Mind the Gaps!

Following a campaign of actions in the US against high street clothing store GAP, Jan 20th saw actions against the chain across the UK. These highlighted concerns about low pay, exploitation and abysmal working conditions rife in the rag trade around the world.

Sheffield

In Sheffield people are taking action against a new Gap store due to open on March 2nd. The ‘No Sweat’ campaign has been highlighting Gap’s appalling treatment and low pay of its workers in the Third World by leafletting outside the new store.

On Thursday Jan 25th ‘SHAG’ (Sheffield Against Gap) spent the day in freezing conditions outside the Sheffield Novotel where Gap was having it’s recruitment day for the new store. A stall was set up outside with a banner marked “Gap-Information point”. Almost all of the prospective employees went straight to the stall and were told the truth about Gap. Whilst some people really didn’t care, most listened intently and quite a few were so shocked they decided not to bother.

Contact sheffieldmayday@disinfo.net
www.sheffieldmayday.ukf.net

Birmingham

When picketers arrived at their local Gap store, they found police already waiting with extra Gap security and a Gap UK rep. 1000 leaflets were distributed while a sound system entertained shoppers. Local kids joined in and a riot van turned up to see the fun.

A phone call was received before the action from a US rep enquiring about the press release and what the leaflets would say. News travels fast!

Contact Birmingham S26 Collective 07980 41557, s26brum@hotmail.com

Bristol

150 people in Bristol blockaded GAP in Broadmead protesting at child and sweatshop labour revealed in a recent BBC Panorama programme. Placards read ‘GAP-Globally Abusing People’ and ‘GAP rips off child labour and sweat shop labour’. The protest grew as local shop workers on lunch breaks and teenagers joined in and passers-by queued to sign petitions. One woman, feeling guilty after having bought a GAP bodywarmer for £55 was reminded that she hadn’t benefited from the exploitation but had been ripped off as the mark-up on some GAP clothes is 400%.

For more information about Gap
www.gapsucks.org

Workers issues and the textile trade more generally: Labour behind the Label
38 Exchange St, Norwich, NR2 1AX

The philosophy behind Earth First! is the use of non-heirarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it’s inhabitants.

It is not a cohesive group or campaign rather a meeting point for those interested in these ideas.

Monsanto plant occupied in Brazil

On Jan 26th, 1200 workers from the radical Landless Workers Movement (MST), plus foreign activists, stormed a Monsanto biotech plant and threatened to camp out indefinitely in protest against genetically modified food. The unit is in Rio Grande do Sul, Southern Brazil, an area at the centre of the country’s battle over transgenics.

The unit was invaded just before midnight on Jan 25th. The protest was timed to coincide with the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland and a Brazilizan WEF counter conference.

Hundreds of families took over the research centre and warehouses. Graffiti on the walls included “The seed of death!” and “Monsanto is the end of farmers!”

“We’re staying here indefinitely,” said Solet Campolete, a local MST leader. “We want to make a statement ... these seeds trick farmers and create dependency on seeds produced by a big multinational.”

Contact Birmingham S26 Collective

Birmingham S26 Collective
07980 41557, s26brum@hotmail.com

Mind the Gaps!

“May the force be with you!” Obi-wan kenobi

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

The EF! AU is produced to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions and articles (max 150 words) so if you’ve set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we’d like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.
End the sanctions
End the silence

Demonstrators gathered near Parliament Square on Jan 16th in protest of the 10 year sanctions. ‘Voices in the Wilderness’ and other groups gave speeches about the devastating effect on the Iraqi people.

The demonstration then moved to Parliament Square where a small group of protestors sat down and blocked the road. Whilst the majority were pushed into a cordoned-off area near the statue of Churchill, the sit-down protestors managed to block the road for another hour, until police violently dragged them away, some using pressure points.

15 protestors were arrested and charged with Highway Obstruction.
Contact 0117 914 1873.

Climate chaos meandering meetings

People interested in taking action on 'climate chaos' spent a day in January getting inspired and thinking about where a campaign would go next. A range of ideas came up: possibilities for the next UN climate change conference in July, targeting oil and cement industries over fossil fuel promotion and emissions, campaigning against air travel, challenging carbon trading, thinking about power stations and planning for a climate change road-show to take place in late spring/early summer.

