



Resist Now #3: Land ownership

SHH, IT'S JANUARY – EVERYONE'S ASLEEP!
JANUARY 2008
SEND STUFF TO
RUPTURE@HEADFUK.NET

“In one sentence, for the whole of history all the land of the planet has been owned by 1% or less of the planet’s population [...] 99% of the race never owned anything and 98% probably died in poverty, died violently and died prematurely because of lack of land and that’s why land is so critical” – Kevin Cahill, author of ‘Who Owns Britain’ and ‘Who Owns the World’.

Access to land provides an opportunity to be self-sufficient and land held as a commons encourages us to look after our birthrights and heritage.

The last 1000 years in Britain has seen land rights (such as they were) being taken away. When William the Conqueror invaded and settled in 1066 he paid his army chiefs in land. Since then legislation has gradually taken away common land and determined access and use for rich landowners. Parliament was formed by land-owners to protect their interests, and the police force to maintain a buffer between land and property owners and the disenfranchised mass population.

“[Today] around 75% of Britain is owned by a mere 1% of its people. In

Scotland just 600 people own half the country. Most people in Britain – and throughout the world – have no access to the ownership of land and no real say in how their communities are shaped and run. When people demand that land be saved from destructive ‘developments’ or that empty properties be used (what mad extremism!) to house homeless families they come up against the law, the police, the bailiffs and all the other servants of big business” (SchNEWS)

Under the present system of sovereignty in this country we can’t own land as such because the Queen owns it all, we are merely tenants. The best we can hope for are freehold leases – or better still a revolution.

The Land Registry (of England and Wales), which squatters can use to look-up property owners, lists all domestic leaseholders. Forget the Domesday Book (1086) for the first time a supposedly complete land registry was taken, in 1872, what emerged was that 95% of the British population didn’t own any land at all. Just over 100 years later we find that 70% of the population own land in the form of

their own (mainly mortgaged) homes.

However, the owners of half of the country have their names deliberately concealed – handy, given that they pay no land taxes and receive vast tax-free subsidies. 41,000 millionaires receive in total between £1 billion and £2 billion from the public purse each year to support their currently unproductive assets. Those 41,000 are that 27% of the 147,000 families who own, as opposed to rent, about 70% of the UK land mass; who have assets in excess of 340 acres each. Most of them receive money from public funds by way of the Common Agricultural Programme, DEFRA subsidies and other tax derived sources totalling about £4 billion each year.

At a rough estimate, the government makes around £3 billion a year on stamp duty (taxes from the sale of property). In addition the economy is ‘invigorated’ by borrowing on land as capital, and banks using mortgage debts as a ‘sub-currency’ of I.O.U.s.

The population density of the UK is roughly 1 person per acre. Most of us
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Call for articles...

...for zines to be distributed on the days of international solidarity actions for autonomous spaces, 11-12th April 2008.

We are gathering articles written by individuals/collectives of autonomous projects. The articles will be uploaded and translated on the homepage of the april2008 project. There people can select, download and compile them into their own DIY newspapers or zines.

Some practicalities... Send the articles in plain text format (preferably not pdf format). Send your articles to: april2008-zine@squat.net

The deadline is mid-February to give people enough time to produce and

distribute the zines during the action days. You can write in your mother tongue and in other secondary languages.

Translations will and can be made on the wiki of the homepage. We would like people to help translating to have as many translations of each article as possible.

If you send photos: high-quality jpegs (high resolution) then please don’t send too many at a time.

We hope to see a diversity of articles. One aim is to include other places than the ones who usually get the attention. We would like it if you try to be critical to your own squats.

Some questions which we hope will interest you as much as they interest us:

How do you feel that things have changed lately? How are times changing and effecting your project? How is it

connected to social movements? History of squatting in your region; everything from housing, local community, national politics, to the EU; everything from houses, wagenburgs, to land squatting.

If you want to make a fanzine download the articles you like, make it in whatever style you like and when you’ve finished your april2008 newspaper, you can (scan and) e-mail it back to us, so that we can upload it for others to see, to print and to spread.

If you want to publicly announce your planned actions for april2008 send it to us ‘cause we will put together an agenda to be spread around the internet and to download as printable pdf. Write ‘AGENDA’ in the subject box.
APRIL2008.SQUAT.NET



I grew up in the countryside. There it was difficult to disappear, there was always someone asking after you, even if they didn't much care what the answer was. Eventually I found The City. Maybe it found me. The moment I arrived I could feel the greyness sinking into my bones; I could smell the apathy in the air. It almost felt like home.

