Against strong local resistance, the construction of the disastrous M11 link is continuing at a snail's pace with serious cost to the authorities. This three and a half mile slab ofarmac will destroy 350 houses, part of Epping Forest and Hackney Marshes but has a long way to go. Since early November there has been a constant vigil, and on 6th December the fence around George Green, Wanstead was torn down in scenes resembling the Peasants' Revolt.

The felling of an ancient chestnut tree was delayed when a tree house was declared a legal dwelling by the High Court, requiring a Compulsory Purchase Order from the DoT. (Just how do you value a 250 year-old tree?). On December 7th the DoT's stance toughened and at 5.15am around 300 security and police arrived to be greeted by the same number of 'Protectors', who had been there in the pouring rain since 4am! Protectors chained themselves together - armlocked inside metal tubes - facing inwards around the trunk of the chestnut with five rings of people protecting them. People were punched in the face, knelt in the groin, pulled by the ears and pressure pointed - pensioners and children were not excluded.

Despite this extreme provocation, no-one fought back, allowing the police violence to be clearly seen on TV. This has lead to numerous claims against the police. By 8am the chestnut tree at the centre of the struggle had a tight cordon of police around it. An hydraulic platform was moved in inch by inch as people were removed from its path - the police brutality was incessant - a sobering thought for future actions.

One by one the people in the tree were removed - by sawing branches off, punching people, and generally endangering life. They were held up far into the night by one person handcuffing himself to the hydraulic arm of the platform. Finally at 1.15pm in a final act of environmental terrorism the tree was ripped apart by an excavator. Tree sitters in other trees were also removed - one being dragged out by a rope tied around his feet. On Saturday 11th December police were again grappling with protesters who were trying to remove fences on George Green.

Despite the loss of these trees, this is only the start for the police and DoT. Three of four contracts have yet to be awarded and up to thirty houses are being squatted. Unlike some campaigns, this has had strong local support; since the tree was smashed apart, George Green has already been the site for a Carol Service. However, we need many more people, homes are being bulldozed right now!

If you witnessed police violence or want to get involved call the M11 campaign office now on 081 530 5709.

**Actions**

| TWYFORD DOWN JAN 3rd See Page 2 | Faslane Peace Camp March 18th - 20th See Page 2 | **Texas D-I-Y** 28th Feb See Page 2 | The last action update... see back page |
Elfs in Holland
We've heard that during International Earth Week, fairies and elves have been "earthing" themselves and getting back to nature worldwide. Word has been blown through the trees that some elves and fairies gathered in Holland for a party. As if by magic, slogans appeared on the walls of the Scientific Council and strangely its doors would not open. Blood sports equipment seemed to collapse in terror when they heard the fairies rustling in the trees. As to be expected on Earth Night, those things tearing, mauling, raping and polluting the earth seemed to be frozen in their tracks. The road monster and autosaicurs were also subject of mass debate as a gentle reminder to the sticky situation they are creating. The elves and fairies warned they would defend the earth in radical ways from nature destroying objects, authorities and companies, and elves and fairies worldwide will be showing their love for the earth on February 14th - the next International Earth Night!

Asterix and the Road Monster
The government's road programme unfolds with Asterix and the Road Monster in the story of one tiny village's attempt to halt the planned M600, an 18 lane motorway, which stretches from Aberdeen to Lands End and back up to Blackpool. With the words "no compromise" the village takes on the might of the Roman army. Group 4. This book is ideal to sell at all anti-road demos. Written by West Country ELFers with the sole intention of stirring up trouble and opposition to the road lobby. A non-profit making venture. send £1 and a SAE. to GAMO: c/o 151b London Rd, Camberley, Surrey GU15 9JY for copies.

NatWest Update
Since September, when NatWest's International Division was occupied for 24 hours in protest at their phoney green image, the bank has been concerned this attention might spread and defeat their attempts to con the public that it is some sort of green god. Hilary Thompson (head of their environmental unit) who spoke at the conference, has written to LAMB to try and "clear the air". However, at the end of the day, Nat West, like all the big banks, still refuses to publish its ethical and environmental lending criteria. So why not call them and let her know your views - Tel 071 726 1166 and fax 071 726 1183.

Lloyds and Midland Boycott
Actions around the country during Freshers' Week by students ensured that these two saw a real loss of accounts. (See LAMB Newsletter 13) But even better, none of these goons have let up in the last two months. As a result, the Midland have asked to meet the campaign and discuss "upcoming good news". The bank should have received the answer to this request by now - another bout of actions. We want to see "real movement" before we engage in rounds of tea and biscuits at head office. We'll keep you posted.

..................NEWSFLASH!!!!!!..................

Another successful bank action in Liverpool on Dec 12th. An occupation of their main branch led to Midland finally admitting to having no environmental lending criteria and, more importantly, that their debt managers would meet LAMB with LAMB setting the agenda first. Direct Action works - they're on the run!

For more details/action dates contact Paul M 061 225 7128.

