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THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND

Isy Morgenmuffel

Five loaves, two fishes, 5000 hungry anarchists... OK, it had more to do with sound planning, teamwork and a sense of humour than any supernatural powers, but at times cooking for the anti-G8 mobilisation still felt like a bloody miracle.

Finding supplies for our central food store, sorting out enough money upfront for these supplies (as well as not being out-of-pocket afterwards), communicating amongst ourselves and actually cooking all day for hordes of hungry people was a huge and daunting task – but somehow, it worked out. And at a deeper level, the kitchens weren't just about infrastructure or logistics; they were an integral part of our politics. If we're serious about self-organisation and autonomy, washing spuds is as good a place to start as any. This is the Anarchist Teapot's story of how we did it...

With thanks to: Kaos Café (London) cooking at the Glasgow convergence; Café Clandestino (Brighton) cooking in Edinburgh; Kokkerelen (Belgium/'Lowlands' barrio); the Irish barrio kitchens; the Scottish Healand's kitchen; the kitchens from the social centres in Bradford (1in12) and Leeds (Common Place, with some Sheffield people too); Nottingham's Veggies; Why don't you? from Newcastle; the kitchens from Lancaster, Bristol, and Oxford; the Queer barrio cooks; the Purple Penguin bakery; and of course the Dutch Rampenplan with whom we formed the Rampenpot, or Anarchist Plan.

MID-JUNE



TUESDAY 28/6 - EVE - WE ARRIVED AT THE 'RURAL' SITE, WHICH HAD ONLY BEEN PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL A FEW DAYS BEFORE OTHER POTENTIAL, BETTER SITES ALL FELL THROUGH DESPITE BEST EFFORTS



SO, WE'LL HAVE FOOD ARRIVING TOMORROW, WE NEED A MARDUKE TO PUT IT IN.

FUCK! THERE'LL BE PEOPLE ARRIVING SOON & THERE'S NOUT HERE!



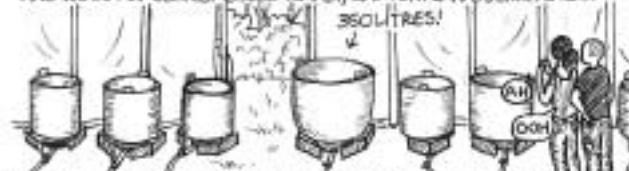
THE COUPLE HUNDRED PEOPLE ON SITE WORKED 24/7 OVER THE NEXT COUPLE DAYS

THURSDAY 30/6 - THERE'D BEEN A WIKEN COOKING, BUT THEY NEEDED TO MOVE, SO WE WERE CALLED ON





AND WE SET UP OUR COMBINED TEAROT/RAMPENPLAN/BERKITCHEN!



THERE WERE OVER 10 DIFFERENT KITCHENS TO CATER FOR ALL THE NEIGHBOURHOODS, COOKING FOR MOSTLY 50-300 PEOPLE EACH, & WITH VARYING DEGREES OF EXPERIENCE. WE HAD A FIRST MEETING

WE NEED GAS CONNECTORS
IT'S £1 FOR LUNCH-£1.50 FOR DINNER



SATURDAY 2/7 - WAS THE DAY OF THE BIG 'MAKE ROBERTY HISTORIC' MARCH IN EDINBURGH. WE SPLIT OUR KITCHEN TO GO HELP CAFE CLAUDESTINE COOKING THERE.

(HEY! HOW'S IT GOING?)
GOOD! DON'T MIND THE SECURITY - THEY'RE A RIGHT.



THE BLACK BLOC ATTEMPT GOT PENNED IN BY COPS, PREDICTABLY (WE NEEDED TO GET BACK TO COOKING)





NO ONE ELSE WAS BACK YET BUT WE GOT SOME CHOPPING HELP FROM LOCAL KIDS



... GOT TURNED INTO SOUP FOR LUNCH.....



SO, WE SERVED LOTS A FOOD, THEN LEFT AGAIN.



AND INTO A CHUTNEY!



SUNDAY 3/7 - ALTOGETHER THREE DIFFERENT ANTI-G8 CONFERENCES WERE HAPPENING IN EDINBURGH. MEANWHILE BACK ON THE STIRLING SITE...

THERE'S LESS PEOPLE HERE THAN WE THOUGHT - WE HAVE TOO MUCH FOOD!

MAY NEED TO CAN OR DERS SHIT.

AND CHECK OUT HOW MUCH CHILI WE HAVE LEFT...



THE 'PEOPLE & PLANET' KIDS ARRIVED. THEY HAD THEIR OWN 'ENCLOSURE' AND WE HAD TO FEED THEM (OS THEY DIDN'T HAVE THEIR OWN KITCHEN)



I SPENT HOURS DOING THIS...