Jack Ruby, Mark Chapman, the 9/11 bombers – those are my heroes, men on a mission. Courageous people, humans willing to die for what they believed in: religion, fame or vengeance – it didn't matter, they had faith, they had valour. I'm not like them, I'm a coward, a zero. I couldn't even die for myself let alone anyone else. I have tried – I've hung a noose around my neck, balanced a radio above a bath, I've perched on Suicide Bridge and imagined the fall a thousand times. I have held a knife to my wrist for so long that I fell asleep. I have stood and watched tube-train after tube-train rush past until they closed the station and I had to walk home. You need to be inspired to kill yourself. I haven't got the motivational skills needed to be inspired; my teachers

always told me that. I guess they were right.

I've been addicted to crack, cocaine, smack, opium, codeine, morphine, ketamine, Polish battle speed and your more bog standard Dutch base. I have been hooked on LSD, valium, and most things you can get on prescription in your local Boots. I have taken them all at once and one at a time. None of it helps for more than momentary relief. A temporary burn out. A kiss from 0. Life just comes back at you twice as fast, twice as brutal, twice as wicked. Joker's say that it fills the void, that drugs are for the bored. I'm not bored, I'm disenfranchised. Boredom is for people who were interested and have since become disinterested. People who have loved and lost. I don't know what love is. The concept is outdated. Love is a front. Why can't people be honest? I need a replacement mum, I need your large financial income to fund my clothes addiction, I need to stick my dick.

I haven't energy for anything. I sit for days awash in my own bodily fluids. Occasionally I blink. Then all of a sudden, I get the fear; an unstoppable urge that can only be tempered by satisfying my hunger. Then I must make a trip to the bins and rummage for something, however small, to keep the devil at bay.

Sometimes I fantasise. A dream of

springing headlong out of ignominy. Creating a scene, doing something that makes people stare, if only for a second. This isn't me. I am not a woman to be written about, I would much prefer to be forgotten.

I walk the streets; we have a mutual degree of respect. I hate it. It just hates. I try and talk to people but their voices seem distant and garbled. Perhaps I hear, but I certainly gave up listening a long time ago.

As the days go by it's harder and harder to get anyone to acknowledge me. I am gradually turning myself down. My signal will soon become noise.

Everything is false. I look around me and reality seems paper-thin. It's all a set, all these objects props, all these people players. Today I awoke in a comic strip; nothing existed outside a 2-dimensional rendering. Tomorrow, there will be nothing beside a badly drawn child's drawing. Soon it will cease to be completely. A wry smile passes my lips.

My outlook had now gone beyond an extreme form of skepticism; it is not just a total rejection of all established laws and institutions. This I tell you is mind over matter. This is the whimper not the bang. Denial of all existence. The eternal circle. There is nothing. I fade slowly to white.

Continued from the front page...

live in urban areas ('4.2 million acres out of 60 million' – Cahill). The tidal wave of Inclosure [Enclosure] Acts legislated by parliament between 1750 and 1860 confirmed the removal of rights of access and use to commons previously enjoyed by anyone, and enabled land to be titled to a single owner. This theft pure and simple resulted in many people moving to the cities just in time to be exploited by the 'Industrial Revolution', and to land being used for cash crops (ie. not for self-sufficiency). Nowadays the 'countryside' is only sparsely inhabited but the land is intensively factory farmed with precious little 'free space' or common land.

The archaic planning regulations in this country militate against change. To move onto land without buildings and remain undercover by disappearing is unlikely, with changes noted by anti-hippy landowners and helicopter hi-res pictures seeing to that. Many have tried to build low impact structures, move on vehicles, portacabins, yurts etc, and faced the wrath of council planning departments and their legal minions keeping the peace and status quo intact.

In the ongoing rites of power and control, at the other end of the scale the

The Land Issue 4, Winter 2007-8 is out now. To get an introductory copy send £2 in cash or stamps to: The Land, The Potato Store, Flaxdrayton Farm, S. Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5LR
In this issue: Editorial on The Rising Cost of Housing and of Land; Squatting and land titling; Farming; Planning Policy; Appeals; News; Book reviews; Announcements.

mega powerful home-building companies and their agents who sit on local councils rarely face such problems.

