

WHO'LL BE THERE

Indymedia
An international network of independent media with instant online 'open publishing'. The most far ranging alternative news source online. At the gathering will be people from regional indymedia sites around the country. www.indymedia.org.uk

Gagged

South Wales anarchist newsletter by people standing up for themselves and shouting 'Enough!' <http://southwalesanarchists.org>

Bristle

Fighting talk from Bristol and the South West - a quality quarterly local and global magazine. www.bristle.org.uk

Rough Music

Trouble makin' free bi-monthly-ish newsheet diggin' the dirt on the streets of Brighton. www.roughmusic.org.uk

Reel2Reel

London based participatory media, producing films on counter-cultural, social and environmental struggles. <http://real2reel.co.uk>

Freedom

Fortnightly newspaper published by Freedom Press, featuring news and articles on anarchism, labour struggles and more. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_\(newspaper\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_(newspaper))

Porkbolter

The newsheet about what's really going on in Worthing'. www.eco-action.org/porkbolter

OX4FM

Oxford based community radio station. www.ox4fm.com

Clearer Channel

Online video resource to disseminate alternative films. www.clearchannel.org

Libcom

Online news with coverage of current events and background in libertarian movements and class struggle. <http://libcom.org>

Radio 4A

Brighton's non-commercial radical radio station will be broadcasting over the weekend on 101.4FM. www.radio4a.org.uk

Corporate Watch

Oxford based corporate research group. www.corporatewatch.org.uk

Cultureshop

Online one-stop shop for videos, new and rare, covering independent media and radical politics. www.cultureshop.org

Advisory Service For Squatters
Helping squatters for 40 years, run by volunteers, also producing the Squatters Handbook. www.squatter.org.uk

Smash EDO

The campaign to close EDO MBM, a bomb parts factory in Brighton. www.smashedo.org.uk

Trapese

With a new book out this week 'Do It Yourself: A handbook for changing our world' www.handbookforchange.org

Titnore Woods

Protest camp protecting a woodland near Worthing. www.protectourwoodland.co.uk

SCREENING VIDEO GROUPS

CAMCORDER GUERRILLAS

Set up in 2003, the Camcorder Guerrilla Collective is a Glasgow-based film collective. As part of the global movement they produce and showcase films based on the issues and campaigns affecting local communities. The Guerrillas have made over 6 films which have been used by the campaigns. www.camcorderguerrillas.net

VISION on TV

Vision on TV is a new online Peer to Peer TV channel by Undercurrents. Rather than YouTube style low-res clips, this does DVD quality films - featuring eco-direct action news, festival and alternative video/music reviews and more. This is a nonprofit DIY project - send in your own films to be published. www.undercurrents.org/visionon

REVOLT VIDEO COLLECTIVE

Revolt Video Collective is an Irish collective formed after the 2005 G8 in Scotland, since going on to make films about deportations, the illegal use of Shannon airport by the US, the Rosport 5 and the Shell to Sea campaign, and others. Download their films for free from <http://revoltvideo.blogspot.com> - They also do film screenings and skill sharing workshops in Seomra Spraoi (Dublin's Social Centre) Email revoltvideo@hushmail.com

UNDERCURRENTS

Veterans of video activism, Undercurrents kicked off the video activist scene (in this country anyway) from a bedroom with their series of monthly video magazines in the early 90's and became the most screened alternative media of the decade. Like SchNEWS they were born out of the Criminal Justice Act and have gone on to cover wider issues and produce films on grassroots struggles and campaigns, as well as regular camcorder training sessions. They are currently launching their new online TV site Vision On, which you can check out at this Media Gathering. tel 01792 455 900 www.undercurrents.org

CINE REBELDE

Cine Rebelde is an independent media collective that produces and distributes not-for-profit films related to social movements and struggles around the world, as well as organise public screenings and translating films from other media collectives. www.cinerebelde.org

SchMOVIES

SchMOVIES came out of the SchNEWS at Ten tour 2004 when a series of short films were made about the protest camps and actions visited during the four week tour. From there the SchNEWS at Ten Movie was produced, and it has since made over fifty short films, regularly following local campaigns such as Smash EDO and Timore Woods. To get involved or to download films for free see www.schnews.org.uk/schmovies

RICE'N'PEAS FILMS

Founded in 1999, Rice'n'Peas have earned a reputation for producing hard-hitting social documentaries, making films that accurately represent the lives and stories of the people they record without prejudice or bias. tel 0207 243 9191 www.ricenpeas.com

