



# The Loombreaker

www.loombreaker.org.uk

No. 29 ♦ July 2002 ♦ Free

## Stop E\$\$\$O (or bust)

Saturday 18 May marked the 2nd National Day of Action Against Esso during which over 400 petrol stations were targeted across the country. Campaigners and their friends in Greater Manchester, under the Stop Esso banner, picketed virtually every station in the area with placards, leaflets, stickers and even a few dancing tigers, to get the message out to the public.

Esso have been labelled the “Number 1 Global Warming Villain” by environmental organisations, businesses and the public alike, for their unquestionable role in President Bush’s decision to pull out of the Kyoto Protocol. Their corporate campaigns undermine climate science and they still refuse to invest in renewable energy sources preferring instead to push ahead with oil exploration and extraction in more and more fragile parts of the planet.

Despite the best efforts of campaigners, Esso have continued with their dirty tricks in their mission to sabotage global action on climate change. In

February this year Exxon released a secret memo to the Whitehouse calling for the removal of Bob Watson as head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change along with other “progressive” officials. The memo criticises Watson for speaking out about the dangers of climate change. Esso are also suing Greenpeace for the use of dollar signs in the Stop E\$\$\$O campaign. They claim the Goth-scripted ‘\$’s look like the symbol for the Waffen SS, and are concerned about being taken for a bunch of Nazi’s.... See [www.stopesso.com](http://www.stopesso.com)

Contact Manchester Stop Esso: 0161 834 8221, [laurenglitter@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenglitter@hotmail.com)

### UN-Corporated

On August 31st there will be a global day of action against a Corporate United Nations. Corporations like Esso have spent millions greenwashing their own images. Now they will be lobbying for business as usual at the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (Rio+10), ruling out realistic strategies for averting ecological and social disintegration.

Contact [uncorp@aseed.antenna.nl](mailto:uncorp@aseed.antenna.nl) or see [www.aseed.net](http://www.aseed.net)

(With thanks to Networking Newsletter)



## Freedom Summer in Palestine

Manchester activists and other internationals have joined with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in the West Bank for a six week ‘Freedom Summer in Palestine’. The aim of the ISM is to find a means of reconciliation between Arabs and Israelis in the region and to challenge the military occupation through non-violent direct action. Recently the Israeli army reoccupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and there are reports of shelling, curfews, house-to-house searches and mass arrests of Palestinian men aged 15-50.

In Manchester a slightly disappointing turnout on the June 15th demonstration in support of the Palestinians could have been due to the unfortunate clash with the England/Denmark match in the World Cup. However,



what was fantastic to see was the diversity of people, of all ages, colours, religions and backgrounds, marching together in solidarity with people of Palestine. One of the young muslim men on the march had a Palestine flag, with a little St. George’s Cross flying above it, which I’m sure confused some of the footie fans who came out of pubs on the route to check out the commotion. Much chanting and drumming made sure the demo was

noisy and vibrant, though as usual with things in support of Palestine, it failed to get much media coverage. The majority of marchers took part in a short sit-down on Deansgate, as a speaker from the ISM (who had taken direct action inside Palestine) explained why they felt that taking things this one step further by engaging in civil disobedience such as sit downs, was an important thing to do.

If you couldn’t make the march, then there’s always the picket of Marks & Spencer (who sell Israeli goods and have connections with the Israeli state) on Cross St. every Saturday 12-2pm

More info from [www.rapprochement.org](http://www.rapprochement.org), [www.palestinecampaign.org](http://www.palestinecampaign.org), [www.boycottisreal.co.uk](http://www.boycottisreal.co.uk)

**The Loombreaker is Manchester’s monthly direct action round-up. Inside this issue:**

♦ stuff the monarchy ♦ footie fans sue the pigs ♦ du action ♦ colin davies back inside ♦ commonwhat games?