Contact info@risingtide.org.uk For info on the road-show, to come along, or to suggest places for it to go contact 0161 273 8516 or climatechaos@yahoo.com

Mark Barnsley update

At 5.30am on Feb 1st framed anarchist prisoner Mark Barnsley was moved yet again (20th time in 6 years) a practice known as ghosting and intended to lower prisoners’ morale. This time he’s been put in HMP Wakefield, notorious for it’s strict regime. He’s in segregation after refusing to be housed on the sex offenders’ wing (he was fitted up for GBH). See prisoners for his address.

Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign
PO Box 381, Huddersfield, HD1 3XX
barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com

Following an occupation of Sheffield CPS on Dec 19th in support of Mark (see AU72) 16 people appeared at Hull magistrates charged with ‘conspiracy to burgle with intent’ on Jan 9th. Bail conditions included not being allowed to approach any CPS staff or building, or Sheffield magistrates and crown courts.

Some clients said their solicitor “would die for these conditions” Next Hearing March 13th 2pm, Hull magistrates.

Solidarity with the Chattanooga 3

On the 10th of January 2001, to coincide with the trial of the Chattanooga 3 in the United States, a solidarity action was held in Edinburgh (Scotland) to ask that all charges be dropped and to highlight the tragic consequences of police brutality in this country and abroad.

In 1999 3 African-Americans, Lorenzo Kombo Ervin, Damon McGee and Mikial Musa Muhammad, were arrested in the small Tennessee town of Chattanooga for daring to speak out against the deadly brutality of the Chattanooga police who have killed 40 people since 1980. Bizarrely, each of them face up to a year in prison for participating in a peaceful action. In contrast, not one of the 40 police killings has resulted in a prosecution.

More info ACE, 17 W Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA, Scotland. Tel 0131 557 6242

HLS backers revealed

Huntingdon Life Sciences new financial saviour, Stephens Group Inc. http://www.stephens.com/, is one of America’s premier merchant and investment banks, based in Little Rock, Arkansas. They’ve been linked to US governments from the current administration right back to Carter in the 70’s and also have links to Indonesia and other regimes. They have reportedly been involved in CIA cocaine smuggling and assassinations.

More Info: SHAC, PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1YN 0121 632 0640.
Also Cambridge in April action, April 21st www.go.to/cambridgeinapril

Brum charges dropped

On December 13th after a 4-day trial 6 anti-capitalist protesters were cleared of public order and obstruction charges. Arrests were made at the June 3rd anti-capitalist event in the heart of Birmingham’s consumer area. The charges (costing the CPS £8000+) were an attempt to intimidate activists, justify a £30,000 police operation and to deter similar demos in the future.

Contact Birmingham S26 Collective 07980 415577 s26brum@hotmail.com
3 legs good Trident bad

Access to Faslane nuclear base was successfully blocked on the Nov 13th. Activists caught security and MOD police unaware in a dawn raid. Two tripods were speedily erected with one protester hanging around for 24 hours. 2 of the 3 tripod sitters were later arrested and charged with breach of the peace, while the other escaped past police.

At the South Gate, four people (one pregnant and one wheelchair user amongst them) remained locked on for several hours preventing wheelchair access. They decided to move when police threatened to cut up and dismantle the woman’s wheelchair.

Ten arrests were made altogether including a Buddhist attempting to give water to a protester and a supporter walking away from the scene. The base was effectively closed for approximately two hours. Motorists waited in miles of tailbacks, possibly contemplating car culture and the whole nuclear issue.

Contact Faslane Peace Camp 01436 820901.

Showhomes showdown

Residents in Hockley, near Southend, Essex who have been campaigning against the building of luxury homes on greenbelt land by Countryside Residential plc. picketed the opening of a show-home on the site on January 13th.

The demonstrators were harassed by security guards from the same company brought in to guard the site when it was evicted in March 2000. The Camp was brought in to guard the site on January 13th.

