

# The Acorn



Information bulletin from Winter Oak

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Revolt in the air in Brighton (above) and Liverpool (below left + right)



UKIP's Douglas Carswell flees the 'mob' in London



## Growing revolt on UK streets

**A growing mood of angry defiance of the capitalist system has been in evidence on the streets of the UK in recent weeks.**

The latest instance took place in **Brighton** on Saturday June 6, where a large anti-austerity protest in the city culminated in the storming of the former Barclays bank at Preston Circus.

A new radical alternative community space is being created there - "a space for organising actions to challenge all recent and ongoing political events". The wish list includes camping stoves, cutlery, cups, plates, bowls, pans, duvets, sleeping bags, sofas, mattresses, books and clothes.

In another recent incident, far right-wing politician Douglas Carswell (UKIP's only MP) was targeted by what he laughably described as a "murderous lynch mob" during anti-capitalist protests in **London** on Wednesday May 27.

Protesters succeeded in breaking through police cordons during the protests in Westminster against the Queen's Speech announcing the latest neoliberal government agenda.

Carswell told the corporate press: "Out of nowhere a mob, over 100 strong, and it got incredibly nasty. I mean this was a lynch mob on the streets of London. It was an incredibly violent nasty mob and I was shocked".

Hundreds also took to the streets of **Liverpool** on the same day. They held a sit-in protest on the Strand, bringing rush-hour traffic to a standstill, then demonstrated outside the Capital Building in Old Hall Street, before blockading the entrance to the Queensway Tunnel – leav-

ing cars stranded underground – and over-running the main terminal at Lime Street station.

Local media reported that the protesters included "anarchists" and people "wearing Guy Fawkes masks".

The next big anti-austerity protest in London is on Saturday June 20 assembling at 12 noon outside the Bank of England in Queen Victoria Street (Bank tube station).

**The Rabble anarchist website notes: "If a Tory government prompts more people to join us on the streets, we say it's a good thing".**

### 'Extremism' laws will criminalise dissent

"Government plans to enact a 'domestic extremism' law, announced in the Queen's Speech, threaten to make thought criminals of all who challenge the established order. At risk are campaigners, protestors, journalists and all who dissent from Britain's neoliberal corporatocracy."

Thus writes Donnachadh McCarthy of Occupy Democracy in an article in *The Ecologist*. On the same theme, see also "Democracy - another stick to beat us with" in *Acorn 9*.

# Capitalism colonises life

by *Collectif Faut pas pucer, France*  
(radical shepherds and shepherdesses)

Capitalism's domination of our lives has to be fought on at least two fronts. One of these is today clearly seen and understood by more and more people – it's opposing all those infrastructure projects which manage areas so that commodities can circulate and various industries can function.

This means the construction (or the extension) of high-speed rail lines, airports, power stations (whether nuclear, solar, wind or biomass...), commercial centres, the mass production of toxic foodstuffs, the sinking of fracking wells. In a very obvious way, all this destroys the countryside and covers farmland and forests with concrete.

But there's also another front which hasn't been clearly identified and activated by enough people yet: opposing the colonisation of our lives by hi-tech



**There is more than one field of combat**

devices. PCs, tablets, iPods, iPads, iPhones and the networks that support them cause colossal amounts of pollution and energy consumption, which put the effects of industrial agriculture in the shade.

Pollution through microwaves, pollution through manufacturing and disposal, power consumption by the

devices, by search engines, by data centres...

We would need Zads [anti-industrial protest camps] in China, Africa and Bolivia to stop the extraction of rare earth metals needed to manufacture all the wonders of technology. We would need Zads in Ghana to stop the burial of all our junk made of plastic and toxic metals – last year's novelties discarded with the arrival of the latest new product.

We would need Zads in Mali and Niger to fight against the mining of uranium to feed the nuclear industry (which in turn feeds the internet in France).

We feel a sense of solidarity with all every one of those Zads... even if, unfortunately, they don't exist!

**Extract taken from the book *Sivens sans retenue: Feuilles d'automne 2014*. There is a review of the book on Paul Cudenec's blog, [network23.org/paulcudenec](http://network23.org/paulcudenec)**



**Opposing the G7 in Germany**

## Spirited resistance to G7

Spirited resistance took place against the neoliberal G7 jamboree in the German Alps at the start of June.

Thousands took to the streets and lanes of Bavaria, blocking roads and defying police violence. A measure of the protests' success was that delegates were all brought in to the remote rural venue by helicopter, rather than by road as had been planned.

**For full report and photos see the complete online version of Acorn 10.**

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Professional liars working for the fracking industry were targeted as part of the **Reclaim the Power** day of action on Monday June 1. The London offices of Edelman and Media Zoo PR were targeted by activists. The campaigners occupied the lobby of Media Zoo offices in Imperial Wharf with a banner reading: "Fracking is shit. You can't polish a turd". Meanwhile, a national anti-fracking protest is being held in Preston on Tuesday June 23 - see [frack-off.org.uk](http://frack-off.org.uk) for detail of coaches from across the UK.

\* \* \*

A street party against the gentrification of part of London has been called for Saturday July 11. Says the call-out for **The Fuck Parade Strikes Back**: "Music will be provided by 12v bike sound systems and merriment by the Camden massive. Meet outside Camden tube station from 7pm."

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Rebels in **Oakland, USA**, have responded with defiance to a curfew on protests imposed by local authorities in the face of increased levels of resistance, announcing an ongoing series of "Fuck the Curfew" demos. An article on the Fireworks website – Anarchist Counterinformation Project for the Bay Area – says: "In the face of the collapse of capitalist civilization, over the last few years in the Bay Area resistance has been brewing. It is not only the riots that those in power want to smash, but also the collective confidence that grows from within a generation of young people who are faced with no future and have begun to get organized and strike back." See [fireworksbayarea.com](http://fireworksbayarea.com)

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Indigenous groups from the southwest of Colombia have been clashing with police in a long-running battle over land, reveals [colombiareports.com](http://colombiareports.com). The Nasa people are undertaking a "**liberation of Mother Earth**" against the state-authorised theft of large swathes of land in by agro-industrialists - and have been attacked with tanks, helicopters and riot police.