Ethical shoplifting tale
Since the first CRISPO action at Norwich, an outbreak of ethical shoplift fever. This time, the mahogany trade came to a conspicuous stop as several broadsheets reported ethical shoplifting.

Dozens of activists in Brighton, Edinburgh, Southampton entered various stores di-dormitories of some of these suspect goods. When the nearest police stations - without leaflets - failed to draw the attention of customers, the affronted to confront with these CRISPO Citizens' Property Officers and their hoards, and stolen from indigenous reserves in Amazonia. The bank investigates the source of the mahogany or a £275 solid mahogany table from Harrods. Participants in these actions continue to challenge the offences to theft. Five CRISPO-Officers (on 7th November in Manchester. After it was only too familiar with hosting EPIAC steals - what a bloody joke! The Crown court and a month later dropped the case. Norwich CRISPOs but two Stroud activists.

Harrods
Friday 10th December - Britain's best known of all shades of green (yes, Greenpeace, so green is murder). Meanwhile, inside the upholding Brazilian law: ethically shoplifting mahogany bathroom scales. In a nail-biting security guards stalked each other round the attempts to remove tables were foiled. As to enter Harrods again (shame), over £1,500 "lifted" and taken to the local police station promised the investigation will end the claim embarrassing for Harrods, and another in Carrying on liberating that illegally logged [may follow B&Q's example of ceasing to contracts are completed]. And next time prosecuted... enjoy the irony... then nick.

FOR CRISPO actions contact Norwich CRISPO, National Office, Texas Action's 28th February.

NVDA Training
15th-16th January 1994, at Leeds University Union
Facilitation, decision making, dealing with violence, legal and media training. Contact Leeds EPI to let them know numbers. Bring dosh for food.

For more info contact Kate at Oxford EPI.
Ethical shoplifting takes it away!

Since the first CRISP-O 'Action at Norwich' (see AU 7), there has been a contagious outbreak of ethical shoplifting fever! This, the latest tactic in the fight against the illegal mahogany trade, came to a conscious head on Saturday 11th December when several broadsheets reported ethical shoplifting activities appearing around the country.

Dozens of activists in Brighton, Edinburgh, London (see below), Manchester and Southampton entered various stores displaying mahogany products and relieved them of some of these suspect goods, whisking them away from the shelves and to the nearest police stations - without leaving a tip of course - and despite the confused look of customers, the affluent looks of staff and the toppling of mannequins! Confronted with these CRISP (Citizen's Recovery of Indigenous Peoples' Stolen Property) Officers and their boards, and informed that the items were suspected stolen from indigenous reserves in Amazonia, the bemused police were asked to investigate the source of the mahogany. It was a £27 toilet seat from Texas Homecare or a £275 solid mahogany table from Harrods.

Participants in these actions continue to risk arrest on charges from public order offences to theft. Five CRISP-O Officers (out of 2) were held for seven hours in cells on 7th November in Manchester. After the second second, where the manager was only too familiar with hosting EFi actions, the five were charged with conspiracy to steal - what a bloody joke! The Crown Prosecution Service (bless them) saw the farce and a month later dropped the charges. Similarly, a case was dropped against Norwich CRISP-Os but two Stroud activists are due to appear in court in January.

Harrods

Friday 10th December - Britain's best known store is surrounded by 100+ protestors of all shades of green (yep, Greenpeace and FoE were there too) shouting 'Mahogany is Murder'. Meanwhile, inside the store, CRISP Officers (See EFi AU7) are upholding Brazilian law: ethically shoplifting rather tasteless items - including mahogany bathroom scales. In a nail-biting game of cat and mouse, activists and security guards stalked each other round and round the furniture department. While some attempts to remove tables were foiled, and the activists served banning orders never to enter Harrods again (shame), over £1,000 worth of mahogany was successfully 'lifted' and taken to the local police station, where they declined to arrest anyone and promised an investigation into our claim that mahogany is stolen goods. All pretty embarrassing for Harrods, and another nail in the mahogany trade coffin.

Carry on liberating that illegally logged lumber and sooner or later the rascal retailers may follow B&Q's example of ceasing to stock mahogany (at least until existing contracts are completed). And next time you see a sign that says 'Shoplifters will be prosecuted' enjoy the irony... then nick it!

FOR CRISP actions contact Norwich CRISP-O on 0603 631007
National Texas Actions 28th February 1993 contact M BEFi Tel: 061 248 9224

Carmel Woods & Gwendraeth Valley

Legend has it that at the time of its greatest need, a bell shall ring as Owain Llawgoch (the Welsh equivalent of Arthur) will rise to save the country and people against its oppressors, at the time of need and already the troop is gathering. The Gwendraeth Valley is a battleground between the Greens and Prosperity. The Merchants of Alfred McAlpine Group Ltd and those who understand the value of beauty and wildlife. The area is of international importance: it includes ancient woodland, several lake caves, ancient artifacts, myths and legends. To prepare for possible direct action, on the 18th of November local campaigners gathered together in the valley to discuss plans of NVDA in their campaign. Action from Oxford EFi came along to give a personal view of NVDA and explain its tactics. Actions are now being planned!

