



# BITE THE BALLOT

**“The government’s recent actions show that we must be cautious about claiming that only fascists use refugees as scapegoats. The truth is that the BNP has only been able to campaign so successfully on this issue because the climate is so open for it to do so. The venom of the press and mainstream politicians has normalised the message of the BNP fascists.”**

**- Kate Taylor, Searchlight Magazine.**

It’s election time next Thursday and across the country it’s the only thing on people’s mind. Er, perhaps not. But more worryingly, the fascist British National Party are threatening to gain more seats at the forthcoming local and European elections using voter apathy, proportional representation and a new squeaky clean image. Then there’s the UK Independence Party - a sort of little Englander BNP-lite, that are very likely to get racist Kilroy-Silk elected (who despite living in a £2.5 million mansion in Buckinghamshire keeps going on about how he knows what ordinary people want).

We must not forget that the BNP is a fascist organisation, which poses a direct threat to anyone who doesn’t fit into their white English culture. Areas that the BNP targets are blighted with increased racist attacks. Take Burnley where between April 2002 and March 2003, 237 racist attacks were recorded - a 149% increase.

To counter this threat groups like Unite Against Fascism tell us that not voting will let the fascists in. So who should get our votes? Neo Labour or the Tories? Parties that bring mainstream policies into BNP territory as leader Nick Griffin commented a few years ago “The Asylum seeker issue has been great for us ... it has been quite fun to watch as they play the race card in far cruder terms than we would ever use, but pretend not to. This issue legitimises us.”

With this ‘legitimacy’ The BNP hopes to step in and appeal to pissed off and poor suburban voters. But as one anti-racist campaigner told SchNEWS, “We must engage in a real debate with those who voted BNP. They are not Nazis and their grievances, many of them real, must not be dismissed out of hand.”

## RIGHT YOU ARE

These tactics of stirring up race hatred, of blaming other ethnic minorities for the problems such as bad housing are nothing new. During the 1930s and 40s Oswald Mosley’s British Union of Fascists was trying to gain a stronghold, targeting the East End of London. Solley Kaye was one of those involved in fighting them. “You had massive unemployment, immense poverty, social services

nowhere near what they are today, terrible slums. The fascists (tried to) involve people on the basis of envy, fear, or whatever, they said ‘the Jews, they’ve got your houses, the Jews, they’ve got your jobs.’ Even though we were all living in bloody poverty with bugs crawling all over us in the night.

“At the time the Communist Party together with some very courageous Church people, organised the Stepney Tenants Defence League, and all the tenants living in bad houses were being involved in a fight to get the repairs done and the rents reduced. There were some people being evicted from a block of flats called Paragon Mansions, Phil Piratin (later to become a Communist M.P.) heard about it. He went there and got the rest of the tenants to organise barricades to stop the bailiffs coming in.” Some of the tenants were members of the British Union of Fascists, but they didn’t want anything to do with them after they saw who their real allies were.

The turning point came in 1936 when a quarter of a million people stopped Mosley’s party marching through the East End and his party never recovered.

The asylum issue is not the only way that politicians play into the fascists hands. In the Blackbird Leys estate in Oxford the Independent Working Class Association have been opposing the idea of multiculturalism “We believe that public money should not be spent on projects whose sole purpose is apparently to foster artificial divisions along ethnic or religious lines. ... we believe that the promotion of segregation is political suicide for the working class, as well of course for ethnic minorities themselves.” One example of this was their opposition to £25,000 being spent on lights on the Cowley Road in Oxford to celebrate the Muslim festival of Eid. They argued money should not be spent on a religious festival - any religious festival including Christmas - while services were being cut in Blackbird Leys area. Doing so would just cause resentment and racism.

Across the country people have other methods of dealing with the fascists. Posties have been refusing to deliver their election leaflets using a conscience clause in their contract. The BNP accuses the postal union of being “anti-democratic” and “hostile to the patriots of the BNP” forgetting that if it ever got to power it would abolish unions. Elsewhere people have been taking, a more, shall we say, direct approach. BNP councillors have had their houses attacked and meetings and leafleting sessions disrupted. Holocaust denier David Irving had to abandon a meeting in Sussex and the

## CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

**For being an artist...**

Steve Kurtz called 911 early one morning to tell them his wife had suffered a cardiac arrest and died in her sleep. However when the police arrived they decided Kurtz’s art supplies were actually bioterrorism weapons and called the FBI who arrested Kurtz without charge, sealed off the entire block, confiscated his computers, manuscripts, art supplies... and even his wife’s body. Kurtz, an Associate Professor in the Department of Art at the State University of New York’s University and a member of the internationally-acclaimed Critical Art Ensemble is facing trial later this month. [www.rtmark.com/CAEdefense/](http://www.rtmark.com/CAEdefense/)

leader of France’s far right Le Pen’s party was greeted with rotten fruit and fists on his recent visit to the UK (SchNEWS 451).

Democracy means more than just putting an x on a piece of paper, it means having an input into decisions that affect your life. The idea that people must be apathetic if they don’t vote or that if you don’t vote you can’t complain or that voting is the single most important political act anyone can take is nonsense. As the Rev Kenneth Leech wrote in the foreword to ‘Brick Lane 1978’: “The battle against racism and fascism cannot be won by outsiders who march into an area, chant slogans, and then march out again; it can only be won by the most dedicated, rooted and persistent commitment to undermine and destroy the injustice and neglect on which such movements thrive”.