NikeTown visited by Santa & his helpers

Sunday December 17th saw an early appearance from Santa and his exploited little helpers, as anti-sweatshop campaigners dressed in green outfits descended on Niketown in Oxford Circus with a giant Nike shoe and some squeaky hammers as street theatre with a message was performed to the humming Christmas crowd.

At 2pm a green banner was pinned to some boardings stating “No Sweatshops Just Do Them”. Shoppers looked on in amazement, as the little helpers shouted out various statements such as “Why do you pay Tiger Woods $100million over 5 years and yet pay us only a $1 dollar a day.” Santa the boss then replied “Because he’s a skilled worker.”

The action aimed to put pressure on companies like Nike to recognise unions, disclose their factory locations and raise awareness. “We don’t want to tell people what to wear, we want to let them know about the sweatshops behind the logos”.

1st farm scale trial

A 5ha trial of Aventis GM oil seed rape will be conducted at Wood Farm, Dodds Lane, Piccots End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 6JL. Grid ref: TL 066 144. Other sites are likely to be announced in March.

For GE info; www.primalseeds.org GEN 020 7690 0626.

Narmada damned!

Nearly 8000 people affected by the Maheshwar Hydro-Electric project being built on the river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh marched in the nearby town of Mandleswar. The march was in celebration of the withdrawal of US power utility Ogden from this destructive Project and against the forces of privatisation and globalisation that put the quest for corporate profits over survival concerns.

At the end of the meeting, the affected people took a resolve to fight and stop not only the immediate destruction being wrought by the Maheshwar project but also the pauperisation and the slavery that is being brought into the country in the name of globalisation. The withdrawal of Ogden has confirmed the truth of the issues being raised by the Andolan as well as the strength of the people’s struggle. Mangat Verma from the first dam affected village said the government seems bent on continuing with the Project at any cost. He said that if the government would not stop this destruction, the people would stop it.

Prisoners

New prisoners: Charlotte Lewis GN4092, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Rd, London, N7 0NU, sentenced Jan 31st, 6 months for sending hate mail to HLS staff. Rae Newland HMP Holloway Parkhurst Rd, London N7 0NU, sentenced Jan 13th to 60 days Public order 4a, Shamrock farm Jonathan Elliot FT10TT HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London, N7 8TT sentenced just before Xmas, 6months, Affray, 1999 N30 demo. Peter Schnell #S-199738, and Matthew Whyte #S-199970 both at SC County Jail, 259 Water St Santa Cruz, CA 95060, USA, arrested 23rd Jan for arson. Address changes: Mayday Prisoner Mark Graham EL6133 HMP The Weare, Rotherham Road, Castletown Portland, Dorset, DT5 1PZ (the prison ship). American J18 Prisoner Robert Lee Thaxton #12112716, 777 Stanton Street, Ontario, OR 97914, USA. Mark Barnsley WA2897 HMP Wakefield, 5 Love Lane, Wakefield, WF2 9AG.

Contacts Earth Liberation Funders Support Network c/o BM Box 2407, London, WC1N 3XX; Spirit of Freedom online newsletter www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk; earthlibprisoner@mail.com; Urgent ELP e-mail bulletin which distributes prisoner news as soon as ELP gets it.

Diary Dates...

February
24th 11:00am Queen Square, Bristol. Action against Sodexo 01179 399469 24th Animal rights demo. Smithkline Beecham product day. 01216 326460 27th 8.30am-12 Construction Safety Summit, QEII Conference Centre 020 7794 5999 mail@hbc.org.uk.

March
3rd Anti-fascist mobilisation against NF rally at Notts prison 07949 312 668 4th National animal rights demo at HLS Occold Lab 0121 6326460 5th-11th Week of genetics action in Liverpool 0161 226 6814 8th The 2nd Global Women’s Strike (see AU72) 020 7482 2496 9th-11th Faslane Women’s Peace Camp, big action on 10th, 01436 820901. 15th Animal rights demo on Parliament. Contact 0121 6326460 21st International day against racism 21st International Day of Action on Climate Change info@risingtide.org.uk 24th Smithklien Beecham, as Feb 24th

April
21st C.I.A. www.go.to/cambridgeinapril 27th Workers’ Memorial Day. Liverpool event peopleonprofit@hotmail.com

May
1st May Day May Day May Day Monopoly action in London 3rd BAE systems AGM Campaign Against the Arms Trade 020 7281 0297 5th Free the weed day May/June Climate Roadshow 0161 273 8516 climatechaos@yahoo.com

July
5th-12th The 2nd International Anti Border Camp, Poland mobile 0048 (0) 603 247 245 roshak@go2.pl.

