DIGGERS 350: LANDLESS PEASANTS WANTED

Plans to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Diggers’ uprising are progressing space, with 121 Centre inviting all people attending the gathering on London on the 17th of January to plan actions.

The first event will be a non-confrontational march on April 1st to St. George’s Gardens to avoid an intention of laying a carved commemorative stone at the site of the Diggers original settlement.

Later in April, a land squat will be organised, on a piece of land with either a particularly nasty landlord or plans for development. This event will almost certainly be temporary, as eviction proceedings are likely, but it will also be the base for setting up more permanent land occupations.

The Land is Ours has compiled a register of several pieces of unregistered land, and they are looking for groups of people who are interested in staying on long term land-based projects who they can be given away to.

Proposals should be written down and sent to The Land is Ours office by the end of February, or if that is not possible then on Monday 2 March.

ALLOTMENTS IN PERIL

A campaign is brewing in Birmingham over the loss of some allotments to developers. The area, privately controlled by the Directors of the Victoria Jubilee Allotments, is set to become the site of 180 brand new ‘Westbury Homes’ if a current proposal by the company goes through. No new allotments on the site have been let for years despite the Handsworth area having the longest queue for council owned allotments in Birmingham. The campaign is only at the lobbying stage at the moment, but anyone interested should contact HAP, 34 Beadstead Road, Handsworth B20 3TG 0121 244 4238 & 5549794 The Land is Ours are running a national allotments campaign in response to similar situations around the country - contact the Allotments Coalition Trust on 01865 720016

WHITHEALL GULF WAR PROTEST ACTIONS

As soon as the US and UK started bombing Iraq on 17 Dec anti-war campaigners duly responded in actions. Women carried out 3 independent actions (none of them knew the others were to happen). On the night the bombing commenced Sylvia Boyes from Brum was at the MOD Whitehall, writing ‘DON’T HOMB IRAQ’ across the main doors. When it became evident that no one was going to stop her, the police moved in, turning her to the cenotaph where she sprayed ‘NOT IN MY NAME TONY’. She was arrested when the police claimed she was ‘over the threshold’ by the mirth of other protesters. On the same night women from the campaign group ‘Voices In The Wilderness’ sprayed ‘NOT IN OUR NAME’ and threw red paint over the Foreign Ministry. On Thursday 18th Jean Lawless from Leeds walked through the North entrance of the MOD Whitehall, splattered red gloss all over the plush foyer and succeeded in ‘symbolically recreating the aftermath scene of a bomb explosion’, causing over £2000 damage in the process. All to appear in Bow St Magistrates, charged with criminal damage. Sylvia appears on 22nd Jan.

Also on the night of the bombing 5 people from Faslane Peace camp were arrested while cutting through the North entrance of the MOD.

Legal Disclaimer

For what it’s worth the Earth First! Action Update is not intended to incite any illegal activity.

In solidarity with indigenous resistance to oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell in Nigeria and as a foretaste of direct action to come, 3 groups barricaded themselves into two senior management offices and the corporate library in Shell-Mex House, London. January 4th was mostly a day of play in 1999, and also Ogoni Day, celebrated since Shell was forced out of Ogoni through massive pressure by the people.

The concerned individuals seized three key locations in the building, some of which had a pleasing generic name: the reception, the bridge and the banner being hung across it - by others - reading “Shell: Filthy Thieving Murderers – In Time to Go”.

While two of the groups studiously occupied themselves with information marking publicly available. All attempts to get out to Shell-related corporations, the others created a live website - www.kemptown.org - and worked for hours with updating the action, and information on the Delta, where the oil-sponsored military crackdown has been responsible for over 200 deaths over the last few weeks.

Repeating the demands of the Ijaw of Nigeria; who have so far managed to cut Nigeria’s oil output at times by over a third; the activists refused to leave until Shell agreed to pull out of the Niger Delta by the 11th, and to end all oil exploration. Shell executives refused to co-operate and instead the TSG (riot police) evicted the occupation by bashing in the office doors, unfortunately trashing the offices in the process, and arresting the 13 inside on suspicion of criminal damage. All were later released without charge.

The next day some of the 13 returned to leaflet Shell employees, informing them of why their bosses’ offices were occupied, what a scam company they worked for, and that the building was shutting mid-day, all of which led to all entrances being locked except the main gate which was guarded by police.

Shell are now trying to block the virtual occupation by the activists’ website which subverts their own.

