

Earth First!

ACTION UPDATE

RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE

NUMBER 8

DECEMBER 1993

20P



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 of tarmac 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, kneed 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 T.V. This has lead to numerous claims against the police. By 8.am 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 for a while 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 Dec. 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.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....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 autosaurus were also the subject of mischief 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, elves and fairies world-wide will be showing their love for the earth on

**February 14th - the next
International Earth Night!!**

ERT....we're shut

Ever wondered who the invisible thinktank is behind the EC's more horrific plans (eg. 12,000km of new motorways)? Look no further than the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) - a group which includes Volvo, Nestle, Fiat, Shell, BP, all your favourites. Europe's most powerful lobbying group, whose recommendations mysteriously metamorphose into EC law. To expose this group and to let them know we know what they are doing, over 50 activists from around Europe (inc. EFi) occupied their offices in Brussels on 8th December. EC diplomats phoning in were bewildered to be told that the ERT had been shut down and taken over by the citizens of Europe.

Recommended reading for anyone fighting road schemes are 'Missing Links and Missing Networks' by ERT, available from ERT, Secretariat General, 15 rue Guimard, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

For more info contact Kate at Oxford EFi.

NVDA Training

15th-16th January 1994, at Leeds University Union

Facilitation, decision making, dealing with violence, legal and media training. Contact Leeds EFi asap to let them know numbers. Bring dosh for food.

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 EFlers with the sole intention of stirring up trouble and further 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 her 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 ghouls 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 ta

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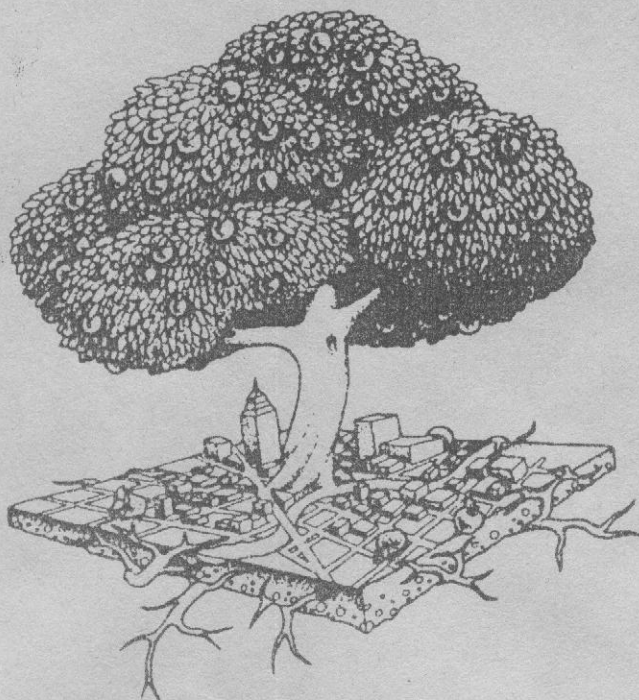
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Ethical shoplifting takes it away !

Since the first 'CRISPO' Action at **Norwich** (see AU 7), there has been a contagious outbreak of ethical shoplift fever! This, the latest tactic in the fight against the illegal mahogany trade, came to a conspicuous head on Saturday 11th December when several broadsheets reported ethical shoplifting activities happening 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 affronted looks of staff and the toppling of manequins! Confronted with these CRISP (Citizen's Recovery of Indigenous Peoples' Stolen Property) Officers and their hoards, 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, be it 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-Officers (out of 25) were held for seven hours in cells on 7th November in Manchester. After the day's second action, 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 CRISPOs 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 dept. While some attempts to remove tables were foiled, and the activists served banning orders never to enter Harrods again (shame), over £1000 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 Mcr EFi Tel: 061 248 9224

Carmel Woods & Gwent Valley

Legend has it that at the time of the greatest need, a bell shall ring and Owein Llawgoch (the Welsh equivalent of Arthur) will rise to save the country and people against its oppressors. The time is nigh, and already the troops are gathering. The Gwent Valley is a battleground between the Greenpeace Mercants of Alfred McAlpine Quality Products Ltd and those who understand the value of beauty and wildlife. The area is of international importance: it includes ancient woodland, an artificial 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 the role of NVDA in their campaign. Activists from Oxford EFi came along to give a personal view of NVDA and explain the Actions are now being planned! The activists then went to the FoE Cymru AGM in Cardiff and gave workshops on NVDA. People now intend to use the tactics in their local campaigns.

Contact: Tim 0558 685

Bedford Bypass Inquiry

At the public enquiry for the proposed Bedford southern Bypass, protesters 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. The railway will never re-open and the bypass is complete as it would take £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 a road to blow people up, the MoD is using 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 transporting their nuclear convoy. The issue 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



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Contact: Tim 0558 685353

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Contact:

D Henderson Tel: 0763 51649

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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 Catherines Hill. Early on Monday morning the spirit and the magic of the dragon reawoke, as 150-200 protestors 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 carrigeways 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 EF!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 stunts 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 7460 or
Chris Cole 071 275 9150**

EF! Contacts

These addresses have been re-compiled by Manchester EF!ers. Changes are in bold. If you know of any corrections, want to change your address, or be included, please contact us by post, phone or fax!