November
5th-9th WTO meeting, Qatar.
Crop trashers convicted
On Jan 15th 4 men were convicted of vandalising a field containing GM crops in Midlothian, Scotland. They denied deliberately destroying the oilseed rape plants growing at Boghall Farm near Dalkeith in March 1999. They argued that their actions were reasonable, given the potentially grave dangers to the environment. The 4 later pledged that their campaign would continue and are considering an appeal. They were arrested during a public rally at the site attended by around 100 people. The 4 received fines of between £125 and £250.

John Innes report
Produced recently suggests GM research has hit some setbacks. Apparently GM Barley lines haven’t performed as expected and the use of the Cauliflower Mosaic virus as a promoter has caused ‘recombination hotspots’ as critics had predicted. Source ISIS

BOCM Pauls Exeter
10 genetiX activists shut down Exeter’s BOCM Pauls animal feed mill in November. 2 women D-locked their necks to lorries at the main gate and ceased vehicle movement in and out of the plant for 1 ½ hrs. 5 others snuck round the back: 2 locked on to a lorry and 3 others got onto the roof forcing the manager to close the mill for the rest of the working day. Banners were hung out the front, stating ‘Take GM Out of Animal Feed!’ Workers, passers by and Police people were leafleted and talked to. Contact Totnes Genetics Group info@togg.org.uk

USA...
At 10am hundreds of anarchists began marching through downtown streets for about an hour until police brought in more vans and forces. The situation escalated as the police forced people down sidewalks. There were arrests and de-arrests as some fought back for the street. At one point anarchists defaced American flags and hung up their own at a memorial.

Thousands of protesters, outnumbering the Bush supporters, marched to the inaugural route. When Bush’s limo drove down Pennsylvania Ave. it was met with jeers, hand signs and protest banners.

UK...
Hundreds picketed the US embassy London from 9.30am to 1.30pm on Jan 20th. Dozens of different organisations were represented including CND, FoE and Mumia Must Live Campaign. Several arrests were made for ‘violating the dignity of the embassy’. Speakers brought attention to Bush’s plans to increase the US arsenal, the fact that many black people were denied the vote, how devastation is set to accelerate under Bush, and many other issues.

The picket ended with the chant “No justice No peace!”

Watch this space! UK Anti-election feature article in next months AU.

...and finally
A message from the high-piers who baked in Den Haag “all you need is a smart suit, a pie and a good rant; keep believing you can get away with it; keep ranting and you may get thrown out; people are so shocked that you can use the confusion to your advantage and get away”

Biotic Baking Brigade bbb@asis.com
www.asis.com/~bbb/

Cremate Monsanto continues!
On Jan 3rd farmers destroyed a GM Cotton crop in Savalanga, India. Volunteers of the newly-formed Hasiru Sene (Green Brigade), the youth wing of the Karnataka State Farmers’ Association (KRRS), rushed to the field, uprooted the Bt cotton crop and then set it on fire.

The KRRS has been waging a battle to stop the application of the biotechnology to agriculture on the plea it is harmful to the environment and does incalculable damage to traditional and indigenous agricultural methods.

Contact swamy.krrs@vsnl.com and krrs_123@yahoo.com

Christiani and Nielson bankrupt
The company contracted to finish the Avon ring road went bankrupt just before Christmas. After 11 years of delays and with only 1½ miles to complete, South Gloucestershire Council are desperate for a replacement contractor.

There is nothing ‘Stop The Avon Ring Road’ (STARR) haven’t tried in their campaign including protest camps and court cases. The last straw for Christiani and Nielson was when a bridge had to be rebuilt because it was put up in the wrong place! Perhaps surveyors didn’t take ‘mobile markers’ into consideration.

