varieties waiting in the wings for EU approval, it may not be long before they are grown by commercial farmers in Britain.

5 reasons to oppose GMOs

In case you didn't know already, GM is well fucked up. Here are a few reasons to get cross about it...

1. Genetic modification is messing with the fundamental building blocks of life itself and the changes it makes are irreversible. Once a GM plant is grown in the open air it will cross-pollinate with other plants, spreading genes like wildfire. This may sound a little hysterical, but consider Canada: there is no organic oilseed rape left, because every single farm in a landmass of over three and a half million square miles has been GM-contaminated.

2. GM intensifies corporate control of the food chain. GM made the seed market profitable, not because GM seeds are better than conventionally-bred seeds but because GM plants, unlike other living things, can be patented. When patentable GM came on the scene so did big business, buying out smaller seed companies and suing farmers whose crops had been cross-contaminated by GM, because they were growing a patented crop without paying a license fee. Around 80% of the world's GM crops are designed by Monsanto to be resistant to its own-brand weedkiller, Roundup - sales of Roundup have sky-rocketed since the introduction of GM crops.

At the same time the introduction of GM in many parts of S.America, Asia and Africa has gone hand in hand with the transfer of land ownership from small farmers to local elites. In some places, like Argentina, this has been because big farmers don't have to pay so many people to tend herbicide-resistant crops - indiscriminately sprayed with

The list of foods available in Britain that directly contain GM as a main ingredient is quite short: KTC cooking oil, Hershey's Nutrageous chocolate bars, Pride cooking oil, Schwartz Seasoned Salad Topping, General Mills Bacos Bacon Flavour Soya chips. However, many additives, such as the sweetener

weedkiller. In others this has been because GM crops have driven local varieties into extinction then failed, leading to a spiral of debt and pushing small farmers into bankruptcy.

3. All over the world people are risking everything to get rid of GM. Crop squats, decontaminations, blockades... they haven't just happened in Britain. India led the way when GM was first introduced with "Operation Cremate Monsanto" which involved burning all fields of GM crops. More recently, in Argentina and Paraguay people have been occupying farms to prevent GM planting and defend their



STOP
GM

Upcoming Dates

12th November 2011 - Public Meeting

in Bramham (village near the Leeds University GM trial site),

Sat. 22nd January 2011 - National Gathering to Stop GM.

Get together for activists and NGOs to restart the campaign against GM, London, Contact info@saynotogmo.org.uk or see www.saynotogmo.org.uk for more details

land from the soya industry. In Brazil, GM crop trials have been repeatedly destroyed. In Haiti this year 10, 000 farmers got together to burn seeds that had been donated by Monsanto as 'aid' following the earthquake.

4. The GM industry's promises have never come true. For twenty years GM companies have been promising miracle cures to the world's problems, and the current line is 'We need all the tools we can get to feed a hungry world in the face of climate chaos.' Bollocks, we do! We need good tools to feed a hungry world, and GM crops don't fit the bill. For a start, despite twenty years of promising that miracles are 'just round the corner' the industry has not yet succeeded creating any GM crops that have consistently higher yields, or that would be more resilient to the full range of extremes that climate change is likely to throw at us. Finally, talking about yields, ignores the real reasons why people starve. People aren't hungry now because of lack of food, there is more than enough in the world for us all to be quite plump, but 850 million people are hungry because the Global North takes more than its fair share. don't know how to share. Previous agricultural changes like the introduction of chemical fertilisers and pesticides increased the quantities of food produced (in the short term), but actually led to more people going hungry. There is no reason to believe a corporate-driven and expensive technology like GM would deliver anything different.

aspartame, are GM.

More significantly, meat and dairy products that aren't organic are usually fed on GM feed, and won't be labelled as such. **The market for GM animal feed is the main reason for the expansion of GM crops around the world.**

turn



5. **There are real solutions that could get us out of the mess we're in**, and they are available here and now. Even the UN agrees that small-scale, community-controlled, organic and ecological farming and saving local seeds for replanting is the way to preserve biodiversity, lock up carbon in the soil and give us the best chance of still being able to eat while climate change turns the world upside down. (See the IAASTD Report at www.agassessment.org for more details). Contrary to what the premium prices we pay here in Britain might lead you to believe, organic farming is cheap. It uses easily accessible materials like manure and vegetable peelings to feed the soil, and anyone with a bit of land can give it a go. Funnily enough, the powers that be aren't interested in anything so simple or so hard to monopolise. In 2007-8 the British government spent over 30 times as much on research into agricultural biotechnology, as into organic farming. This is in spite of the fact that people choose to eat organic food, where GM has to be hidden in animal feed and additives to get into people's diets at all.