50-60-£1. HAVE WE GOT ANY MORE CHANGE BAGS?

33-34-35 - ALL COPPERS ARE BASTARDS.



MONDAY 4/7 WAS THE DAY OF ANTI-NUKE BLOCKADES AT FASLANG, AND OF THE ANTI-WORK CARNIVAL IN EDINBURGH. I WANTED TO GO, BUT...

OKAY, DON'T PANIC, BUT FOOD HYGIENE INSPECTORS ARE COMING ON SITE AT 2!

REALLY SORRY WE HAVE TO CANCEL THE POTATOES. WE STILL HAVE - WHAT?



2PM! MODEL CHEF WASHING HANDS!

BIA BIA BIA



LATE EVENING - THERE'S LOTS OF HUNGRY PEOPLE COMING BACK NOW!

OK, NEWCASTLE STILL HAVE DINNOR, LEEDS 'HIGHLANDS IN 75 HOUR.'

WONDER HOW ALL THIS'LL GO...



NO OCA

TUESDAY, 5/7 - SUDDENLY MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WERE COMING - AND HUDDLED IN LIL CONSPIRATIVE GROUPS ALL OVER THE SITE...



AND LEFT IN LIL CONSPIRATIVE GROUPS TO CAMP OUT ELSEWHERE...

WELL, WE PASSED INSPECTION - PHEW! MEANWHILE, THE MET MEAT HAD IN EDINBURGH AND LOCALS JOINED IN THE CARNIVAL. THERE WERE LOADS OF ARRESTS.



THE SUMMIT WAS STARTING ON WEDNESDAY AND THE IDEA WAS TO BLOCKADE ALL THE DELEGATES-SUPPORT STAFF WHO WEREN'T BEING FLOWN IN, IN THE FORM OF BIGGER+SMALLER ACTIONS, MOSTLY UNCOORDINATED, EARLY IN THE MORNING+ALLOWER THE AREA.





A BIT LATER:

OH! COPS WITH BARS ON BOTH SIDES.

I THINK THERE'S ONLY 100 OF US LEFT HERE - WE'RE DOOMED!

HEY, WE CAN ALL GET OUT THRU HERE - C'MON!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE OTHERS ARE COMING!

WE ENDED UP WITH A MOLEY GROUP OF PEOPLE ON SOME RAILWAY TRACKS

ISZ'Z BE WAY TO GLENAIGLE?

WE GO TO GLENAIGLE, OUT?

NO! ITS ABOUT A DAYS WALK OACE THOSE HILLS

FOUND A FEW OTHERS & MADE OUR WAY TO THE MOTORWAY

BARBICADE MATERIAL

MY SOCKS ARE WET

HEY, I CAN SEE IT! THATS THE MOTORWAY ISN'T IT??

YEAH FUCKING MILES AWAY.

THE MOTORWAY WAS ALREADY SHUT OFF SO FOR A WHILE, WE RAN ONT OFF THE SLIPROADS



THEY DONT SEEM TO WANT TO FOLLOW US INTO THE FIELDS...

(MASS MOONING) C'MON!

I'M ON THE BLOG AND I'M NOT GONNA DO THIS

AFTER A WHILE, OUR RANDOM GROUP STARTED TO ANNOY US

LET'S HAVE A MEETING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO!

THERE'S THE 3RD MEETING! AH FUCK THIS!

YEAH

WE GOT 'CHANGED' AND STARTED WALKING BACK

IT'S ONLY 10AM AND I'M FUKED

TEK



WELL, WE HAVE BEEN OUT FOR SEVEN HOURS

WHEN WE GOT BACK, THERE WAS HUGE EXCITEMENT

YOU'VE BEEN THERE 4 HOURS ON THE... ON I GOT IT... AS24

HUH?



JUST GOT ANOTHER CALL - 50+ PEOPLE ON THE AIR NEAR BLACKFORD!

ANY NEWS FROM THE ACTIONS AT WINKILL BRIDGE?

EVERYTHING WAS SHUTDOWN ALL MORNING! FROM 5 PEOPLE LOCKING ON TO HUGE MOBBS PLAYING CATMHOUSE, FROM KIDS TO CLOWNS TO BLACK BLOC...



*KODGE NAME



HEY, YOU'RE ALIVE! WHERE'D YOU GO?



GET THROUGH? LIKE THIS!

WE LEFT WHEN WE THOUGHT IT WAS DOOMED. HOW'D YOU...

THEN WE ACTUALLY GOT TO THE MOTORWAY, AND SHUT IT DOWN... YAY!



ALL THE KITCHENS COOKED NON STOP. MORE SOUP COMING UP!