\* While visiting in Stoke one SchNEWS scribe got a BNP leaflet for the elections through the door. There’s a picture of the candidate and his family on the back with his ten years old son saying - “My Dad isn’t a racist” No, of course not son.

\* To get involved in more militant anti fascist activity 07950 836455 [www.antifa.org.uk](http://www.antifa.org.uk)

\* Think fascists have a right to freedom of speech? Get a copy of ‘The 43 Group’ by Morris Beckman an excellent account of how Jewish ex-servicemen fought Oswald Mosley fascist party, literally kicking them off the streets of East London in the 1940’s. Copies available from [www.actedistribution.org/](http://www.actedistribution.org/)

\* Telephone your local sorting office, to say you do not want BNP material delivered and give support to local postal workers who are refusing to deliver BNP material.

\* ‘Refugees - they’re welcome here’ meeting on 14 June at Community Base, *South Wing, 113 Queens Road, Brighton 6.30pm to 9.30pm* with food, films and speakers including Ko Aung, refugee from Burma and Emma Ginn, from the Campaign to Stop Arbitrary Detention at Yarl’s Wood.

# It's yer SchNEWS Summer Party and Protest Guide

## JUNE

**Till 12 'Guantanamo'** The script is based on interviews with detainees and their lawyers. On the Thursday after the play there is a talk and discussion - admission free Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Rd London. 020 7328 1000 www.tricycle.co.uk \*\* **5-19 London Sustainability Weeks.** Various events to create a clean, green and healthy London. 020 7359 0452 www.londonsustainabilityweeks.org \*\* **7-13 Faslane Peace Camp Birthday Week.** Faslane has been resisting the UK's nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction for 22 years! Workshops and actions, party on Saturday with sound systems and punk bands. Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh. 01436 820901 www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk \*\* **8 Nonviolent Communication for Campaigners,** Euston, London 9.30am-5pm Booking essential 077654 77305 www.CourageousCommunication.com \*\* **9 End the occupation: why the US-UK troops should leave Iraq now.** 7pm, Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London. Public meeting with speakers: Tariq Ali, Jeremy Hardy, Haifa Zangana (Iraqi writer and activist) and Ewa Jasiewicz (eyewitness recently returned from Iraq). 07958 174451 \*\* **9 Reverend Billy Live! Featuring The Stop-Shopping Gospel Choir** Bar, DJ, Organic Food and Stalls from 7pm, Conway Hall 25 Red Lion Square, London. £8.50/£5 Book online at www.theecologist.org/revbilly 0870 7879871 \*\* **9-11 Fifth International Conference on Walking in the 21st Century,** Copenhagen. www.citiesforpeople.dk \*\* **10 Anti-Capitalism: A Beginner's Guide,** talk by Simon Tormey on his new book. Borders, Oxford 7pm 01865 310597. www.oneworld-publications.com \*\* **10-30 Coca-Cola Nazi Adverts exhibition,** highlighting their support for Hitler's regime. The Foundry, 86 Great Eastern Street, London. www.mtcp.co.uk/coca-cola \*\* **10-12 The Wheel Thing** the 4th Walcot International Cycle Circus. Kensington Meadows, Bath www.hedonistpress.com/wheelthing \*\* **10-13 Edinburgh Independent Radical Book Fair** Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh, Scotland. 0131 6629112 www.word-power.co.uk \*\* **11 Primitive House and techno soundsystem fundraiser** 10-5 The Black Swan, Stapleton Rd, Bristol £4 info@tattoorecords.co.uk \*\* **11-13 A1 Festival of Music & Dance,** Sacrewell Farm, Wansford, nr Peterborough. Acoustic music festival, Bluegrass, Old Time, Celtic and roots music all taking place in 3 venues as well as a Kidzone. 01780 470852 www.a1festival.co.uk \*\* **12 World Naked Bike Ride.** This event will be happening in cities across the world: Seattle, Vancouver, London, Berlin + more. www.worldnakedride.org \*\* **12 Norwich's first annual anarchist bookfair.** 07941 657485. http://twotins.tripod.com \*\* **12 International Day of Action and Solidarity with Jeff "Free" Luers.** He's served four years out of 22 years and 8 months for burning three Sports Utility Vehicles at Romania Chevrolet in Eugene, Jeff has continued to be active in prison and fight back with his words and inspiration. www.freefreedom.org - In **Brighton,** fundraising roast dinner and showing the video 'Green with a Vengeance' in the Cowley Club, 12 London Road. **Bradford** - screening of 'Green With a Vengeance' plus a benefit meal at the 1in12 Club. re-pressed@riseup.net; **Edinburgh** - on the 15th a Solidarity Action for Jeff Luers outside of the U.S. Consulate, 3 Regent Terrace, at 4pm and a screening of 'Green With a Vengeance', 8pm at The Forest Cafe, 3 Bristo Place. krajmfink@hotmail.com; **Leeds** - 20th, Green with a Vengeance will be shown and ex-anarchist prisoner Mark Barnsley will be speaking at this event too. 7.30pm upstairs at the Packhorse Pub, Woodhouse Lane. re-pressed@riseup.net \*\* **12 Deepdale Jazz Festival.** 01485 210256 www.deepdalefarm.co.uk \*\* **12-13 Wandle Valley Festival** 020 8672 2073 www.wandlevalleyfestival.org.uk \*\* **13 Stonehenge summer solstice walk** from Glastonbury to Stonehenge 07976797456 www.phreak.co.uk/stonehenge/psb/stonecam.htm \*\* **14 Meeting with Kevin Williams** who has spent several months working with street children in Baghdad. Holy Trinity Church, Wrexham 7.30pm. 0845 330 4505. \*\* **14 Ewa Jasiewicz who recently returned from Iraq** talking about her time there. Barnsley Library. 7pm. thomas@thomasutcliffe.freereserve.co.uk \*\* **15 & 17 Refugee Film Festival** "Refugees and Us: No One is Illegal" 6-9 pm @ Lecture Theatre 2, City Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University. Two evenings of films, live poetry and debate on racism and torture. Free Entry. www.leedsundergroundfilm.tk \*\* **16 Hands off Iraq Forum** with Voices UK's joint co-ordinator Gabriel Carlyle. St Joseph's Church Hall, Milton Road, Brighton. 01273 706 820. \*\* **17-27 Golowan (Feast of John) Festival,** Penzance, Cornwall. Cornish culture, music and dance. 01736 332211 www.golowan.com/home.htm \*\* **18 Fundraiser for the Guantanamo**