## US to Bomb Scotland

US warships will be joining others from the UK and Europe in early July to take part in live firing at the Cape Wrath ranges, including include the Clo Mor Cliffs, the highest cliffs in Britain which are home to thousands of sea birds. The US Navy have been stopped from using ranges in Puerto Rico after protests following the accidental bombing (and death) of several locals and the discovery that they were using depleted uranium.

A peace camp is set up for the duration of the exercise and local people are considering various ideas for disrupting it.

Transport will be running from Glasgow. Call 01436 820901 or email [faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com](mailto:faslanepeacecamp@hotmail.com) for more details. See [www.banthebomb.org](http://www.banthebomb.org)

## Never Mind the Jubilee

We all love a party now, don't we? So what better reason to hang out your bunting, play some funking music and cane shed loads of drugs than to toast one of the world's most celebrated parasites.

The only decent idea the royals could claim credit for is the street party, which has been put to inspired use by reclaim the streets and the anti-capitalist movement. So it was good to hear over the weekend that a few scoundrels in Chorlton decided to 'stuff the monarchy', while in Hulme black and pink bunting decorated an outdoor sound system bash and a punks pic-nic was had by the arch. There was also a republican shindig in Hebden Bridge and no doubt a few more in the Manchester area.

Down south in Somerset thousands of party-goers spent the weekend celebrating the ten year anniversary of Castlemorton free festival in spite of a determined police operation to stop

the party happening. Clearly unauthorised parties with union jacks absent pose some kind of threat to public order, as did some forty odd pub goers in

London, who had turned out for an 'Execute the Queen' street party by Tower Bridge. Seeing the numbers were low and police presence high, they had decided to sack it off and go for a pint, only to be followed in by hyperventilating filth, who arrested them to 'prevent a breach of the peace' and then carted them around for hours in a double decker bus. God Save the Queen!

[www.fuckthejubilee.com](http://www.fuckthejubilee.com)

## CADU Action Against Depleted Uranium

Activists from the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU) took action last month at British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) and Urenco sites in the North West. The action was part of an International Day of Action against depleted uranium (DU), which is a waste product of the nuclear



industry which is recycled into deadly weapons. At BNFL HQ in Risley, two activists managed to get into the building before security locked the doors, leaving others to leaflet outside. The two insisted on speaking with someone about BNFL's involvement with DU, and did manage to get answers to some of our questions. CADU then went to the uranium enrichment plant at Capenhurst in Cheshire, a joint operation by BNFL and Urenco, and where DU is produced and stored. Police were already expecting the action, and we were prevented from doing a 'citizens inspection' to look at how the DU is stored. However, we did leaflet about 300 workers, and no-one could fail to see our banner reading "DU indiscriminately Kills".

More information from [www.cadu.org.uk](http://www.cadu.org.uk), 0161 273 8293

## Mark Barnsley and Satpal Ram Freed

"After my release the need to keep up pressure on the establishment will not change, the campaign will be as important as ever... freedom (such as it is) without justice does not have a sweet taste..." Mark Barnsley

Eight years on from the Pomona incident, framed anarchist Mark Barnsley has finally been released on June 24th (see Loombreaker's 16 & 17). Mark is still working to overturn his conviction for assault, which he received after being attacked by a gang of drunken students. To help him out a release fund has been set up. You can send donations to Mark Barnsley Release Fund", Sumac Centre, Box CC, 73 Beech Avenue, Nottingham, NG7 7LR. See [www.freemarkbarnsley.com](http://www.freemarkbarnsley.com)

Also released after 15 years in prison is Satpal Ram who was given a life sentence after defending himself against a racist attack. Like Mark, Satpal is still fighting to clear his name. See [www.appleonline.net/satpal/](http://www.appleonline.net/satpal/)

## Prisoner Support

Wayne Heaton, an anti-fascist activist, has been sentenced to 18 months for violent disorder during the Burnley riots last summer. Wayne, who grew up in Burnley, was none too happy seeing the growth of support for the BNP in his home town. So when the police defended the BNP, Wayne like many locals stood up and fought. He'd love letters of support.