In Devon, one group of people who collectively bought land, recently won a planning victory that could set an important precedent. Having moved onto their land after a year into benders etc, and built a barn and other small structures, they were rumbled by unsympathetic locals and reported to the local council. With no planning permission an enquiry followed. The group put forward extensive material showing their carbon footprint and long-term sustainability plans, pointing out that we all have to become much more low impact in how we live. The enquiry

found in their favour, granting temporary planning permission for 3 years, with further consultation to follow.

Perhaps all talk of institutions and legislation is slightly misleading, as only the removal of such power structures will move us all into a fairer and genuinely equal world.

Meanwhile, the hunting season is in full swing. Class privilege and land ownership meet institutional fascism in typical murderous fashion: "Hunts in the UK have been getting more and more blatant as they continue to hunt foxes, hares and deer and are reacting with their traditional reasoned defence (violence, theft and having the police look the other way) when challenged. We've tried using cameras and hoping the police would be interested, but they ain't, so it's time to get back to what we know works..." – Hunt Saboteurs Association.

Land ownership is by no means the whole story. Even supposing you can manage to acquire land or the use thereof, that's no protection from chemical pollution run-off from neighbouring farmers or in the air. If who owns the land is the first question, the next must be what it is used for.

Next month... FOOD

MUSIC REVIEWS

RAoul Sinier – Huge Samurai Radish [Ad Noiseam]

What a pleasant discovery it was coming across Monsieur Sinier's work. With synth tones reminiscent of El-P and Daedelus and sketchy beats ala Prefuse 73, this run-up to a new album is the kind of hip-hop electronica which is ticking my boxes at the moment.

edIT – Certified Air Raid Material [Alpha Pup Records]

The new album for US producer edIT (not our wonky one) has mastered the art of freaked-out broken hip-hop beats which hit hard. Distorted organs and stabs punctuating loud fragmented beats are the order of the day. The excellent production means it keeps a dancefloor edge, which is helped along by guest vocalists on a few tracks.

Forbidden Society & DJ Hidden/ Slacknote – Consumed [Hardline]

Fans of the snares-on-triplets headbanging darkside d'n'b featured at nights like Therapy Sessions would do well to track this down. The FS and Hidden track is

for those who've been converted over from metal-moshing because of exactly these kinds of sounds; tightly repeating percussion and obligatory yelling vocal-stabs. The flip is more rolling but with violent drops to give it a filthy edge.

Ital Tek – Deep Pools [Square Records]

After his majestic Blood Line release I have to say I was expecting a lot more from this latest offering. That's not to say it isn't good but it's a bit soppy really. I suppose it's nice if you like to listen to 'chill out' music or something.

FILM REVIEW

No Country For Old Men [Coen Brothers, 2008]

Just when you thought the consistently brilliant fraternal writer/director partnership, who have turned their hand at practically every cinematic genre, was going to the dogs comes a master-stroke. That's not to say that they can't do a good lightweight comedy but their last two films, Intolerable Cruelty and a remake of The Ladykillers which were examples of that genre, were stretching

their reputation thin. Anyway, scrap any memory of those two films as this is a return to form, in the vein of their debut Blood Simple and elements which ran through classics like Fargo.

Here, a simple bloke living on a Texan prairie stumbles across a bungled drugs deal where everyone is dead or dying, but are also leaving a shedload of drugs and cash in their wake. Aware of the possible danger involved, but unable to ignore this find, he returns later that night to pinch it for himself. However, trouble immediately finds him and his quest to keep the loot, but avoid being plugged by various nefarious characters, makes up the rest of the film.

The mood is tense and bleak, the acting and delivery is typically first-rate (these boys know how to get the best performances you will ever see from some actors) – you can't help but feel assured of quality film-making from the Coen's once again.

This film is out in cinemas from 18 Jan, or available to download as a torrent file from newtorrents.info

All music reviewed can be downloaded using Soulseek, which for PC can be downloaded from www.slsknet.org

FOSSIL FOOLS DAY

Rising Tide International is calling for a day of action against the fossil fuel industry on April 1st 2008... April the 1st is Fossil Fools Day!