## DISSENT!

In June 2005 the G8 is coming to the UK. Made up of the eight of the most "powerful" nations on earth, the G8 meets "informally" to carve up the world's resources for the narrow interests of multinational corporations, while trampling over workers rights, public services and the environment. While member countries refuse to seriously engage themselves in the fight against accounting fraud, money laundering, and offshore havens, the G8, under the auspices of the fight against terrorism, attempts to justify war, militarism, and repression.

Dissent is a network of groups and individuals planning actions and taking direct action against the 2005 G8 summit and what it represents. What actions happen against it is up to those who get involved; unlike the G8 there is are no leaders telling people what to do, it is up for all those involved to have an equal say.

Demonstrations against the G8 have a history of being pretty spectacular. In 1999 while the G8 were meeting in Cologne the City of London was famously shut down for the day with the J18 Carnival Against Capital. In 2001 when they met in a fortress in Genoa, Italy, 300,000 people faced paramilitary police on the streets outside, resulting in the destruction of large parts of the city and the murder of one protester by the police. Such protests have led the G8 to retreat to ever more remote locations, last year they met in the exclusive Swiss resort of Evian and next week they'll be meeting on Sea Island, 80 miles south of Savannah, USA. So people in the States have called for decentralised actions around the world. Dissent is organising a diverse range of events to make people aware of next years G8 summit in the UK and the growing movement which opposes it.

To find out more [www.dissent.org.uk](http://www.dissent.org.uk)

**Human Rights Commission** 8:30pm to midnight. The Bay, Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth with David Rovics and Atilla the Stockbroker. \*\* **19 Manchester Radical Bookfair** Covering anarchism, peace, direct action and social change. Books, ideas, discussions and workshops, not a forum for party politics! 11am-5pm at Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester. www.radicalbookfair.org.uk \*\* **19 A celebration of the 20th anniversary of the last Stonehenge Free Festival** @ Vertigo Arts Centre (aka the 491) in Leytonstone, with a photo exhibition, films, live music and DJs and promotion of 'Stonehenge: Celebration and Subversion' a new book by Andy Worthington. www.indigogroup.co.uk/albion/index.htm **19 National Badger Day** 020 7228 6444 www.nfbg.org.uk **19-20 Leamington Peace Festival, FREE.** Music, stalls, kids stuff, workshops. Pump Room Gardens, Leamington. Call 08707 704098. www.peacefestival.org.uk \*\* **21 Summer Solstice** 00:56. Sunrise 4:45 If you are heading to Stonehenge access is from 8pm on 20th to 1pm on 21st, access to the stones themselves from 10pm until 9am. www.phreak.co.uk/stonehenge/psb/stonecam.htm \*\* **21 BASS (Brighton Alliance of Sound Systems) Solstice Party** a procession of colour, dancers and top Brighton samba onto the beach where a back drop of Brighton's very own replica Stonehenge that will be brought into it's own by video projections, lasers and fire performers. Black Rock car park from 8.45pm www.bass23.org \*\* **23-27 Teaching Permaculture Creatively and Teachers Gathering Event** "A chance for permaculture teachers to gather, share and develop our teaching skills together." Dial House, near North weald, Epping, Essex. 01702 303259 grahamburnett@blueyonder.co.uk \*\* **25 London Critical Mass bike ride** Starts 6pm Southbank at Waterloo in front of the National Film Theatre under Waterloo Bridge <http://cmlondon.enrager.net> \*\* **25 till August 19 Freedom Summer Palestine** www.palsolidarity.org \*\* **25-26 George Bush goes to Ireland.** Domoland Castle, Co Clare. This is a EU-US summit to paper over the cracks between pro-war US, Italy, Britain, and Poland with the supposedly anti-war bloc of France and Germany. Details of the protests planned [www.ambush2004.org](http://www.ambush2004.org) \*\* **25-27 Glastonbury Festival Sold Out.** www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk For one persons view of what's happened to the festival and the Mean Fiddlers involvement [www.corporatewatch.org/news/glastonbury.htm](http://www.corporatewatch.org/news/glastonbury.htm) \*\* **26 End the occupation of Iraq - troops home now/** Freedom for Palestine Demo in Leeds city centre 12 Noon. 0773 907 4205 \*\* **26 Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty National Demo** 0845 458 0630 www.shac.net \*\* **26-28 Anti- Repression Gathering around the Aubonne Court case, Geneva** The Aubonne collective was created to support two climbers whose rope was cut by police during a blockade against the G8 summit in Evian last summer (see SchNEWS 409) [www.aubonnebridge.net](http://www.aubonnebridge.net) \*\* **26 - 4 July The Occupation isn't Ending** Week of protests, non-violent direct action & occupations to expose the bogus June 30 'power transfer' to a so-called Iraqi Interim Government - the occupation will continue, as will the corporate invasion of Iraq and the killings and human rights abuses by 'coalition' forces. Voices in the Wilderness UK. [www.voicesuk.org](http://www.voicesuk.org). 0845 458 2564 \*\* **28-29 NATO summit, Istanbul, Turkey** - with even a visit from Bush himself. Protests planned [www.geocities.com/antiotoriter2004/dokuman.html](http://www.geocities.com/antiotoriter2004/dokuman.html) \*\* **30 Worthing anti war demo** coinciding with planned fake "transfer of power" in Iraq by the illegal occupiers - the USA and UK. Meet at 6.30pm outside Worthing's main railway station. [worthing@eco-action.org](mailto:worthing@eco-action.org) **30-2 July Fuse - A Random Artists Exhibition.** A self organised event for artists and media of all senses, each evening will have a different theme. Venue tbc. 07050 614804 [www.randomartists.org](http://www.randomartists.org)