REEL NEWS

Reel News is a London-based monthly activist newsreel DVD that started in 2006 as an outlet for people to distribute films to challenge the neo-liberal agenda. It was started after a trip to South America to film oppositional social movements, and returned to do the same thing in Britain - now on it's seventh issue. tel 07779 109 628, email reelnews@artserve.net

PARTY & PROTEST

* **September 11 - Disarm DSEI 2007** - on the anniversary of the 2001 protests, overshadowed on the day by another bit of direct action in New York, there will be a day of action against the world's largest arms fair, DSEI, in it's usual place of East London's ExCel Centre from September 11-14th. Stop the arms dealers - with enemies standing side by side to buy up weapons - with a range of actions. Blockade, party, infiltrate, lock on, harass, clown - you decide. For more see <http://www.dsei.org>

* **June 6-8 - The G8 summit 2007** will take place in Heiligendamm next to Rostock at the Baltic Sea, Germany - and guess what mass protests are planned. For more see www.dissent.org.uk - The next **UK G8 Meeting** will be May 17th, 7pm at Rampart pART Creative Social Centre, 15 Rampart Street, off Commercial Road, London, E1 2LA - www.rampart.co.uk

* **August - 14-21 - Camp for Climate Action** - After the success of last year's at the Drax Power Station, this summer the camp will take place near to a target relating to aviation or the coal or oil industries - the location will be disclosed closer to the date. It will be a week of sustainable living and direct action, ranging from autonomous actions at different locations to a well-advertised mass protest. www.climatecamp.org.uk

* **August 27-30 - Smash EDO Summer Action Camp** - Direct Action against the War machine, a chance to work together to close down the arms factory in Brighton. We will have workshops on effective campaigning, actions against EDO MBM and lots of fun together. Come and join us! tel 07875708873, www.smashedo.org.uk

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all mobile police CCTV vans on London Rd - to not bother because we are perfectly capable of filming ourselves. Honest.

WAKE UP!! WAKE UP!! YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WORKSHOP...

SchNEWS
www.schnews.org.uk

Alternative Media Gathering
Cowley Club, Brighton
May 11-13th 2007

M FOR MEDIA MALARKEY
PROGRAMME FOR WEEKEND

TALK IS CHEAP

AS THE ANARCHO LAPTOP MASSIVE HIT TOWN

This has been a long time coming for SchNEWS after years of meeting people at the Anarchist Bookfair, snatching five minute chats in the middle of the anti-capitalist throng, and wishing there were more opportunities to meet in person, for longer. And it's not exactly the stuff of small talk to thrash out how you're gonna replace capitalism with a sustainable future, or hold a vigorous examination of the state of play... So, while there are other national events, zine symposiums and bookfairs etc, it's time for a get together for many of the people SchNEWS has worked alongside for years, both the 'media activists', and the er 'activists' - terms which blur together for many.

And while it'll be great to see people, it's not that we're calling this simply for a back-patting session. It's clear that despite the best efforts of the alternative/independent media - and in fact it's probably as good as it's ever been in Britain - the propaganda war is still being soundly lost. Could it be that a lot of this quality media is being confined to audiences within 'activist' circles and those in the know, and if so, how can we improve the situation? The obvious one is to improve the ways it moves outside these circles and reaches new people, those who are not yet aware of the types of news and info we take for granted. And it goes both ways - the more we are in contact with the broader community, the more we are likely to hear about localised struggles. Many stories which SchNEWS and others have covered over the years started out as entirely local concerns, and getting into 'our' media has been a great way to get national support and up the mainstream agenda.

Some key sessions are therefore about **improving research methods** - finding out what's going in communities, as well as the dodgy dealings of councils, govts and corporations; **promoting campaigns** - hearing how local groups have generated public awareness and support through alternative, mainstream and their own media efforts; and **mobilising communities** - reaching out to those outside the bubble. On the production side, there will be sessions aimed at helping all this stuff reach wider audiences, including workshops on preparing video for web, more effective flyers/leaflets/poster-making, improving websites and maximising web-traffic, and other print, web, video, photography and radio know-how.