WAIT! IT NEEDS MORE... OREGANO

AND PEOPLE CAME BACK FROM THE ACTIONS, ATE, THEN WENT OFF AGAIN TO THE 'GG ALTERNATIVES' MARCH ONTO GLENAGLES. IN ALL THE MORNING CHAOS, THE MARCH GOT BANNED UNDER LOTS OF PROTEST, EVENTUALLY IT WAS ALLOWED. 5-6000 PEOPLE GOT THERE - (THE PICS ARE FROM PHOTOS + WHAT PEOPLE TOLD ME - I WASN'T THERE)



MEANWHILE, KIDS BROKE THROUGH THE POLICE BLOCK AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAMP

LITTLE BOBBED PATROL!!



THEN THEY WENT UP THE A/R IN A DOUBLE DECKER BUS - VERY SLOWLY...



THE SECURITY FENCES ROUND THE SUMMIT CAME DOWN!



LOOK, THEY'RE FLYING IN MORE COPS!

AND RUBBLE WAS STILL BEING CLEARED OFF THE MOTORWAY... GRUMBLE

BACK AT THE SITE, ALL THE STORIES GOT TOLD...



THE BIKERIDE PEOPLE GOT RIGHT THROUGH TO THE MEDIA SUMMIT. WH-WHERE ARE WE?



OVER 200 PEOPLE WERE NICKED BY US AM



THE DUTCH BUS OH, WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO... LOCH NESS!



WELL, TODAY WAS KNACKERING

YOU GUYS WHO HAD ALL THE FUN ARE GO GONNA COOK TO MORR OAH!

DO WE NEED TO SOAK ANY BEANS?

SHIT

THE ENTIRE CANADIAN DELEGATION NEVER GOT THERE!



WHY MINE TOO... (DADS COME FOR DINNER)



THEY'RE SEARCHING MOST PEOPLE AT THE ROUNDABOUT BUT LETTING US PASS TOO...

SO DO WE LOOK LIKE STUDENTS? ARE WE CONVINCING?



WE WENT OUT TO PAY IN MORE MONEY AT THE BANK

OH... KAY, DON'T TELL ME THAT'S CHANGE IN THERE...



THE PROTESTERS LEFT AND THE PARTNERS STAYED...

AARGHS, THERE'S SOME KIND OF SOUND SYSTEMS WARGOING ON...



FRIDAY 8/7 - KITCHENS MEETING

WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW

WE'RE OFF TOMORROW

WELL, WE'VE BROKEN EVEN ON MONEY WITH A SURPLUS!

WE'RE WAITING FOR SOME FROM OUR BARRID TO GET OUT OF JAIL.



WE MANAGED TO PAY EVERYONE BACK WHO'D PUT MONEY IN AT THE START

4000 FOR YOU, 1000 FOR YOU...

(NONCHALANTLY HANDLING LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH...)



CHOPPERS STILL OVERHEAD, ALL DAY-NIGHT

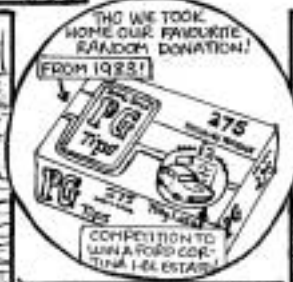
FUCK OFF!

YOU KNOW THOSE HUGE CARROTS WE STILL HAVE SO MANY OF?



SATURDAY 9/7 - AND SO WE PACKED UP AND LOADED OUT LEFTOVER FOOD

GUESSES WE DIDN'T NEED 15000 OF VEGETABLES



THO WE TOOK HOME OUR FAVOURITE RANDOM DONATION! FROM 1983!

COMPETITION TO WIN A FORD CORTELIA 1-66 ESTATE



PREDICTABLY ENOUGH ON LEAVING - WE'RE GOING TO SEARCH YOUR VEHICLE!

UM, OKAY, might not like.



WE DROVE BACK IN A CONVOY WITH THE DUTCH BUIS... ALL VERY KEEN ON FOOD NOT COOKED BY US

SUPERMARKET! LET'S STOP THERE



OOH LOOK AT ALL THE SOYA PRODUCTS!

OOH LOOK AT ALL THE BEERS

IT'S NEARLY CLOSING TIME... WHO ARE THESE PEAKERS?



GAH... CONCRETE

WE ATE IN THE EMPTY CAMPK... THEN GOT HOME! TO COOK THE NEXT WEEKEND AT ANOTHER THING? GAH, THE DUTCH KITCHEN GOT INTERROGATED AND SEARCHED ON THE BORDER, WITH COFS INDIVIDUALLY LOOKING THRU 1500 MASS! BUT ALL OF US WENT HOME FUSED WE'D FED THE MASSES, AND DISRUPTED THE SUMMIT...

nearly as useful as gaffa tape... the SHOPPING TROLLEY!

DURING THE 60s, RESOURCEFUL PRO-TESTORS DISPLAYED THE MANY USES OF THE HUMBLE SHOPPING TROLLEY...