Come and visit us at Strawberry Fair at the

## SchNEWS/SWARM

Infotainment Marquees/Comfy Chill-out Space

\* Teas for donations

\* SchNEWS Info-stall

- pick up loadsa free info and book bargains

\* SchLIVE - the live satirical news show with vids (5pm-ish)

\* Videos - direct action and the Clangers

\* Children's Workshops - clay modelling, painting, let's get messy

Look out for us in the green area near the pub



## JULY

**1 Demo outside meeting of the UN Compensation Commission**, Geneva [www.jubileeraq.org](http://www.jubileeraq.org) \*\* **1-4 Green Anarchy in the UK, Gathering of the tribes** "We have called this gathering to give green anarchists in the UK and elsewhere a great opportunity to get together and share thoughts and ideas about how to fight the megamachine, that is civilization, and learn primitive skills." Bilston Glen Anti-Bypass Protest Site, near Edinburgh 07747606558 [www.bilstonglen-abs.org.uk](http://www.bilstonglen-abs.org.uk) \*\* **1-9 Annual Ecotopia Biketour** will ride from Vienna to The Netherlands with a stop-over at the Towards Carfree Cities IV conference in Berlin. [www.thebiketour.net](http://www.thebiketour.net) \*\* **2 The Latin Splash Festival II**, Clapham Common London. 5-11pm. \*\* **2-4 Out There Bracknell Festival**, South Hill Park £50 for the weekend : 01344 484123 [www.outtherefestival.co.uk](http://www.outtherefestival.co.uk) \*\* **3 McLibel Trial Anniversary**. Celebrate the 10 years of campaign successes, following the start of the McLibel Trial. Read the story of the trial at [www.mcspotlight.org](http://www.mcspotlight.org) \*\* **4 Independence from America Protest** at Menwith Hill, the US Spybase (see SchNEWS 410) [www.caab.org](http://www.caab.org) \*\* **4 Brighton Sunny Day** "A festival of renewable energy and sustainability. Now in its third year, this community-based event covers a broad range of issues from energy efficiency to recycling. Exhibitors will include solar hot water installers and electric bikes." 12 noon to 5 pm The Level. Free [www.brightonsunnyday.org.uk](http://www.brightonsunnyday.org.uk) \*\* **9-10 Romsey Beggars Fair**. Music, dance and street entertainment. Free/donations. [www.beggarsfair.com](http://www.beggarsfair.com) \*\* **9-11 Clogfest** in Skipton and Gargrave, North Yorkshire. A celebration of the glorious tradition of English step-dance! [www.clogfest.demon.co.uk](http://www.clogfest.demon.co.uk) \*\* **9-11 Priddy Folk Fayre**, Priddy, Somerset. "The friendliest folk festival in England" 01749 675562. [www.priddyfolk.org](http://www.priddyfolk.org) \*\* **9-11 Introduction to Renewable Energy**, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. £35/£25 cons. 01654 761570 [www.greendragonenergy.co.uk](http://www.greendragonenergy.co.uk) \*\* **10 "Whose Rules Rule? 60 glorious or notorious years"** Conference organised by the World Development Movement. On the 60th anniversary of the IMF and World Bank, WDM looks back at their blotted past and considers their future. Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London. Free. 0800 328 2153 [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk) \*\* **10 Save Titnore Woods** protest in Worthing town centre, meet 2pm at Montague Place (near Woolwhol's). The campaigners are trying to get a big spectacular together as it's the last chance before the council makes a decision on the development. [www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/index.html](http://www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/index.html) \*\* **10-11 Rhythms of the World** "The UK's largest free festival of world music - indoor & outdoor stages, world food, craft stalls, music, dance, street art and children's activities." Hitchin, Hertfordshire 01462 454649 [www.rhythmsoftheworld.com](http://www.rhythmsoftheworld.com) \*\* **12-13 Judicial Review Appeal of the police's use of anti-terrorism searches against peace protesters at last summers DSEi arms fair**. [www.fairfordcoaction.org.uk/44](http://www.fairfordcoaction.org.uk/44) \*\* **14-18 Somerset Buddhafield Gathering**. 