Another obvious reason for holding this gathering is that there's no substitute for meeting in person, and it's a strange feature of the modern age that you can have daily contact with people you've never met. Also, in our broader alternative media community, all merrily cutting and pasting from one another, at least if you nick material from someone, you're much more reassured of your source if you know the people, and can ring them up to cross-check. Much alternative media is anonymous, so it's hard to know who wrote what at the best of times. Basically a gathering like this can't go wrong as far as improving networking. In the spirit of DIY, SchNEWS might have called this event, for reasons broadly outlined in this article - but it's about everybody participating in the talks, and keeping them on the topics you really think need discussing (e.g. Easy on the 9-11!). On top of that if you can help things run smoothly - stepping in if someone is struggling with equipment you know about, or even the food or creche which is all being put on by volunteers, then please do...

Primary source and first-hand material isn't the total be-all and end-all, and let's face it no volunteer-run media has a squad of full

time reporters, let alone a travel budget to send someone over to Bolivia to cover that riot. But it does mean something to have the skills to find out what's going on in your local area by going out into the community, or to research the dodgy financial dealings in your midst. It can be directly helpful to a campaign if your findings shine new light on the situation by digging the dirt. It's not about publishing a 'scoop' for the sake of it, but offering a proper alternative news service.

So one aspect of the gathering is to improve research skills, with another focus on production and distribution skills, helping groups create media which is better geared toward those they are trying to reach. If you are doing a magazine aimed at your activist peers, an internal journal that assumes great prior knowledge in the reader, then great, but if you are trying to reach outside this bubble and into communities then give them something they might be likely to pick up, and get it to distribution points where they'll find it. This applies to all media - print, web and video - and it's about appraising who you are aiming it at - whether that be Europunk anarchists in three languages, or working class youths on your estate - and producing and distributing accordingly. For print this means pitching it in the right way (content, language, format and layout) and distro; for online video (beyond content and style obviously) it's about maximising the quality and availability on the web. There are tricks to improving your website's traffic, and you may as well exploit them. Again, we're not sinning at SchNEWS, because we can all fall into these traps.

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IF YOU'RE NOT PISSED OFF YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION

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M FOR MEDIA MALARKEY - PROGRAMME

FRIDAY - MAY 11TH

7pm - Welcoming shenanigans. The Cowley Club will open from 7pm, and as people come in during the evening we will sort accommodation, creche etc. **There will be hot food served from 7.30pm.**

7-10pm - Stalls and screenings - campaigns and publications will display their wares - though there will be some info-tables all weekend.

Main Room - FILM - 7-8pm - SchMOVIES - V for Video Activist. The video arm of SchNEWS will screen seven of its short campaign and direct-action films produced in the past year.

Main Room - FILM - 8-9pm - Reel News 7 - The latest eclectic worldwide round up of actions/events from the London based video magazine

SATURDAY - MAY 12TH

Main Room - 10-11am - Crystal Balls - opening blurb, forum/discussion about the role and future of alternative media. SchNEWS will describe some of the reasons why this gathering has been called, and what we hope to get from the gathering, while all will be welcome to voice opinions about their goals for the weekend.

Main Room - 11am-12pm - Radio - Pennie Quinton will talk about making Indy Global Reports for Resonance FM 104.4 and radio production in Palestine for IMEMC.org (The International Middle East Media Centre), as well as grassroots journalism in conflict zones.

Workshop Room - 11am-1pm - Photography - in depth practical workshop in photojournalism looking at use of digital cameras, photography skills, editing and preparing photos on computer and online publishing.

Main Room - 12-1pm - P for Peer2Peer - VISIONonTV talk about the beginning of the end for mainstream media, with high quality people2people TV over the web.

1-2pm - Lunch

Main Room - 2pm-4pm - Sourcery - Discussion addressing all media: what can we learn from journalistic and investigative research methods. This will be a chaired, open discussion featuring people with a range of tactics and approaches including a covert campaign-based researcher, corporate research, and journalists involved in investigative and localised research.

Workshop Room - 2.30-3.15pm - Talk and Q&A session with Ben & Becca from S2S - who made the film *Taking Liberties* - about de-tailed film/video research - how to source information, copyright, and cataloguing it.

Workshop Room - 3.15-4pm - IndyPhonics - discussing ideas for an Indymedia Audiobook Project. As well as reading and recording books published under free license, looking into ways of making the feature content of Indymedia websites possible to listen to.

Main Room - 4-5pm - Mobile Indymedia - setting up remote media hubs for an event such as the G8 protest in Scotland in 2005, or last year's Climate Camp, as well as the role of Indymedia as part of - or as a 'service provider' for - the protests.