Wayne Heaton - GK 7292, Wing G18, H.M. Prison, 2 Ribblesstone Lane, Preston PR1 5AB.

For general information about political prisoners see [www.brightonabc.org.uk](http://www.brightonabc.org.uk)

## CND Picket Military Tattoo

The 'biggest ever' military tattoo came to the Manchester Arena last month, and CND and Pax Christi were there to make sure that it didn't get a warm welcome. The leaflet advertising the event showed just how much stuff like this glorifies war and killing, and we wanted to point out that if we didn't spend so much on the 'defence' budget (actually more like an 'attack' budget) we could be spending it on things like schools and hospitals. Anyway, we reckon the people of Manchester worked this out already, as the Friday tattoo was cancelled, and we didn't see more than a few hundred people going into the arena for the matinee on Saturday. Let's hope poor sales mean they stop this stupid parade of violence in the future.

CND 0161 273 8283

## Benny Rothman

"I may be a wage slave on Monday, but I am a free man on Sunday..."

At the end of April there was a day of music, song and walks on Kinder Scout, to mark the 70th anniversary of a nearby mass trespass, and in memory of Benny Rothman, who died earlier this year. A local trade unionist and committed anti-fascist, he helped organise this direct action.

In spite of the opposition of the official Ramblers Federations, the Kinder Trespass was a response to the lack of action on access to open countryside, on an area which had previously been common land and against a backdrop of working class people wanting to escape from cramped living and working conditions to the countryside.

At the time, there were no national parks, and no official maps of rights of way. Benny Rothman was also involved in disrupting many meetings in Manchester of Moseley's British Union of Fascists.





## Colin Davies Busted Yet Again

As the Loombreaker goes to press we hear that only weeks after being released our local cannabis tooting hero Colin Davies has been busted once again, apparently for breach of bail conditions. Colin was released on bail in May after spending more than six months locked up awaiting trial. After setting up the Dutch Experience cannabis cafe in Stockport Colin was arrested for possession and intent to supply. He was originally refused bail after stating that he would continue to supply marijuana to people with medical needs. Colin's trial date has also been put back, once again, and he is now due to appear in court with four others on the 9th September.



You can find the Dutch Experience at Hooper St, Stockport, GTR Manchester, or head for Stockport town centre and ask someone for the pot cafe.

t: 0161 480 5902 or see [www.dutchexperience.org](http://www.dutchexperience.org)

## Earth First! Summer Gathering

Since 1992, the Earth First! Summer Gathering has been a space for everyone involved or interested in ecological direct action to come together, learn new skills and discuss ideas and plans for action. This year's gathering is being held on a beautiful site on Dartmoor from 10-14th July. We are a diverse community with a wide range of approaches to our action and so there should be plenty to interest and inspire you whether you have been active for years or are completely new to it all.

There will be over 100 workshops, focussed on sharing skills and ideas, planning campaigns and networking for all aspects of ecological resistance. Also, national and international campaigns round-ups - find out what groups around the country and further afield are up to. Other, more relaxed and fun activities, such as rock-climbing, nature walks and games, and a range of evening entertainments to suit all tastes! (Although sorry no sound systems etc.)

On the site there will be a reception, a reading library of anarchist and radical ecological books, a quiet sleeping area, compost toilets, spaces for spontaneous workshops and discussions, women's & men's spaces and camping areas, and a stall selling books and pamphlets. Camping only - come equipped, the cost is £10, and vehicles (and dogs) must be booked in advance.