GM in Britain 2010

There were two outdoor trials in Britain in 2010, both involving potatoes, both set to run for three years, and both involving fortress style security and round the clock surveillance. One, near Tadcaster, administered by the University of Leeds, involves research into spuds which are not only resistant to potato cyst nematodes, but also resistant to the antibiotic neomycin. This is done to provide a simple laboratory test to identify if the genetic modification has worked, but if it leaks into the food chain could have serious consequences for future use of neomycin in treating humans and animals. The other, at the John Innes Research Centre near Norwich involves resistance to late blight.

The score so far ...

The British public 1:0 GM industry

There is little question that 'we' won last time. In 1997 GM products were unlabelled all over the supermarket



All kickin off in Europe...

GM crop trashings have been spreading round Europe over the summer. After two actions in July involving maize in Spain, people in France followed by scything down a field of GM sunflowers. They even hung around long enough to hold a press conference, and almost managed to get away when the police arrested the journalists instead of the activists! In August, people in France dug up seventy experimental GM vines and hacked the plants to pieces, after cutting their way through abarbed wire fence, ignoring CCTV and motion detectors. In Italy a hundred people destroyed two-metre tall maize plants in the middle of the day. In Germany a field was occupied in April by a group of farmers, agricultural students and gardeners to try and prevent sowing of GM sugar beet. In July six people partially decontaminated a field of GM spuds in an openly announced daylight action.

shelves and GM crop trials were exploding all over our fields. By 2005 we had successfully halted the growing of GM food in Britain, kicked out many of the biotech companies, and limited the importation of GM food to animal-feed. There are signs that the industry may be trying the 'let's wait a while and then see if we can slip it in under the radar' tactic, but resistance is growing again, and the past few years provide plenty of inspiration. Fields were trashed by mass day time invasions and secret night time forays. 'Crop squats' included the now iconic pink castle, a giant fortress of concrete, wood and canvas that prevented planting in a field for three weeks,

before the farmer arrived to sow backed up by seven tractors, eighty police officers and a helicopter. After this the combined efforts of locals and other activists destroyed enough of the crop that the trial was abandoned. In 1997 Monsanto's head offices were occupied by fifty people who had fun taking over the phone lines, and in 2004 Sainsbury's storage depots faced co-ordinated blockades, preventing the movement of milk from cows fed on GM feed.

What you can do

Talks, workshops and video showings

Get in touch if you would like activists from *Say NO to GMO* to do a talk or workshop on GM for your group, school or community.

Set up a local group and take action

Organise a meeting for concerned people, make a list of action ideas and get cracking. From leafleting consumers in supermarkets, showing films and organising talks, protesting against GM experiments

at your university, getting your workplace, university, village or town to become a GM free zone, promoting locally grown organic food, taking action at your local supermarkets and GM companies... anything is possible! Contact *Say NO to GMO* if you would like help with setting up a local group.

Boycott GM food

Don't buy food or animal feed with a GM label. Protest at and boycott retailers who sell it.

Shop at independent whole food shops who are committed to only

selling GM free food.

Avoid GM-fed animal products.

Buy organic milk and animal products - organic standards prohibit GM at any stage of production. Or shop at local farmers' markets where you can ask farmers directly about whether the animal feed they use comes from a certified non-GM source.

For more Info:

www.saynotogmo.org.uk or info@saynotogmo.org.uk

Sign up to the mailing list at <https://lists.aktivix.org/mailman/listinfo/saynotogmo>

Lewes Road Victory over Tesco

When Lewes Road Community Garden was evicted at the third attempt in September it didn't look like there was going to be much to celebrate. After sixteen months of hard work, creating a garden out of an old petrol station, and fighting off plans for a new Tesco, the plant pots and garden chairs were in the skip and the hoardings were up. Then, just over a week later, came the announcement that Tesco's were pulling out because "The future of the community garden should be resolved locally, by the community". Well, doh! Campaigners stress they can't go off-guard just because Tesco's starts talking the talk, and are readying themselves for a protracted war, but a major battle has been won.