Contact: Tim 0558 685

Bedford Bypass Inquiry

At the public enquiry for the proposed Bedford Southern Bypass protest groups argued that a bridge should be built over the road to allow cyclists and pedestrians to use the former Bedford-Sandy railway line.

This was turned down and the bridge will go ahead without any allowances for cyclists and pedestrians. The railway will never re-open on the bypass is complete as it would cost £2m to build the bridge.

Help is urgently needed in getting the council to fund the bridge and stop the road being built.

Contact: D Henderson Tel: 0763 5164

Reclaim the Land

March 18th - 20th.

In order to help themselves build houses to blow people up, the MoD is taking a local valley to build a road to the Faslane nuclear base. Now that the construction is finished, the road is supposed to be returned to nature. Surprise! The MoD want to keep it as a road and are now transporting their nuclear convoy through it. It is currently being fought but in order to ensure Nature's victory, people will need to be assembling there to reclaim the land and practice their skills with a pickaxe.

Contact: 0436 820901
Carmel Woods & Gwenlais Valley
Legend has it that at the time of Wales' greatest need, a bell shall ring and Owain Llawgogch (the Welsh equivalent of Arthur) will rise to save the country and people against its oppressors. The time is now and already the troops are gathering. The Gwenlais Valley is a battleground between the Greed Merchants of Alfred McAlpine Quarry Products Ltd and those who understand the value of beauty and wildlife. The area is of international importance; it includes ancient woodland, an ephemeral lake, caves, ancient artifacts and myths and legends. To prepare for possible direct action, on the 18th & 19th of November local campers got together in the valley to discuss the role of NVDA in their campaign. Activists from Oxford EFI came along to give their personal view of NVDA and examples. Actions are now being planned. Oxford activists then went to the FoE Cyfryn AGM in Cardiff and gave workshops on NVDA. People now intend to use these tactics in their local campaigns.

Contact: Tim 0558 685353

Bedford Bypass Inquiry
At the public enquiry for the proposed Bedford southern Bypass, protestes argued that a bridge should be built beneath the road to allow cyclists and pedestrians to use the former Bedford Sandy railway line. This was turned down and the Bypass will go ahead without making any allowances for cyclists, pedestrians etc. The railway will never re-open once the bypass is complete as it would then cost £2m to build the bridge. Help is urgently needed in getting the council to fund the bridge and stop the road being built.

Contact: D Henderson Tel: 0763 51649

Reclaim the Land
March 18th - 20th.
In order to help themselves build weapons to blow people up, the MoD trashed a local valley to build a road to the Faslane nuclear base. Now that the construction is finished, the road was supposed to be returned to nature. Surprise! The MoD want to keep it for transporting their nuclear convoys. This is currently being fought, but in order to ensure Nature's victory, people will be assembling there to reclaim the land and practice their skills with a pickaxe.

Contact: 0436 820901

Tales of Twyford
On Sun 28th Nov - the first lunar eclipse since 'Yellow Wednesday' (the day Group 4 and police moved in on the Down) - a play, poetry reading and slides told the tale of Twyford and the Dongas. People then partied on St Catherina's Hill Early on Monday morning the spirit and the magic of the dragon reawoke, as 150-200 protesters invaded the site. This caused havoc and stopped the road-building machines as they made their way up along the cutting. The police presence was minimal and the action finished rather ironically with Group 4 on a digger and protesters forming a ring around it!

The road monsters hope to open one of the carriageways by March and have started laying aggregate and tarmacing slip roads.

Mass Demo Jan 3rd - Contact Road Alert on: 0703 237 809
We've heard that pick axes are next year's fashion item.

Rights not Charity
Manchester & Leeds EFI'ers joined forces with Underground Power and the disabled branch of Direct Action Network (DAN). DAN's comment, 'Children In Need' hides things such as cuts in the standard of living, a second class education and access to public transport and buildings, behind smiles and jokes.' Underground Power asserts that 'The issues of young peoples' rights are brushed under the carpet by charity Trusts like Children In Need. We should be concentrating on the real issues such as institutionalised oppression of young people in schools. 60 people stormed the Playhouse Theatre chanting 'Rights not Charity' consequently the Leeds broadcast was postponed.

Contact: Underground Power 061 248 9224

British Aerospace
BAe make military aircraft and sold 24 Hawk aircraft to Indonesia who invaded East Timor nearly 20 years ago. In this short time they have murdered a third of the population of East Timor. It is believed that BAe are now planning to sell 144 more Hawks to Indonesia. Such a deal may spell the end for these Timorese people and must be stopped.

People are planning a day of NVDA vigils and leafleting at a northwest BAe factory in the early spring. There will be a training/planning day for this action on Sat 15th Jan 10am at Longsight library in Manchester.

Contact Tricia 061 881 4760 or Chris Cole 071 275 9150
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