As if not disgruntled enough, on 8th January, German activists invaded Deutsche Shell in Hamburg in solidarity with the Ijaw. All in all it has been a bad start to the New Year for Shell’s PR image and suggesting
**News In Brief**

- The US-based EFL journal has announced that it is to start producing a North American EFL Action Update. See international contacts.
- Undercover sources have a supply of free warm clothes and are warning of potential eviction if you want them then catch them quickly on 01865 203661 before it all goes!
- Jubilaka unrina mine, which has faced determined resistance from activists across Australia, is to be delayed by a year, claims the campaign against it. This rumour that was circulating for a while, now seems to have been backed up by reading between the lines of the latest court news. Action continues against the preparatory building work for the mine, which will destroy the Karrik /**< attendees from the Karkir and the indigenous Miranda community.**
- Protest as traffic calming? After several nakewatch actions stopping nuclear ships on their way up to Faslane, they have now been forced to consider demonstrating to hold their protests in Haydon Bridge. They thought it would draw people’s attention to the village’s traffic problems and may even help them win.
- Lyminge solidarity, ‘Rk decision to build on Lyminge forest is dependent upon the success of their October half term break at Pentith, Lefflads, after this top class event, a new call to travel agents will be in force next week. Remove them.
- The Action Update web address has changed - you can still get it from www.2kt.co.uk, but the new address is www. eoward.org.uk/subscribe.htm.
- The National Front march in Dover, planned for 5th December last year, was cancelled when their coach company pulled out after pressure from local anti-racism and anti-fascist factions. The anti-fascist march on the same day went ahead as planned.
- National construction week: 19 - 25th November.
- London: The headquarters of the EBRD in London were the target of a noise protest which lasted for 2 hours. The protest numbered 45 people, two of whom were dressed as ‘mutant giants’ and gave chase to any protestor numbered 45 people, two of whom were dressed as ‘mutant giants’ and gave chase to any protestor as they were being answered, but being phùr en by police who had the individual arrested for theft of alcohol. However, the executive asked to identify specific individuals could not do so as they were all wearing dark clothes and hoods.
- Meanwhile, Cullman Thomas, the Professor of sustainability at the University of East London, who was present at the demonstration, observed that Metropolitan Uni was paid a visit. His course is funded by Manchester Airport and he is proposed to be chosen for the £7.5 million diversity campaign to be held at the university. The van was unable to get away due to stingers on the road (spikes that purey toss) or by being hemmed in by police vehicles. The police have now arrested the suspect. The victim was that the police caught the suspect.
- The information on ‘Do It! The North action’ will be out soon.

**AVON RING ROAD**

Direct action has taken off on the route of the Avon Ring Road, in response to silence clearance work started in November. The first action at Siston Common near Bristol took place in December, as fifteen protesters took to the road in order to slow down traffic and block the movement of a lone digger-driver. Work stopped for twenty minutes, but with no arrest or ticket served. Now a new camp has been established on route at Siston Common, which is progressing nicely.

- The 14th of December was a world wide day of protest against the financing of the K2/R4 nuclear reactors. Organised by the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development). The headquarters of the EBRD in London were the target of a noise protest which lasted for 2 hours. The protest numbered 45 people, two of whom were dressed as ‘mutant giants’ and gave chase to any protestor numbered 45 people, two of whom were dressed as ‘mutant giants’ and gave chase to any protestor as they were being answered, but being phùr en by police who had the individual arrested for theft of alcohol. However, the executive asked to identify specific individuals could not do so as they were all wearing dark clothes and hoods.

**AMOE OFFICES OCCUPIED IN AIRPORT ACTION**

On the 18th January, over 60 people gathered outside the flying club at Newbury airport (called Ian Trantor) and a huge tripod was unleashed on to the deserted security guards at Durnford Castle.

- The amoe premises occupied in airport action.

**OVER A BARREL AT ASHTON COURT**

On 4th December, 98 Ashton Court’s ‘Crappy Island’ camp enjoyed its latest post-pont protest. A married couple, with a young son, were all let down in the realisation that their ‘ Вамелинские но динамиков’ were foun to be unpatronised. A decision was made not to bother waiting time eating with the media. The number of areas of AMOE (major contractors for Manchester Airport and many other facilities), who had met the demands of activists who interrupted a meeting and a buffet lunch. Following on from this, people divided off into a group of people to take a walk through the various areas of the airport. The group met up outside the K2/R4 nuclear reactors and found that the security forces were blocking the road to the airport. A group of people took over the road from the police and the protesters met up with others to form a human chain. They were met by police in riot gear and a group of police moved in to disperse the crowd using baton charges. They then hung banners. After some conversations with the chief executive’s office, disrupting the meeting and then hanging banners. After some conversations with the chief executive himself, the police then re-occupied the entrance and the police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters. The police chief arrested the protesters.

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**INFOSHOP NETWORK**

Over the course of the last three months Worthing Anarchist Tropen have been providing free tea and radical propaganda in four successive squats in Worthing. On the 18th of Jan when they set fire to the building left on route, the day before it was due to be demolished, and christened it the Hotel Chechnya. The police had been backed up by reading between the lines of the latest court news. Action continues against the preparatory building work for the mine, which will destroy the Karrik /**< attendees from the Karkir and the indigenous Miranda community.**

**RTS TUBE ACTION**

On Monday 4th January, the first day of the working week, Reclaim the Streets (RTS) activists occupied the length of the Central Line on their way to the high court and the head office of London underground in resistance to the building of the Barking to Ilford extension, an extension that will raise money towards court costs. The new tunnels that are being cut are due to open in 2000 and ‘mirnym atom ne byvaet’ (Russian for ‘there is no death’)

**EBRD PROTESTS ACROSS THE WORLD**

The 14th of December was a world wide day of protest against the financing of the K2/R4 nuclear reactors. Organised by the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.)