07768 200797 [www.buddhafield.com/budffest.html](http://www.buddhafield.com/budffest.html) \*\* **14-18 Larmer Tree Festival**, on the Dorset/Wiltshire border. Over 50 bands will play in the heart of the remote and peaceful Cranborne Chase. £ 85 for 3 days. 01725 552300 [www.larmertree.co.uk/2004](http://www.larmertree.co.uk/2004) \*\* **10-24 Earth Activist Training Camp**, Ragmans Lane Farm, Gloucestershire [earthactuk@123mail.org](mailto:earthactuk@123mail.org) \*\* **12-17 Common Ground meeting in Bulgaria**. "The goal is to bring environmental activists and critical farmers from several countries together to discuss the food issue, to learn from each other and to get to joined strategies and projects. It will be an interesting exchange between the rural and the urban and between the western and eastern Europe." [www.aseed.net](http://www.aseed.net) \*\* **16-18 Guilfest**, Guildford Bands include Blondie, Simple Minds and UB40 (what year is it?) 01483 536270 [www.guilfest.co.uk](http://www.guilfest.co.uk) \*\* **16-18 Glade Festival**, near Reading, Berkshire. Bands like Squarepusher, AFX, Eat Static, Hybrid, loads of psy-trance plus some house and breaks. £70. [www.gladefestival.com/intro.htm](http://www.gladefestival.com/intro.htm) \*\* **16-18 Festival at the Edge**, in Much Wenlock, Shropshire. Story telling festival and workshops. £40. 01939 236626. [www.festivalattheedge.org](http://www.festivalattheedge.org) \*\* **17 Respect Festival** FREE anti-racist and multicultural festival for London. 020 7983 6554. [www.london.gov.uk/respect/contact.htm](http://www.london.gov.uk/respect/contact.htm) \*\* **17-18 Ashton Court Festival**, Bristol. Everything from hip hop to poetry. £5 per day. 0117 904 2275. [www.ashtoncourtfestival.com](http://www.ashtoncourtfestival.com) \*\* **19-24 Towards Carfree Cities** Berlin, Germany. [www.worldcarfree.net/conference](http://www.worldcarfree.net/conference) \*\* **22-25 Trowbridge Village Pump Festival**, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Folk/Roots music. 01225 769132. [www.trowbridgefestival.co.uk](http://www.trowbridgefestival.co.uk) \*\* **23 London Anarchist Forum** with Gottfried Heuer. 8pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., London. Free. 020 7242 8032 [www.conwayhall.org.uk](http://www.conwayhall.org.uk) \*\* **23-24 The Wickerman Festival**. Between Dundrennan and Auchencairn, Scotland. Spiritualized, Levellers, Acoustic etc + dance tents and special area for children's. Day ticket: £30. [www.thewickermanfestival.co.uk](http://www.thewickermanfestival.co.uk) \*\* **23-26 Turaya Gathering**, Dorset. Brand new four day music and arts festival in association with Onu sounds, Ninja Tune, Real World etc. Ticket only event - only 1,500 available. [www.conscious-events.info](http://www.conscious-events.info) \*\* **23-25 WOMAD** (the World Of Music Arts And Dance Festival), Reading. 0118 939 0930 [www.womad.org](http://www.womad.org) \*\* **23-27 Healing Field Gathering**, near Shepton. From £32. [www.healingfield.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.healingfield.btinternet.co.uk) \*\* **24-25 Truck Festival Hill Farm**, Steventon, Oxfordshire. "There is no cut throat capitalism here, no huge entry fees. It's a nice day out in the country side with a few beers and a plethora of bands." (and SchNEWS will be there) [www.truckrecords.com](http://www.truckrecords.com) \*\* **23-29 Peoples Global Action European conference**, Resnik, Rakovica, industrial zone around Belgrade [www.pgaconference.org](http://www.pgaconference.org) [www.agp.org](http://www.agp.org) \*\* **29 till 1 Aug Cambridge Folk Festival** [www.cam-folkfest.co.uk](http://www.cam-folkfest.co.uk) \*\* **30 till 1 Aug Big Chill**, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire. [www.bigchill.net](http://www.bigchill.net) \*\* **30 till 6 Aug Sidmouth 50th International Festival**, Devon. For all you folk music massive 01629 827010 [www.sidmouthfestival.com](http://www.sidmouthfestival.com)