Main Room - 5-6pm - Indymedia - a discussion of the future of

VENUE ACCOMMODATION

There will be limited accommodation at the Cowley Club itself, with other options in peoples' houses. If you need accommodation (and we hope you had already contacted us prior to arriving), please speak to us on Friday night, or when you arrive. If you live in Brighton and could put people up, please contact now as well. www.cowleyclub.org.uk

FOOD

There will be hot food for lunch, and a buffet in the evening Saturday and Sunday. There will be breakfast each morning. All food served during the weekend will be vegan. All those actively participating in the gathering will be given meal tickets, others will pay a small amount for food to cover costs.

CRECHE

There will be a creche downstairs in the back building, running Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-5.30pm. There will be giant connect-4, and other great kids stuff.

TECH SUPPORT

If you are bringing a laptop for a workshop and need it put through a projector, please see us when you arrive

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Robert Lopez

- E. Sole, Braintree.

Just take one tabloid twice a day to achieve amazing results.

Indymedia, and what some of the regional groups have planned, as well as a general discussion open to all about how Indymedia relates to other alternative media.

6pm onwards- buffet food

Main Room - FILM - 6-6.45pm - VISIONonTV - The Future of DIY TV - Some of VISIONonTV's shows plus the best and worst of internet shows from around the globe

Main Room - FILM - 6.45-8.15pm - Camcorder Guerrillas - The Scottish film collective screen two new films: *Salud Y Solidaridad (Health and Solidarity)* - Zapitista film to raise money for a Health clinic in Mexico, and *Those Left Behind* - Asylum film focussing on the traumatic effect on local residents after the forced removal of a family in Scotland

Main Room - FILM - 8.15-9pm - Revolt Video Collective - the second video compilation from the Ireland based film collective. With the current news from Rossport.

9pm - Live Music - surprise special guest pisstaking singer-songwriter.

SUNDAY - MAY 13TH

Main Room - 11am-12pm - Sex It Up - A critical look at flyers/leaflets and other print media evaluating what works best, from a design and content point of view.

SchNEWS Office - 12pm-12.30pm - Desktop Publishing (DTP) practical workshop looking at page layout, design and software

Main Room - 12-1pm - Video Outreach without YouTube - VISIONonTV show you how to encode and upload screening quality video over the web to 100,000s of people.

Workshop Room - 12pm-1pm - Setting up a community radio station, from OX4FM, an Oxford-based group who have grown out of sound systems and pirate radio in the area.

1-2pm - Lunch

Main Room - 2pm-3pm - Promoting Campaigns - activists involved in such campaigns as the Titmore Woods protest camp, Smash EDO, and others will talk about how they have generated the publicity needed to raise awareness about the issue in their local communities and beyond - including making their own media, using the usual alternative medias, as well as the mainstream.

Main Room - 3pm-3.30pm - Screening - 'Community Action' - made by residents associations in Haringey, about how ordinary people in a London borough are organising to empower their communities to improve their lives and the environment.

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Main Room - 3.30pm-4.30pm - Mobilising Communities - following on from the screening of 'Community Action' people from Haringey will talk about ways they work with in a broader community, which will follow onto an open discussion about everyone's experiences reaching outside political circles.

Main Room - 4.30-5.30pm - Closing discussion - feedback about all the sessions, and plans for the future. Is alternative media getting to enough people outside the bubble, or are we just an inhouse information service for those in the know?

5.30 onwards - buffet food

Main Room - FILM - 6-7pm Underrunners - Eco Village Pioneers - latest film about how people have come together to build their own homes, grow their own food and create their own sustainable communities

Main Room - FILM - 7-8pm - Cine Rebelde - Reclaim Power - Voices from last year's camp for climate action, in preparation for the camp this year with a talk about this year's Camp for Climate Action

Main Room - FILM - 8-9pm - Rice'N'Peas Films - Bang Bang In Da Manor - a hard hitting documentary film on gun crime in the black community, described as one of the most disturbing documentaries ever made in Britain.

Main Room - FILM - 9-10pm - rolling short film compilation

FIGHT TRUTH DECAY



SchNEWS
www.schnews.org.uk

so we can get it sorted. Just passed around, please give increase it all goes pear shaped, generously. Honest.

THIS IS DIY

This event is being cob- bled together by (not that many!) volunteers - so if you see something needing doing - eg - putting people up, helping in the kitchen, computer problems, and can help, please step forward - in the spirit of DIY.

DONATIONS

While this gathering is free to enter, it is being run by SchNEWS on a budget of zero. So when the hat is