LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST

≣ Issue I | Free Newsletter | October 2019 ♦

On Friday 20th September hundreds of students and local supporters took to the streets of Liverpool for the Earth Strike, demanding real change to confront the causes of climate change and environmental destruction. A sense of urgency and resolve flowed along streets usually reserved for shopping and commuting. It was an uplifting atmosphere, which will hopefully inspire those present to continue fighting.



But we can't be fooled into thinking that the State, and the capitalist class it represents, will abandon their own interests of endless economic growth and concentration of power, if only our protests are big and loud enough. Already we can see attempts to co-opt these protests from parties, businesses and even schools. Going beyond the limits of an A-to-B march, however, we discover countless paths of rebellion. Resistance to the fracking of shale gas at Preston New Road in Lancashire has demonstrated the many possibilities of direct action, from sabotaging drill rigs to blockading site entrances. This resistance directly confronts the oppressive power-relations at the root of both capitalist exploitation and ecological collapse.

A fundamental transformation of society, in every aspect, becomes day-by-day a growing necessity. In the words of youth strikers, if we want "system change not climate change" then there is only "one solution, a revolution". •

"I am truly free only when all human beings, men and women, are equally free. The freedom of other men, far from negating or limiting my freedom, is, on the contrary, its necessary premise and confirmation."

~ Mikhail Bakunin

DIRECT ACTION "means that the working class, in constant rebellion against the existing state of affairs, expects nothing from outside people, powers or forces, but rather creates its own conditions of struggle and looks to itself for its means of action." ~ *Emile Pouget*



Simply, direct action involves taking action for ourselves, tackling a problem directly without appealing to any authority to act on our behalf. It involves finding solutions and bringing about desired changes through our own self-organised activity. "Direct action gets the goods", the saying goes. It's effective because it cannot so easily be controlled, recuperated, or ignored. Being independent of any bureaucratic procedures or regulations, direct action can remain responsive to the needs and desires of those involved, adaptive to specific situations, and flexible to varying conditions. It is guided by our first-hand knowledge and not confined by orders from above.

Direct action might be an individual or mass phenomenom, it could be peaceful or forceful; examples include the workplace strike, rent strike, boycott, occupation, blockade, sabotage, and much more.

Through direct action we escape the confines of officially sanctioned channels for grievance and reform, such as electoralism, that are designed to defang or misdirect our potential strength. By choosing how to use our individual and collective capacity ourselves we take away from the power that corporations and governments have over us. In this way, direct action can be empowering: we learn to manage our own lives at the same time as we rediscover and assert our individuality. This kind of experience is fertile soil in which to increase our capacity for self-organisation, solidarity and free initiative. This personal and social transformation disrupts the normal functioning of hierarchies, which depend on the passivity and obedience of subordinates. Instead, we learn to combine our efforts – to organise freely – without submitting to any authority. •

What is Next to Nowhere?

Next to Nowhere is a do-it-yourself space used for meetings and events run on a voluntary basis. The space can be used for free (although donations are very much appreciated!) for any event whether it's a meeting, workshop, film screening or to cook up a communal meal. Obviously hierarchical groups, like businesses or parties, are excluded and the space is also vegan so animal products cannot be cooked there, though non-vegans are of course welcome to use the space like anybody else. Most Saturdays the centre opens as a vegan cafe, run by volunteers, which always serves lovely food, yet again only taking donations. The space also has free Wifi and a radical library which includes lots of books and zines on topics ranging from anarchism and feminism, to ecology and education.

This social centre can be found on Bold Street just next to the News from Nowhere bookshop. If you just ring the white doorbell on the red door next to the shop, it's honestly simpler than it sounds, somebody will let you in to this lovely little enclave of resistance! •





As the bureaucratic cruelty of Universal Credit continues to grind down the poorest among us, a striking message of defiance has been emblazoned on the walls of the job centre in Bootle.

Hunt Sabs vs. the Badger Cull

Liverpool Hunt Sabs are a grassroots, direct action based group of activists who are currently occupied out in the fields of Cheshire, fighting against the inhumane and unscientific Badger Cull. Since 2013, every september we've been monitoring badger setts and taking action against those involved in the cull.

The Badger Cull was introduced as an annual 6 week method of combatting Bovine TB, as it is believed that badgers are to blame for the spread of the disease. However, on top of badgers being a rough scapegoat at best, we all know that culling is never the answer. It fails completely to reduce the spread of TB and always ends with the killing of thousands of innocent animals.

Unfortunately, parliamentary politics has fallen short in resolving this issue, so we believe that if we want to see real change we have to take action. Sabotaging the cull mainly involves: sett surveying, that is, learning and understanding the area of and around the badger setts; confronting shooters, as they can't shoot the badgers if there's people in the way; and dealing with traps and bait, by letting the local pixies know of their whereabouts of course!

These are just the basics though, there is far more that goes into fighting the cull, and in doing so we need all the help we can get! If you'd like to help us by donating, visit ko-fi.com/liverpoolhuntsabs or if you want to get involved yourself, please send us a message on facebook and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in the field. With your help, we can win this fight and save their lives!

Human Rights, Animal Rights
One Struggle, One Fight!

EVENTS THIS OCTOBER

4th - "Scrap Universal Credit" protest outside Bootle Job Centre at 1pm organised by the Solidarity Federation.

5th - "A Short Introduction to Anarchist Communism and the Anarchist Federation" from 2pm, at Next to Nowhere, Bold Street.

6th - Workplace Organiser Training by the Solidairty Federation from 10.30 to 18.00 at the Croissant of Inequality, Holt Road.

17th - "What is meant by neo-liberalism?" by the socialist study group from 6pm at the Unite Building, 2 Churchill Way. Email study4socialism@outlook.com for more details.

19th - Animal Testing Protest during Liverpool University Student Open Day from 9:00 to 15.30 at University Square, organised by Merseyside Animal Rights Campaigns and TTAR.

29th - "Introduction to SolFed and Anarcho-syndicalism" at the Black-E from 18.30.

LOCAL GROUPS

- **Food not Bombs** meet every Tuesday at Next to Nowhere from 4pm
- **Hunt Saboteurs** at lpoolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk or Facebook @LiverpoolHuntSabs
- **Louder than Proud** [queer collective] at louderthanproud@protonmail.com
- **Merseyside Anti-Fascist Network** on Facebook @MerseyAFN
- **Merseyside Animal Rights Campaigns** on Facebook @MARcampaigns
- **Solidarity Federation** [anarcho-syndicalist initiative] at liverpoolsolfed@gmail.com



The next issue of *"Liverpool Anarchist"* will hopefully be produced for November. We welcome all submissions in line with the following principles:

- *Anti-State*
- *Anti-Capitalist*
- *Intersectional*

Our focus is on local organising and direct action, but more theoretical articles are okay if they are brief and not overly academic.

Send in submissions to:

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