Recently floods have hit the area and travellers have taken up residence.

Contact STARR 07979 990389.

BOCM Pauls Exeter
10 genetiX activists shut down Exeter’s BOCM Pauls animal feed mill in November. 2 women D-locked their necks to lorries at the main gate and ceased vehicle movement in and out of the plant for 1 ½ hrs. 5 others snuck round the back: 2 locked on to a lorry and 3 others got onto the roof forcing the manager to close the mill for the rest of the working day. Banners were hung out the front, stating ‘Take GM Out of Animal Feed!’ Workers, passers by and Police people were leafleted and talked to. Contact Totnes Genetics Group info@togg.org.uk

Subscribe to the EF! Action Update
Name:
Address:

From: EFAU PO Box 487 Norwich, NR2 3AL
Norwich First! Action Update. Worried about security? You may wish to consider a false name & c/o address.

Subscriptions cost a minimum £5 for 10 issues. Send more if you can so we can distribute free to prisoners etc. Cheques payable to Earth First! Action Update. Worried about security? You may wish to consider a false name & c/o address.

If this circle is ticked your subscription has run out - Please renew it NOW!
New resources out now

Do or Die 9
Following 18 months in the making the new 232 page Do or Die is available now. With a new colour cover and packed with in-depth reports, articles and analysis on topics ranging from Prague to Seattle, genetics to protest camps, the Black Panthers to football. £5 cheques payable to Do or Die c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, BN2 2GY

P.S. If anyone owes them for copies of #8 it would be really helpful if you could send your money now.

GenetiX Update
After a break of six months the newsletter of the Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) is up and running again. Covering news from a wide variety of anti-GE groups and campaigns, contacts listings and campaigning information it’s now available from Totness Genetics Group. ToGG, PO Box 77 Totness Devon, TQ9 5ZJ info@togg.org 01803 840 098

West Papua Update
On Jan 26th 2001 the Chief Commander of the Liberation Army of Free Papua Movement (TPN/OPM) was arrested by the Papua New Guinea Police in Vanimo, Sandaun Province, PNG. The OPM have been resisting the destruction of their homeland, race and cultures caused by both the occupation of Indonesia and the encroachment of Western capitalist interests since 1969.

Anyone wishing to take action in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of West Papua should get hold of this update. It also contains other useful news and contacts, free of the value judgements often imposed by NGOs.

OPM Support Group (Brighton) c/o 43 Gardener St. Brighton, BN1 1UN opmsgbrighton@yahoo.co.uk

These publications are totally voluntary operations. Send SAEs when requesting info and a donation if you can.

Human genetics
The AU are keen to hear about any campaigns or sources of information about human genetics for a forthcoming article. Please contact us at the address on the back cover.

Upcoming events - extra information

Liverpool 5th-11th March
Plans are afoot for a week of GE action against Cargill (the only GE animal feed importers in the UK) and others. A convergence centre, squat accommodation, info and plenty of ideas for autonomous fun are underway. Contact 0161 2266 814

Cambridge in April
Following Cambridge in August another mobilisation is planned for the 21st April. The campaign is keen to highlight the opportunities for autonomous action on the day and the linking together of the various issues affected by R&D based in Cambridge.

www.go.to/cambridgeinapril

Summer Gathering 2001
Dates soon to be announced (end July/beginning Aug provisionally). There’s plenty to do so get involved. summergathering@yahoo.co.uk

Construction Safety Summit
The London Hazard Centre is calling on workers, eco-activists and safety campaigners to join the action against this government/Industry whitewashing event. All the big contractors will be represented - Tarmac, Balfour Beatty, Costain, Laings, WS Atkins - the companies responsible for the deaths of building workers, destruction of the environment and privatisation of our hospitals, railways and schools. 8.30am-Noon, Feb 27th, QEII Conference Centre Parliament Square, Westminster

builderscrack_jsc@hotmail.com

construction.safetycampaign@talk21.com

Sodexo action Bristol
Sodexo are the company responsible for the administration of the Voucher Scheme for asylum seekers; they are involved with the military internationally, including the Mexican Army (Chiapas); they have been repeatedly involved with union busting, and anti worker activity generally. Bring placards, flags, banners, drums, whistles, fancy dress Feb 24th 11.00am Queen Square.