Tens of thousands of mink released in Greece

In August, two of the biggest Greek mink farms were hit in two successive actions in which over 50 000 animals were released. The fences were cut, all the cages imprisoning animals were opened and machinery sabotaged, allowing the animals to run for freedom. The animals were otherwise destined for the fur industry.

Life sentence for Long-time Campaigner?

Betty Krawczyk is at least 81 years old and has been campaigning against logging in Canada for years, and has been arrested many times.

Her latest action was to stand in front of a bulldozer with Harriet Nahanee.

Despite being warned that ms Nahanee was too old & ill for jail, she was sent anyway. She died just days after her release.

The state prosecutor in British Columbia is calling for Betty to literally be given a life sentence for her crimes.

Urban development in Mexico attacked by elves

In July, unknown night time pixies visited an urban expansion project in the woods near Mexico city, involving digging deep wells to allow for human habitation. It is reported that following the pixies' visit the wells were blocked with stones, bricks and rubble and three machines were burnt.

Half a million lab animals killed in Scotland, 2009

Scotland4Animals has eventually managed to obtain the most recent animal experiment data from the Home Office.

In 2009 494,584 animals were experimented on and killed in 31 establishments in Scotland:

- 320,202 mice
- 4776 rats
- 1994 guinea pigs
- 864 hamsters
- 320 gerbils
- 731 "other rodents"
- 487 rabbits
- 1201 dogs/cats
- 69 horses
- 1191 pigs
- 22 goats
- 4642 sheep
- 917 cattle
- 71 deer
- 764 monkeys
- 3187 hens
- 734 turkeys
- 20 quail
- 2536 "other birds"
- 953 amphibians
- 104,903 fish

225,207 of these animals were genetically modified. Many of these animals were used for several experiments, therefore the total number is higher than this.

65% of experiments were done with no anaesthetic,

Readers' Rants

Dear AU,

Over the past year and a half the English Defence League have been holding rallies in multi-cultural towns across Britain. They claim to be against the implementation of Sharia Law (er hello?), but really they are trying whip up race hatred, and have a good old scrap.

They say they are not racist, but several of BNP activists are EDL top brass. Their self-proclaimed leader, Tommy Robinson (pseudonym) is a former BNP member. The man behind the EDL website is BNP activist Chris Renton.

The Home Secretary (Theresa May) has banned the EDL from marching through several cities.

Historically, British people have taken it upon themselves to fight fascism. In the East End of London in 1930s, and then again in Lewisham in 1970s the fascists were confronted and beaten back.

We cannot rely on the state to fight fascism for us. The police encourage the mosques to put on day trips to keep the youth out of the way when the EDL comes to town.

They say ignore it, and it will go away. It doesn't; it serves too many vested interests. The newspapers load the the gun and hand it to the fascists. We need to expose the lies and stand together against fascism when it comes into our communities.

In solidarity, Joan Jones.

there were 6 reported welfare infringements.

See www.scotlandforanimals.org

Share the Pain? How does "F*** Off" Sound?

According to the Sunday Times 'Rich List', the top 1000 money grabbers in Britain netted an extra £77bn in 2008-9.

Hold that thought...George (oh how dreadful it must

be on an average income, like those poor solicitors down in Kew) Osborne says we must cut the national debt by...£33bn in 2011-12.

That thought again... oh yes, if we took less than half the 1000 top toffs' pay rise we could pay off the deficit, and still leave them with a measly £38.5m extra each.

We're all in this together? Hm, I don't mind if I do.



Barclays spent £25m on the branding rights to London's new cycle hire scheme, but they may regret it ...

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, 07794
774938 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

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

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@corporatewatch.org
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 & a new
biotech research facility.

**Defend Huntingdon Lane Protest
Camp**
defendhuntingdonlane@hushmail.com
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.