[www.eco-action.org/gathering](http://www.eco-action.org/gathering) or 07810 117047 for details; for transport from Manchester, call EF! on 0161 226 6814

## No Borders Camp

From July 19-28th Strasbourg will be the scene of the first Europe-wide no border camp. The camp aims at bringing together activists, migrants and artists from across Europe in a laboratory of creative resistance. Strasbourg was chosen as it is home to the central headquarters of the Schengen Information System, a computer database which holds detailed information on immigrants, people with criminal convictions and political activists. See [www.noborder.org](http://www.noborder.org), [www.dsec.info](http://www.dsec.info)

## Stop the Crop!

*In a field in Cheshire, not far from Lymm, genetically modified maize is growing. Fortunately so too is the opposition to the mutant crop. Farmer William Blackburn ignored the concerns of more than 200 local people who signed petitions urging him not to sow the maize. But now it is in the ground even more people are becoming aware of the dangers and are eager to do something about it.*

*Campaigners say they will do whatever they can to ensure that Cheshire will have a GM free future. On July 20th there will be a public rally at 12.30pm in Lymm Village Hall. (a creche will be available for children) At 2pm coaches will take people to the field. Transport is also available from Manchester, please call for details. To book transport from Manchester or to get involved in the campaign call 07759 031 931.*

[www.communicate.co.uk/chesh/makingcheshiregmfree](http://www.communicate.co.uk/chesh/makingcheshiregmfree)

## Gangstop

On June 1 approximately 300 people marched through Longsight and Moss Side making a stand against gang violence in these areas. While attendants assembled in Whitworth Park local MP's and Councillors emphasized the necessity to establish more community spirit. Members of the concerned communities though - unsurprisingly - turned their back to hollow statements and expressed the wish for different role models and employment for youth involved in gang crime.

The protest was organised by the two organisations, Gangstop and Mothers against Violence (MaV). Gangstop demands resources from the government for community action and education, leisure and employment. MaV is a community-based support group for mothers and relatives of victims of crime.

For more info call the West Indian Community Centre 0161 226 7236

## Thugs in Uniform

After nearly four years Newcastle and Sheffield United football fans, including a retired police inspector, are to be compensated for the horrific attack on them by members of Greater Manchester police in a pub near the city's Piccadilly station after a Wothington Cup semi-final match in 1998. Baton-wielding GMP officers invaded the pub and laid about them causing widespread injury and distress. After a prolonged legal action, the force has accepted responsibility and agreed to pay compensation of between £10,000 and £15,000 per fan. Russell Grayson, 55, an officer with Northumbria police for 30 years, labelled his attackers "thugs in uniform".

In a grovelling statement, GMP said: "We do not tolerate the type of despicable behaviour in evidence on this occasion." So what is to happen to the offending officers? Nothing. Somehow the hawk-eyed detectives of Manchester CID have been unable to identify a single officer responsible for this attack. "We sincerely regret," the statement continued, "that those responsible for this incident have not been identified. (Reprinted from Private Eye).

## Not this Time



A unique film highlighting the dangers of increasing casualisation in the workplace will be screening in Manchester on 24th July (see diary). The film Not This Time - The Story of the Simon Jones memorial Campaign chronicles the death of Simon Jones on his first day as a casual worker - and the fightback, involving direct action against government agencies and departments, that forced a prosecution of those responsible for Simon's death.

The 25 minute film is also available for £5, including postage. Write to Simon Jones Memorial Campaign, PO Box 2,600, Brighton BN2 2DX. See [www.simonjones.org.uk](http://www.simonjones.org.uk)

## Posh Cars Get Torched

*Someone struck back against the rich last month, when 25 luxury cars were wrecked by a fire. Porsches, Mercedes, BMWs and Audis were among the cars that went up in flames, and while the report in Manchester online said it may have been an accident, police are treating it as 'suspicious'. The cars were on a private car park a mile from Manchester Airport, and loombreaker would love to see the smug look wiped off their faces when they get back from their business trips or exotic holidays. One firefighter put the damage at about half-a-million pounds - "There were certainly no old bangers in there", he said.*

## DIARY

### August

#### 10-11 Eden Festival

Arrowe Park, Wirral FREE "Indie/Rock festival with an environmental theme, a northern Glastonbury."