## AUGUST

**1 Ambient Green Picnic**, Shalford Park, Guildford. 4 main music arenas: the Live Stage, Acoustic Stage, Slave2Vinyl Dance Tent and Itsy Bitsy Ambient Cafe, as well as a host of family entertainment and information on local and environmental issues. £3 donation [www.ambientpicnic.co.uk](http://www.ambientpicnic.co.uk) \*\* **4-8 The Earth First! Summer Gathering**. If ecological direct action turns you on, then this is for you. Location somewhere in the East Midlands 0845 355 0111 [www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk](http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk) \*\* **4-8 Funky Raw Food Festival**, near a beach on an organic farm in Cornwall. 02392 611607 \*\* **5-8 Earthwise Festival 2004** a family festival promoting all aspects of environmental awareness on a farm by the sea in Dorset 0845 330 4340 [www.earthwise-uk.com](http://www.earthwise-uk.com) \*\* **7 Brighton and Hove Pride Parade and Festival**. FREE You certainly won't be 'the only gay in the village' in Brighton this weekend. 90,000 turned up last year making it the biggest gay festival in the UK 01273 775939 [www.brightonpride.org](http://www.brightonpride.org) \*\* **8-14 The One World Summer Festival**. Witley, Surrey. Holistic health, macrobiotics, arts & crafts, music & dance. 01273 279439 [www.macrobios.com](http://www.macrobios.com) \*\* **9-15 National Allotments Week**. A week to promote the awareness and availability of allotments both locally and nationally and to show the public and the local authorities the strength of support and interest for the heritage of allotment culture. <http://nationalallotmentsweek.net/firms.com> \*\* **9-23 Ecotopia**. This year happening in the Netherlands with the theme food and farming. [www.eyfa.org/ecotopia2004intro](http://www.eyfa.org/ecotopia2004intro) \*\* **12-14 Cropredy Folk Festival**. [www.faircrop.co.uk](http://www.faircrop.co.uk) \*\* **12-15 Annual Resurgence Summer Camp**, Gloucestershire 0870 460 1198, [www.greenandaway.org](http://www.greenandaway.org) \*\* **13-15 Shambala Festival**, Devon [www.shambalafestival.org](http://www.shambalafestival.org) \*\* **21-22 Beautiful Days Festival**, Escot Park, Devon. Organised by The Levellers 01392 425309 [www.beautifuldays.org](http://www.beautifuldays.org) \*\* **22-28 International Seminar on Renewable Energies and Social Change** Asturias, Spain [www.escanda.org](http://www.escanda.org) \*\* **23 Carry On Up The Clyde, The Big Blockade**. 7.30am. By blocking all the entrances to the base denounce what happens on the Faslane naval base, only thirty miles from Glasgow, and home to 4 Trident submarines that carry nuclear weapons. 08454588361 [www.tridentploughshares.org/coulport/index.php](http://www.tridentploughshares.org/coulport/index.php) \*\* **24-30 WIT Music Festival for Women and Girls** held in beautiful rural surroundings near Lampeter in West Wales. 01559 363882 [www.womenintune.org.uk](http://www.womenintune.org.uk) \*\* **26-29 Boom Festival**, Portugal. If you love boom-boom trance.... [www.boomfestival.org](http://www.boomfestival.org) \*\* **27 Small World Solar Powered Summer Gathering** [www.smallworldsolarstage.org](http://www.smallworldsolarstage.org) \*\* **27-29 Leeds and Reading Festivals**. Sponsored by crap lager Carling, run by those tossers at the Mean Fiddler. We'd rather be sick thru our eyes. 020 8963 0940 [www.leedsfestival.com](http://www.leedsfestival.com) \*\* **28-30 The Off The Tracks Festival**. Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel, Isley Walton, Castle Donington, Nr JCT. 24 M1. 01332 384518 / 833673 [www.offthetracks.co.uk](http://www.offthetracks.co.uk) \*\* **29 Virtual march on the White House** - send a message to the rogue regime that you do not support their stance on Iraq, the so called war on terrorism, environmental and defence issues. [www.livemarch.com/marchHome.jsp?marchID=19](http://www.livemarch.com/marchHome.jsp?marchID=19) \*\* **Late August - Green Up North** 5 day camp on a farm near Pontefract in Yorkshire. There will be workshops & exhibitions with a specific theme of climate change - plus acoustic music, a ceilidh and a camp ball.

## WORTHING-WHILE

ANTI-G8 protesters have this week set up a new autonomous social centre in Worthing, West Sussex. The 23TOPIA squat will be open to the public on Friday June 4th. And from June 8th to 12th they are planning a Festival of Resistance to coincide with the G8 summit in the USA. A spokesperson for the group said: "Next year the G8 will be meeting in the UK and our aim is to show them that they are not welcome here. The message is loud and clear - expect thousands of us to be gearing up for massive protests against the capitalist scum, everywhere from Scotland to the English South Coast."

23TOPIA is in Chapel Road, Worthing, in the building previously housing the 3TO nightclub (previously known as Area 51 and Flappers). The space will be opened up to campaign information and meetings, art installations, music workshops and lots more stuff still being planned. The group is making three general call-outs:

1) For people to come along and help out in what ever way they can, even if it's just for an hour or two after work. There is a large amount of cleaning and tidying still to be done!

2) For individuals and groups to make use of the space and bring literature, posters etc to get a positive message across to the people using the centre. If your group has some spare leaflets or papers, please consider donating them to 23TOPIA. You can also give talks, run workshops or just come and meet others.

3) Spread the word as quickly as possible. Post this info on websites and pass on via e-mail. Tell people by word of mouth. This is a glorious opportunity not to be wasted!