Aran EF! 7 Henley House Friern Park London N12 9UE	Camden EF! 5 Cliff Court Camden London NW1 9AP	Kingston EF! PO Box 370A Surrey KT6 4YN	Merseyside EF! / Green Action PO Box 187 160 Mount Pleasant Liverpool L69 7BR 051 727 4768	Oxford EF! Box E 111 Magdalen Rd Oxford OX4 1RQ 0865 201 706 fax 0865 201 705	South Somerset EF! c/o 12 Westfield Grove Yeovil Somerset 0935 33493
Bath EF! 9 Hardens Close Chippenham Wiltshire SN15 3AA 0249 650 078	Camelot EF! c/o 10 Nelson Street, Winchester Hampshire SO23 8QF	L.A.M.B. c/o Manchester University Students Union Oxford Rd Manchester M13 9PR	Mid-Glamorgan EF! Ton Glas Ewenny Rd Brignd Mid-glamorgan Wales CF35 5AP 0656 652645	Pitponia EF! Mewkin's Cottage Beli View, Leadhills Lanarkshire Alba ML12 6XU Scotland 0659 74434	Staffordshire Environ- mental Action Network c/o 17 The Furlong Yarnfield Stone Staffs S15 0PE 0785 760156
Belfast EF! PO Box 148 Belfast	Dart Valley EF! c/o Swan PO Box 11 Buckfastleigh Devon	Lancaster EF! 99 Dale St Lancaster LA1 3AP 0524 841741	Mid-Somerset EF! Po Box 23 5 High St Glastonbury Somerset BA6 9PU 0458 831545	Reading EF! Box 56 Rising Sun Institute 30 Silver St Reading RG1 2ST	Stroud Valleys EF! 39 Bowbridge Lock Bowbridge Stroud Gloucestershire 0453 757 642
EF! Birmingham PO Box 3416 Moseley Birmingham B13 8QR 021 441 2047	Doncaster EF! 35 Lonsdale House Doncaster DN2 6QT	LEAF c/o 70 High St Leicester LE1 5YP 0533 553 223 fax 0533 621896	Newcastle EF! PO Box 1JY Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE99 1JY 091 265 2683	Roads Alert 0703 237809	Tamar Valley EF! UpSPU (P) Drake Circus Plymouth Devon
Blackmore Vale EF! Agriculture House Bath Road Sturminster Newton Dorset DT10 1DU	Faslane Peace Camp Shandon Helensburgh Dunbartonshire G84 Scotland 0436 820 901	Leeds EF! 16 Shoelbrock Ave Leeds 0532 629427	North Downs EF! 6 Conifer Court Eaton Road Sutton SM2 5DX	Rotherham EF! c/o 95 Hollybush St Rotherham SC2 6BG	Wirral EF! 32 Mather Rd Birkenhead Wirral L43 4UA 051 652 5049
B.E.A.N! PO Box 845 Bristol BS99 5HQ 0272 412628	Green Anarchist Box H 111 Magdalen Rd Oxford OX4 1RQ	London Greenpeace 5 Caledonian Rd Kings Cross London N1 071 837 7557	Northampton EF! 8 Cranbrook Rd Northampton NN2 6JT 0604 718 481	Sarum EF! 9 Meior View, Amesbury Nr Salisbury Wilts.	Wolves EF! c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs Box H Wolves University Students Union Wulfruna St Wolverhampton
Brixton EF! PO Box 1593 London SW8 8LT 071 737 0100	Green Man EF! 9 Albert Cottages Spitalfields London E1 071 247 9409	Maidstone EF! PO Box 263 Maidstone Kent ME17 3PW	Notts EF! Box EF! 180 Mansfield Rd Nottingham 0602 851 405	Sedgemoor EF! 8 Isleport Rd High Bridge Somerset TA9 4QX	Westbury EF! 15 Bratton Rd Westbury Wilts BA13 3EP 0373 822 170
Caledonian Green Circle c/o 146 Earl St Scotstoun Glasgow G14	Green Revolution PO Box 845 Bristol BS99 5HQ	Manchester EF! Dept 29 1 Newton St Piccadilly Manchester M1 1HW 061 248 9224 Fax: 061225 7128 (call first)	Norwich EF! / CRISPO The GreenHouse 48 Bethel St Norwich Norfolk 0603 631 007 Fax 0603 666 879	Sheffield EF! c/o Green Movement Students Union University of Sheffield Western Bank Sheffield S10 2TG	
Calne EF! Flat 2 27 Church St Calne Wiltshire	Hastings EF! 14 Eversley Crescent St. Leonards East Sussex			South Downs EF! c/o Prior House Tilbury Place Brighton BN2 2GY 0273 683 205 fax 0273 667 703 (attn GISU)	
Cambridge EF! 282 Mill Rd Cambridge 0223 249 410	Hull EF! 354 Endlike Lane Hull HU6 8AD				

This could be the last Action Update. It is published by volunteers and quite simply Manchester Earth First! has no more money to do the Action Update. Everyone agreed it is important. (How can we go forward if we don't know where we are?) But it costs money: £200 for printing and postage. **Individuals** seem to be able to come up with the dosh, but if **EF! groups** don't send us money for the copies we're sending out now, there is no way we can do another one. This is serious!!! If each group gets 50p off 10 people that's a fiver from each group, and we'll be sorted for the next issue.

For fuck sake the planet is in trouble!!!!

Also, (moan, moan, moan,) we can't manage to go chasing round after groups to find out what's going on. You should be telling us when things happen. Let's learn from each other and not depend on the bloody media-multinationals. Aside from this, we send you our love, strength and solidarity, and hope for a revolution soon.

Disclaimer...

This is a compilation of actions we have been sent. Remember it's for entertainment purposes only. Manchester EF! Group neither condemns nor condones anything in this publication.

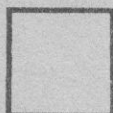
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Name: _____

Address: _____

From: Manchester EF! Dept 29, 1 Newton St., Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 1HW



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