[cheryl.buxton@btinternet.com](mailto:cheryl.buxton@btinternet.com), [www.wga.merseyside.org](http://www.wga.merseyside.org)

### July

#### 27 National Demo Against Huntingdon Life Sciences

Meet Parkers Piece, Cambridge - Make it Happen! Make it Massive! [www.shac.net/](http://www.shac.net/)

#### 27 Northern Anarchist Network

10:30 - 5:30. Salem Community Centre, Salem St., Hebden Bridge. 0161 707 9652

#### 24-28 The Big Green Gathering

01932 229911 [jean@gfutures.demon.co.uk](mailto:jean@gfutures.demon.co.uk) [www.big-green-gathering.com/](http://www.big-green-gathering.com/)

#### 20-27 Blitz Festival

A radical political arts festival in Manchester. See article. [tacticalart@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tacticalart@yahoo.co.uk)

#### 24 Not This Time

Film screening, 8.30pm, Hare & Hounds, Shude Hill. (see article)

#### 20 GM Crop Rally (See article)

#### 19-21 Festival at the Edge

Stoke Barns, Much Wenlock, Shropshire. Storytelling festival. £35 including camping.

[www.festivalattheedge.org](http://www.festivalattheedge.org)

#### 10-13Aug Celtic Safari

A four-week politically active bicycle tour in Britain.

[btour2002@yahoo.com](mailto:btour2002@yahoo.com), [www.thebiketour.net](http://www.thebiketour.net)

## Blitz Festival...

An international arts event designed to provoke and inspire.

The artistic underground conspire to show that there is more to Manchester than meets the officially sanctioned eye. In midsummer of this year, the 20th-27th of July, a radical political arts festival will be held in Manchester, timed to coincide with the opening celebrations of the Commonwealth Games.

participants include...Seth Tobocman,, Polyp, Surveillance Camera Players, Alan Lodge, Nick Cobbing, Spacehijackers, Gee Voucher (Crass) and many more.....  
www.nato.uk.net



For more info contact tacticalarts@yahoo.co.uk

## SKATE ATTACK and Critical Mass!

Skateboarding in Manchester city centre is banned, cycling in Manchester is dangerous and not particularly pleasant! On Saturday July 27th skaters and cyclists are invited to take part in simultaneous reclaiming of space and celebration of cycling and skating.. Meet 1pm in St Peters Square by the Central Library, anyone with wheels, without an engine is welcome to join in. Help is needed with publicity. For more info or to get involved call 07763740453

## Free the Miami Five

Five Cuban men, Rene Gonzalez Schwerert, Ramon Labanino Salazar, Fernando Gonzalez Llort, Antonio Guerrero Rodriguez, and Gerardo Hernandez Nordelo were convicted June 2001, and face possible life sentences in U.S. federal prison, for defending their country of Cuba from terrorists based in Miami. They spent 17 months in solitary confinement. After conviction, they were placed into Security Housing Units in total isolation, where they remain.

The five were convicted after a politically-charged trial, in which the U.S. government claimed they were engaging in espionage against U.S. military bases and threatening "national security." The five maintain in their defense that they were strictly involved in monitoring the actions of the Miami-based right-wing groups.

Paul McKenna, the 'Miami Five' Lawyer will be talking about them on Wednesday 10th July, in the UNISON Offices, 3-5 St. John Street (off Deansgate), Manchester. Meeting will start at 7.30pm.