Postal mail should for the moment go c/o The Porkbolter at PO Box 4144, Worthing, W Sussex BN14 7NZ and email can be handled at [worthing@eco-action.org](mailto:worthing@eco-action.org)

Shut The G8 website is at [www.freewebs.com/shuttheg8](http://www.freewebs.com/shuttheg8)

## Scraping the Barrel...

Last Saturday in Saudi Arabia, the oil city of Khobar was attacked by Al-Qaida. Fears that this is the start of a concerted campaign to disrupt oil supplies and damage the US economy had an immediate impact on the price of the barrel which reached a record high in the States.

Our chancellor, Gordon Brown says that it is crucial that OPEC act now to keep oil prices down and the world economy stable. Loyola de Palacio, EU Commissioner also called on OPEC to increase production, dubiously claiming that her thoughts are with poor countries that will suffer as a result of the high prices. While Western governments put pressure on OPEC to pump out more and more oil, OPEC point out that they are producing as much as they ever were and in some cases countries are producing well above their national quotas. The high prices, they say, are due to speculation on the futures markets in Europe. Big companies and countries buy up oil, anticipating further price rises due to the turbulent situation in the Middle East. The effect of this is to push prices through the roof. So to summarise the story, we invaded the Middle East causing massive destruction and resentment, the price of oil rose, but we still need more oil and buy loads in case the price goes up more, the price does go up a lot more due to the increasing demand and we blame the Middle East.

Meanwhile, fuel protestors are again threatening to take to the streets (or drive around in their cars shaking their fists) and again the issue of climate change hardly gets a mention. As climate change campaigning group Rising Tide point out the problem is not that we will run out of oil, it is that oil is causing massive climate change. As Friends of The Earth put it "Fears about rising oil prices demonstrate the need for a massive investment in energy efficiency and alternatives to oil, such as bio fuels. Burning oil is a major contributor to global climate change".

\* On June 16 a street party is organised against BP sponsoring the National Portrait Gallery in London. Meet 4 pm at St James Square in London. 07969 786770. [www.londonrisingtide.org.uk](http://www.londonrisingtide.org.uk)

\* 15-21 June 'An Exhibition of Resistance to BP and Big Oil'. 07969 786770. [www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk)

\* "Can renewable energy systems give us what we need or do we face a serious energy shortage over the next fifty years?" Saturday 19th June. 11am-4pm. Canterbury Room 4, Lampeter University 01558 685353. Organised by Earth Cymru Network: [www.fraw.org.uk/ecn/ecne/04\\_06\\_19-energy.html](http://www.fraw.org.uk/ecn/ecne/04_06_19-energy.html)

\* There's a Cambridge Forum on Climate change on June 15<sup>th</sup> @ CB1 Cafe, 32 Mill Rd, Cambridge 8-10pm. Speakers include Dr David Vaughan of British Antarctic Survey who witnessed first-hand the break-up of the Larsen B ice shelf and Dr Johnathan Koehler, of the Applied Economics department who will talk about renewable energy. There will be time for questions and discussion - plus plenty of suggestions for practical and effective action.

\* From 19th-21st November, the Centre for Alternative Technology will be running a brand new course "Make your own Bio-diesel". The course will enable you to produce your own cheap bio-diesel, without the need for alterations to your engine. 01654 705957 [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk).

## WAR ON ACTIVISTS

The Third EU - LAC Conference in Guadalajara Mexico came to a tense end last week with indirect condemnation of the US military torture in Iraq and commercial agreements without popular support. There was also violence against demonstrators at the end of the general demonstration, with around 100 detained and disappeared, as well as 30 injured.

Mexican and international activists were physically and psychologically humiliated and maltreated by the police. Some of the injured were taken into prison without receiving any medical attention. Activists from Euskadi, Catalunya, Spain, Chile, Italy and Australia were among the arrested and are awaiting deportation. Among the Mexicans still in jail are some of the most active members of the anarcho-punk movement in Mexico, activists

who were involved in the inspirational protests against the WTO in Cancun last year.

Most of those arrested were working with indigenous communities in Oaxaca and Chiapas. The government has imposed extremely high fines ranging from £1,000 to £1,300 for the Mexicans and stated that they will not be released until the fines are paid. Average wages in Mexico are about £2 a day, so the average person would have to work for about two years just to pay the fine, this equates to a fine of around £40,000 in relative British terms. \* This is a call for support and solidarity with the activists in Mexico. Write letters to Vicente Fox, (President of Mexico), Palacio Nacional, Edif. 10, Planta baja Col. Centro Del. Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06067, México, D. F. There is also a bank account set up for donations for the activists for information, e-mail [biblioteca@libertad.org.mx](mailto:biblioteca@libertad.org.mx) to find out how to make a donation. You can also donate online at [www.guadalajara.mediosindependientes.org/](http://www.guadalajara.mediosindependientes.org/) \* [www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/05/292578.html](http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2004/05/292578.html) \* To find out more [www.libertad.org.mx/apoyos.htm](http://www.libertad.org.mx/apoyos.htm) (we hope your Spanish is better than ours)

## OIL BE RICH

The World Bank's commitment to "the vision of poverty reduction" has become even more of a joke than it already is. A new report by the Sustainable Energy and Economy Network shows that the World Bank investment in oil projects has done nothing to alleviate poverty and has actually pumped more money into Halliburton, one of the world's largest providers to the oil and gas industries.