- The American president, George W. Bush, has recently faced a number of protests as he travels around the world. The protests have been backed up by reading between the lines of the latest court news. Action continues against the preparatory building work for the mine, which will destroy the Karrik /**< attendees from the Karkir and the indigenous Miranda community.**

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**CRYSTAL PALACE**

The year-old camp at crystal palace is now preparing for eviction. The camp, set up to defend a piece of land from a building development a mile and a half away, was chosen for its proximity to a major transport network and leisure complex, was in court during December just before Christmas. They have now had a final eviction hearing. The camp, set up to defend a piece of land from a building development a mile and a half away, was chosen for its proximity to a major transport network and leisure complex, was in court during December just before Christmas. They have now had a final eviction hearing.

**NEWBURY REUNION REVIVAL**

On Sunday 11th January the third Newbury Reunion Rally saw 500 people take over the newly-opened byways for the afternoon. The camp, initially planned as a vigil at Durnford Castle, went straight on to the road at the first opportunity, at the Spen Interchange, near where the road to Donnington meets the Grand Union Canal. There was a slow walk north up the route of the bypass. Three vansolos of police overtook and the protesters were rounded up. The police had been backed up by reading between the lines of the latest court news. Action continues against the preparatory building work for the mine, which will destroy the Karrik /**< attendees from the Karkir and the indigenous Miranda community.**

**PRISONS**

If you want to make up that list, then catch them quickly on 01865 203661 before it all goes!

**MEMO**

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GLEN OF THE DOWNS

A campaign has been opposing the planned E4000 road through the Glen of the Downs, especially the East and South stretch. Contact Pobal An Dulra: Tel: +44 452 4803, e-mail: ramp@antenna.de

CORK HARBOUR

Construction continues on the Erbs plan to erect 84 170ft high pylons on the Island of Coth in Cork harbour, to transport electricity from their power station to the other end of the harbour. Hundreds of islanders would lose the risk of cancer and other health problems. There are now two camps set up to stop the building of the pylons and to support an alternative solution onto the agenda.

EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS VIDEO NETWORK

Organic Chaos are setting up an activists' video network. The plan is to exchange video footage, video equipment and information about who, where and how to film throughout Europe. They are creating several archives, where people can send as well as receive copies of footage. As well as exchanging footage they co-ordinate information about where to hire or lend equipment, who is filming where and when and who can give training in filming and editing. So far individuals and groups from the Netherlands, Germany, and Poland are involved. The network will be non-profit and anti-copyright. Organic Chaos Network P.O. Box 780 6130 AT Sittard The Netherlands Tel: +45 4254584 e-mail: ramp@antenna.de

The Radix Video Archive for direct action collects and lends out videos throughout Europe, especially the East and South. Contact: Eko KuNo, Wurzelbauerstr. 29, 6130 AT Sittard The Netherlands

FINLAND

Finnish activists are creating the Scandinavian winter to protest against logging of the old-growth Malahvia forest. Around 30 activists have arrived in the area where Finnish timber multinationals Stora-Enso and UPM-Kymmene have started an initial 35 hectare clear-cut and further selective logging, and are being put up by supportive locals, since even the most conservative elements of the area are opposed to the logging. Having heard of the presence of activists, the logging companies decided to operate on the day of the planned protest, 5 January. The Ministry of the Environment has now backed down until the summer. For anyone interested in solidarity actions, both Stora-Enso and UPM-Kymmene have offices in Britain, the addresses of which are on their websites www.enso.com and www.upm-kymmene.com.

BULGARIA

There is also continued struggle against new government legislation. Those engaged in this struggle are facing harassment, arrest and legal action. At the end of July a protest was disrupted with half a ton of ice and calls to 'freeze this highway'. In September the roof of the Tel Aviv branch of the Bank HaPoalim, which finances the project, was occupied, with activists abseiling off to display a banner. Further recent actions include working with the local fishermen to preserve the 4000 year old fishing tradition of the area. Contact Rabin Square in Tel Aviv for a day of protest.

CROATIA

Local residents have resisted for over a decade to defend the area, and have often faced the authorities with a local council on the demarcation of a territorial dispute. The Sisak elves autonomous infoshop in Sisak stratnku@kodi.eu

SLOVENIA

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ISRAEL ACTIONS

The Asaf factory was a crane occupation against the Herzela Marina, which has caused tremendous damage to the surrounding coastline. Two activists on smaller cranes were