Contact Sod-Action, Box 95 Greenleaf Book Shop, Colston Street, Bristol sod-action@fsmail.net, c/o Kebele Kulture Projekt 14 Robertson Rd Easton, Bristol, BS5 6JY 01179 399469

Call to climate action

To link with the ‘International day of action against racism’ on March 21st the group Rising Tide are calling upon “concerned people and grass roots groups to launch a season of carbon action and organise their own autonomous actions.” The aim is to highlight the links between social injustice, climate change and other ecological problems. Overwhelmingly those first to be affected by climate change and other environmental problems are people of colour, both within industrialised countries themselves as well as outside them.

The ‘solution’ (proposed by leaders in forums like Den Haag) is carbon trading meaning that less industrialised countries can sell their unused quota of carbon emissions to companies and countries who have exhausted their supply. In effect commodifying the atmosphere. So the industrialised countries create the problem, watch others suffer its effects, buy their way out of it cheaply, then sit back and watch the profits roll in from the cleaner technologies they sell to the poor. Another example of neo-colonial relations between ‘the west’ and the rest of the world.

Rising Tide are asking anti-racist and environmental groups to make links locally and work together to take action. See www.risingtide.nl for more details and useful links Contact risingtide@post.com/ info@risingtide.nl

More Davos...

During the meetings of the World Economic Forum police turned Davos, Switzerland into a fortress intimidating and arresting demonstrators. Despite this several protesters got in dressed as skiers. In Zurich they were blasted by water cannon and tear gas in the freezing temperatures and people attending NGO seminars were arrested. By Jan 29th, 121 non-swiss nationals were still detained.

Demonstrators gathered at Swiss embassies across Europe protesting at the police brutality and demanding the release of arrestees. On Jan 27th, 7000 people gathered in Madrid in solidarity with Davos protestors and with immigrants and refugees around the world as new fascist immigration laws are made in Spain.

Plans for over £5 million of new road schemes have been released by the DETR (Department of Environment, Transport & Regions). These schemes are being proposed by Local Authorities although those that go ahead will receive central Government funding.

Each scheme has had a very brief study of likely impacts and a document showing these has come the way of some EF!ers. The table below is a brief summary of the schemes and their impacts, where details are available. Impact assessment considers effects to 'protected' wildlife or wildlife sites, 'heritage' (meaning Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings), plus calculated increases in local pollution to air and water. Some schemes will be familiar (see Weymouth and Salisbury bypasses). Some are merely expensive junction improvements, others are linked to urban regeneration plans and most include measures for pedestrians and cyclists (presumably to make them attractive to environmentalists).

If you want a copy of the summary sheet for a scheme mentioned above, please send an SAE c/o Norfolk EF!, although much better details will be available, on request, from the planners in the relevant local authority (county or district or borough council). Details will be in the Local Transport Plan, or in regeneration proposals.
Hello, and welcome to the 1st AU published in Norfolk. Here like many other places, we have been ‘consumers’ of the Action Update for a number of years. We took it on when we realised the October edition might be the last and came to discuss just how important we felt it was. We produced a quite lengthy mailout in December which we circulated to local groups and via e-mail which covers our thoughts about and commitment to the update. If anyone would like a copy please get in touch. What appears here are some of the main points from that mail-out plus tips on distributing the AU and submitting articles to it.

We feel the AU is an incredibly valuable resource. Our hope is it can reflect the diverse and exciting range of activity going on out there. For this to happen we need as many people as possible to contribute their news and ideas. All feedback gratefully received. We won’t be considering another editorial until our final issue so many thanks.

By the EF! AU is important. The EF! Network in the UK is almost a decade old. In that time there have been some pretty major changes in the form and focus of ecological direct action but the network has survived and continues to play a role. While it would be arrogant and untrue to consider the EF! Network the be all and end all of ecological direct action in the UK, people and groups involved with EF!, by that name or otherwise have made a substantial contribution over recent years.