Last December the Bank's very own Extractive Industries Review recommended that its investment in oil projects be phased out by 2008. "82% of all oil projects the bank has invested in (since 1992) are primarily designed for the export of oil back to the USA, Western Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan." And guess what, it's Halliburton who heads the list of corporate beneficiaries!

The report found that Halliburton and friends (who including Shell, Chevron Texaco & BP) would lose out if the Bank stopped investing in oil: "The World Bank was unable to produce a single example where its support for oil had alleviated poverty". [www.tni.org/reports/seen/halliburton.htm](http://www.tni.org/reports/seen/halliburton.htm)

## SchNEWS in brief

Were you searched in London by police during the DSEI arms fair last September? Liberty needs your search receipts ASAP for the second stage of a High Court legal battle against the Metropolitan Police. 0207 378 3653 [www.liberty-humanrights.org.uk](http://www.liberty-humanrights.org.uk) \*\* The new **Anarchist Yellow Pages** is out soon including 2000 anarchist and libertarian communist groups, revolutionary syndicalist unions, militant anti-fascists, libertarian publications, alternative media projects, infoshops and social centers from around the world. Available in UK from Active [www.activedistribution.org](http://www.activedistribution.org) \*\* From Baghdad to Blackwood via Bristol - **Bristle magazine** issue 16 is out! This time it's a direct action special. £1.50 - get it at Kebele social centre, [www.bristle.org.uk](http://www.bristle.org.uk) \*\* If you want to get your hands on some decent radical films and documentaries then check out [www.cultureshop.org](http://www.cultureshop.org) \*\* Last Monday around 600 **prisoners in Wolow, Poland**, started a hunger strike, protesting against overcrowding in prisons. The protest was sparked off by the decision to put extra beds in cells; now there are eight beds in rooms designed for five. The day after 300 prison inmates in Wronki and 340 in Klodzko joined in out of solidarity. Prison authorities have responded by stopping all group meetings. <http://www.enrager.net/hosted/caps/modules.php?name=News&file=categories&op=newindex&catid=4>

## Inside SchNEWS

Russian anarchist journalist and anti-fascist **Aleksei Cherepanov** is being illegally detained after being fitted up after having drugs planted on him. He is involved with the publication Avtonom, and was interrogated about anarchist press found in his house. [www.avtonom.org](http://www.avtonom.org) <http://russia.indymedia.org>

## SHAC IT UP!

The FBI arrested seven or 'terrorists' from around the US last Wednesday, in what it called a victory in the War on Terror. The only catch is that they weren't actually terrorists - they were animal rights activists from SHAC who had been campaigning to close down a company responsible for terrorising animals in vivisection labs - the infamous UK animal experimentation mob Huntingdon Life Sciences.

The animal rights 'terrorists' aren't even on charges relating to acts of violence: the main charges are around so-called counts of 'incitement' on their website - just for reporting animal rights actions which have happened.

This recalls the GANDALF trials in the late nineties here in the UK (see [www.schnews.org.uk/monopresist](http://www.schnews.org.uk/monopresist)) when the editors of Green Anarchist and Animal Liberation Front magazine were sentenced to three years for "conspiring to incite persons unknown on unspecified dates over a five year period to commit unspecified criminal damage" - all for reporting about direct action as it happened - as opposed to actually doing it! The police's 'Operation Washington' which cost 'em £10 million, eventually proved to be a waste of money as all those jailed were released and had their convictions overturned.

The main charges the US activists are on come from the Animal Terrorism Act 1992, but include the additional charges of 'interstate stalking', and the arrestees are looking at possible years in prison and millions of dollars in fines.

These arrests reinforce what the War on Terrorism is all about - using the force of the state to prop up and protect corporate and political interests. US animal rights activists claim that these arrests will be a test of current legislation - if the activists get sent down it will set a precedent for further cases, and if they don't it will be an excuse for more draconian laws. On top of that this is clearly a politically motivated attack on SHACs right to freedom of speech under the good 'ol US constitution.

\* SHAC have a Japanese Global Week (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June) targeting Japanese customers of HLS. [www.shac.net](http://www.shac.net)

\* Welsh SHAC are organising a 'Triple Hit Action' against HLS around Cardiff on June 14<sup>th</sup>. [gracefromnewport@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefromnewport@yahoo.com) 07719726861

## Positive SchNEWS

**Westmill Wind Farm Co-operative** are about to open the first community owned wind farm in the south-east. Funds will go into education about sustainable energy and climate change issues in schools and colleges, and there will be free energy efficiency advice to homes in the area. The launch is on Saturday June 12th 10am-4pm. The Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7JA. 01229 821028 [www.energy4all.co.uk](http://www.energy4all.co.uk)

## ...and finally...

Last Friday's London critical mass bike ride was attended by around 500 cyclists.

After a lengthy stop on Blackfriars Bridge to remember a cyclist who was killed on the bridge recently, the mass made its way through the city of London. At one junction a chauffeur driven rolls was spotted attempting a u-turn and was correctly prevented from attempting this dangerous manoeuvre. One hawk-eyed cyclist identified the passenger as Express owner and porn king Richard Desmond, hiding behind a copy of, no not Asian Babes but the equally disreputable Evening Standard. Not wishing to pass up the opportunity to inconvenience the porn peddler (pun intended), he was held up for 20 minutes before being rescued by the police to hoots of derision and suggestions of what he did while reading his 'publications'.

## Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers voting always makes us cross... Honest!

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