The Happenden Wood Action Camp
contact@coalactionscotland.org.uk
Base for action in the Douglas Valley,
South Lanarkshire, Alba

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,

My mates have started getting involved in direct action and last week they asked if I wanted to come along. I didn't want to admit I felt dead scared of getting nicked, so I made some crappy excuse. Now I keep lying awake at night thinking about it - I could go down on my knees and ask the politicians nicely til I was blue in the face and never change anything, so why am I so scared of taking matters into my own hands? If I look at all the world's problems then me spending an afternoon in a cell isn't really such a big deal.

Please tell me what the real consequences of getting nicked are, coz I'm scared and confused and tired,

Mixed Up, Wigan

P.S. Love the mag!



Dear Mixed,

First of all I should say that I'm a rabbit and not a legal adviser, so for information about 'the real consequences' you might do better going to www.activistslegalproject.org.uk rather than asking me! From my own experience though, I've often had quite a nice time settled down in a cosy cell with my book, and I've never known anything that was nearly as bad as going to the dentist's. As for longer term consequences, it's up to you to decide what your priorities are in life, and then find out whether a criminal conviction is likely to get in the way. I've got a record as long as my ears, and it's never done me any harm, but public school boys say the same about the cane, so maybe you do best to check it out for yourself.

Best of luck with your adventures,

Miffy

Upcoming Dates

Reclaim the Fields Gathering
28th October - 2nd November
Wieserhoisl Collective, Austria

Rosspport Activist Skillshare
29th - 31st October
rosssportsolidaritycamp.org

**Happenden Wood Action
Camp Gathering**
6th-10th November

Leeds Zine Fair
13th November
www.footprinters.co.uk

**Earth First! tree planting
weekend** - Treesresponsibility
10th-12th December 2010

Anti-GM Gathering
Relighting the fuse
22nd January, London
info@saynotogmo.org.uk

Earth First! Winter Moot
4th - 6th February
Sumac Centre, Nottingham
See next page for more details

Earth First! Winter Moot 6pm Fri 4th – Sun 6th Feb 2011

Sumac Centre, Nottingham

A weekend of strategic discussions, networking and campaign planning for the ecological direct action movement. This year's Moot will include workshops on the theme of civilisation and a mini film festival on Sunday evening.

Cost-price vegan food and crash pad accommodation available.

Get in touch:

- if you want to offer more workshops or films
- to let us know what you'll need by way of food, crash space, kids' spaces

wintermoot@earthfirst.org.uk,

see www.veggies.org.uk/sumac/map.html for a map and directions.

Huntington Lane call out!

Six months in and Huntington Lane protest camp, near Telford, is still going strong. Defences are powerful, tunnels awesome, tree houses functional, and morale still very high. However, they urgently need a few more boots on the ground; the news from a reliable source is that the cops have told UK Coal to move in fast while numbers are low. So get down there, bring some mates and help hold the eviction team at bay.

STOP PRESS: being evicted as we go to print!



South Lanarkshire COALcil

The ongoing battle over open cast coal in the Douglas Valley has had a shocking development, with South Lanarkshire Council taking individual members of the Douglas and Glespin Community Council to court over alleged libel. This comes because of a logo on their website reading "South Lanarkshire COALcil" and an article titled "South Lanarkshire Council and Scottish Coal Hand-in-Hand at Community LIE-aison Meeting". The Douglas Community Council was not even the original author of the article or logo – both came from the Coal Action Scotland website. Coal Action Scotland are asking people to display the logo everywhere in solidarity. coalactionscotland.co.uk

Grow Heathrow!

Almost half a year after launching, a successful grassroots campaign resisting the expansion of Heathrow airport while demonstrating sustainable living on derelict land, is facing an eviction threat. Back in March, people got together on the site of the proposed third runway and squatted the land. Six months on, they have cleared rubble, erected giant glasshouses, started up a market garden, and provided a hub for community skillshares and get togethers. Now they're calling for support in resisting eviction; the first eviction court case in September was adjourned, but they will eventually have to appear in front of the Central London County Court.

See transitionheathrow.com for updates and ways to help.

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 February 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

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Subscriptions cost a minimum of £5 for 10 issues. Please send more so we can distribute for 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 care of address.