## Commonpoverty

*So after much anticipation and hype the Commonwealth Games are upon us, and Manchester is ready for a fest of sport and mass consumption. But more than that, the Commonwealth Games are being used to launch a new Corporate Manchester - a posh apartment playground for coke-sniffing yuppies, where the rich are welcome and the poor forgotten.*

*The cost of the games are astronomical - the stadium alone accounts for a cool £120 million - but you won't hear too much about £80m of public money the council has committed to paying, in spite of the £138m received from the national lottery. Manchester City FC will be just paying for running costs of the new stadium when they move in. Corporate sponsors have failed to put up the cash, yet they will still be using the games to push their dodgy products. The council received a paltry £2m for the sale of the Free Trade Hall in order to cover costs, and they have been making cuts elsewhere. So if your wandering why there are cutbacks in schools and housing, or where your local swimming pools and other public amenities have all gone when your council rents and tax are rising, there's not much need to look any further really.*

*At 2.30pm in Albert Square, Manchester on Saturday July 20th there will be an event in which the citizens of Manchester are encouraged to actively participate in open and democratic discussion and debate about Manchester's 2002 Commonwealth Games. For more info contact manchesterpeople@aol.com*

*No Sweat is a group which aims to raise awareness of the sweatshop labour used in many sports products. Commonwealth Games merchandise, as well as many of the sports labels (e.g. Nike) advertised by athletes, are made under horrific conditions by workers in the developing world who are paid a pittance. Building up to the Commonwealth Games, No Sweat will be out every week, starting on June 29th, picketing firms that benefit from sweatshop conditions.*

*More details from manchester@nosweat.org*

## International Roundup

\* In June hundreds of thousands turned out in Seville against the European Summit. Police controls were heavy, with many people receiving multiple id checks. The protests were supported by a general strike throughout Spain against welfare cuts..

\* In Canada thousands of anti-capitalist demonstrators snake-marched their way around several cities as G8 leaders took refuge in the wilds. Security costs for this years summit are estimated at \$300,000 million, and equipment included anti-aircraft tanks. 4,500 soldiers worked along side police from across Canada.

\* In Italy police have been accused of fabricating evidence against anti-capitalist protesters at last year's G8 summit in Genoa by planting petrol bombs at the Diaz School, scene of the notorious raid by Rome's Mobile Patrol Unit that left over sixty people in hospital.

\* After days of massive protests in six cities,



The Loombreakers were Lancashire weavers who, in 1826, smashed the machines that were destroying their livelihoods and communities. The Loombreaker comes from the Free Information Network tradition, spreading news the mainstream media won't print.

Pick it up **FREE** from:

- 8th Day Cafe**, Oxford Road & Old Birley Street
- Bridge 5 Mill**, Beswick St., Ancoats
- Café Pop**, Oldham Street, Piccadilly
- Mistys Café**, Longsight District Centre, Stockport Road
- Pankhurst Centre**, Nelson Road
- Unicorn Grocery**, 89 Albany Road, Chorlton
- Top Cafe**, Afflecks Palace, Oldham St
- Vanilla**, Sackville St
- Withington Wholefoods**, Wilmslow Road

If you live outside Manchester, send us a stamp for each issue you want. Prisoners and local action camps get it free - just send us your address.

Please send your information for action, contributions, comments cartoons & photos, offers of distribution help, or donations (cheques payable to Manchester EF!) to:

### The Loombreaker

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the Peruvian government has suspended the privatisation of two power plants. The governments initial decision to go back on election pledges and sell the two state-owned companies sparked protests that led to \$100 million of damage to infrastructure including one airport being attacked and all flights grounded. Two people were killed and more than 140 injured when a "state of emergency" was declared and 5,000 soldiers sent to repress the popular protests.

\* The US army has refused to apologise for an attack against a wedding banquet in Afghanistan in late June that left 30 people dead. They claim pilots were responding to a 'sustained attack'

\* And Brasil may have won the world cup, but will that be enough to prevent the country from defaulting on debt repayments and eventually erupting into an Argentina style uprising as the economy collapses? Possibly not...

Bypass the corporate media. Check out some of these: [www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk), [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org), [www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk), [www.ainfos.ca](http://www.ainfos.ca)