The reason for mentioning this is we feel the value of the EF! Network is often under appreciated (something we’ve been guilty of too). It may be far from perfect but there is much worth maintaining and building on. We feel the Action Update performs some important (and often unique) functions within the network. Broadly speaking these are:-

- The maintenance of a point of contact for the network
- The maintenance of the contacts list
- A point of information for those isolated from an active group, and inspiration for those not involved in radical ecological action.
- A way in for new groups to publicise themselves and make contact with others i.e. A way into the network

Few changes. You may have already noticed a few changes dotted here and there in this AU. We don’t plan any major alterations and we would appreciate feedback on those we have made and any more you think we should make. We plan to publish 10 issue a year (basically monthly but with 2 joint issues a year) and have altered the subscription rate to £5 for 10 issues. We would also like to try to broaden the focus of the AU to include more about the ongoing community initiatives that seem to be on the increase in the Network. By this we mean things like social centres and community gardens, self-education things etc. that fit our understanding of ‘Direct Action’ but are less obviously ‘An Action’. We think this will be more reflective of what people on the Network are up to and give the Update a broader appeal.

E-mail. We have changed our e-mail address to efactionupdate@bigfoot.com. We realise this is potentially contentious. It was not a decision taken lightly and we took a lot of advice before we made the move. There were problems with the system we inherited (probably not the fault of either the last collective or the e-mail company) and felt now was a better time than any other to make a change. We have aimed to set up a system that is easy to use, easy to pass to the next collective and minimises the likelihood of our losing information. We can’t promise we’ve got it right, but we have thought about it very carefully.

A quick note on money. As far as we know the AU has never yet managed financially on subscriptions. It has relied on donations from groups and individuals and the fund-raising efforts of the Editorial collective. We are concerned the AU doesn’t take too much away from local projects we are involved in so please support us if you can.

Distribution-get it out there!

Info stalls can be set up legitimately or otherwise — particularly useful if you have a new campaign or group in your area. Car boot sale stalls a group in Brighton tried this and said it worked well. Pub collections We are not sure what the legal position is with this, always approach the landlord and ask if it’s OK to come in. We’ve found this to be an effective fund-raiser and a good way to get talking to people. Leave it around doctor’s waiting rooms, trains, libraries, staff-rooms-- anywhere people might pick it up and have a look. Ask local shops, community centres, pubs etc. if they will take a few. It’s quite easy to establish a route for dropping them off. Some places may even let you leave a collecting tin. Anywhere there is a public notice board, stick one up. Gigs sympathetic bands are often happy to have info stalls at their gigs and sometimes allow bucketing. Contact the venue or promoters and ask for a contact for the tour manager and see how far you get.

If there’s a big action or event in your area we are quite happy to supply you with extra AUs. On the off chance you make some money, please remember to send us some.

Tips for submitting article to the AU

- Articles can be submitted to the AU via e-mail, post or phone. Easiest for us is a text file, either on disk or as an e-mail attachment (add the article to the body of the text too).
- Articles should be between 80-150 words. We will try and edit only for length, spelling and clarity.
- Make sure it includes a line explaining what the project, campaign or issue is (don’t assume all readers will know) a contact for further information and if applicable a date. If there is going to be further action to get involved in make sure this is included.
- If possible include a contact for you in case we have queries about your article.
- If you want to submit a feature article (these should be information NOT personal rants) please get in touch first to check we have space and what formats we can accept. Ideas for information towards features are also very useful.

EF! AU PO Box 487, Norwich, NR2 3AL
Tel: 01603 219 811 efactionupdate@bigfoot.com
The EF! contacts list is being purged! All local action groups should have received a mailing asking them to confirm their contact details. If your group hasn’t got one in touch ASAP. All groups who have not responded in time for our next issue will be removed! Other changes have been made to the list. We would appreciate feedback regarding any corrections or omissions or other ideas to improve this list and make it as useful as possible.

If you have difficulties using any of these contacts, please get in touch. Additions and alterations are shown in bold. Inclusion does not imply the support of the Editors.