Roll up, roll up! The climate circus is in town. Climate change threatens our very survival, but the fools at the head of the fossil fuel empire continue to plunder the earth, with governments the willing court jesters at their side.

They would have us believe that we can escape climate change with technofixes, market mechanisms and offset

schemes – all technocratic acrobatics that distract us from the truth: the only real solution to climate change is to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

For over a century the fossil fuel industry has been fooling with our lives. From extraction to combustion they have poisoned our air, polluted our water and ruined our climate. On April 1st, 2008, we're going to turn the tables and show them who the real fools are.

Find a local fossil fool – the coal-mining clown, the offset contortionist, the aviator tripping on the high wire, the supermarket food mile freak show, the

oily strong man, or any other fool that deserves your attention – and join with thousands around the world in taking one step closer to dismantling the fossil fuel industry.

On Fossil Fools Day, bring the spirit of carnival and mischief to the fight for climate justice. If you are planning an open action let Rising Tide know about it and post it to www.indymedia.org.uk www.fossilfoolsday.org www.risingtide.org.uk

(More info and resources coming soon... for now spread the call-out above far and wide, and start scheming!)

rampART social centre farewell

The rampART social centre is finally facing eviction after almost 4 years of providing a non-commercial venue for a wide range of activities. On the 12th of December, the social centre and the squatted houses in the street were all served with notice of court proceedings for repossession. On the 20th, the case was heard and the rampART lost with a possession order being granted on the

3rd of January 2008. However, an appeal is being filed against the ruling so watch this space for more news.

There have been various meetings to plan what happens next and to organise opening a new space (expect further news on this very soon). There was also an assembly on the 6th Jan to discuss opening more social centres in London generally and hopefully form a London wide social centres collective to make this happen. A report from these meetings, what is happening and how you can get involved, will appear in next month's Rupture.

Decibel Breach continues into 2008

The weekly radio show on Resonance FM continues to blast out breakcore, illbient weirdness and electronic noise into the first season of 2008.

Decibel Breach goes out every Saturday night from midnight on 104.4FM in London and from www.resonancefm.com The website with archived shows and news is at www.dbreach.fm

illFM broadcast every Thursday from 8pm-midnight online at www.illfm.net

PARTIES + ART + RADIO + PRANKS + EVENTS

FREE FILM SCREENINGS

A different radical/alternative/just damn interesting feature film each Monday evening. Donations welcome. 7.30pm start. Pogo Café, 76 Clarence Road, Hackney, London. E5 8HB www.pogocafe.co.uk



26.01.08 TRESPASS

Polococcta presents a night of live acts and DJs spanning breakbeat to hardcore. £10 entry. The Hub, 2 Goulston St, Aldgate East, London E1 7TP

31.01.08 MUTINY

Hardcore and breakcore north of the border. £3 b4 12 / £4 after. 11pm - 3am. The Bongo Club, Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh www.myspace.com/tuckshopcrew

02.02.08 GENER8R WENTWOOD FUNDRAISER

16 sound systems collaborate in 5 rooms to

raise funds to help out rigs who were fucked over by the filth at the Wentwood party last year. Get down there and support! 10pm - 6am. £5 entry. Lakota nightclub, Upper York Street, Bristol, UK

02.02.08 NOISE = NOISE

A night of noise, breakcore, tekno, experiments, performance and visuals. 6pm - 1am. St. Nicholas Centre, St. Nicholas Church, Cromwell Sq, Ipswich

08.02.08 WALK THE PLANK

2 rooms of Drum'n'bass, Live bands, Wonky breaks, Dubstep, woodoo mushups presented by Acme Soundz. 10pm to 6am. £8 all night. The Rhythm Factory 16 - 18 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1EW www.myspace.com/acmesoundz Acme Soundz info line 07940 017582

09.02.08 PANDEMONIUM CIRCUS

Half electronic ravin mashup, half balkan/ska/ gypsy extravaganza. £10 (open to hagglin!) Jamm, 261 Brixton Road, Brixton, London SW9 6LH

09.02.08 [DISSIDENT]

Top drawer drum'n'bass night from Dissident sound system. £8 advance / £10 on the door. Clockwork, 6-10 Stokes Croft Bristol, BSI 3PR

08.03.08 GENER8R

The sound-system megathon links two separate venues to cope with the massive amount of people coming to this teknival in a club. Lakota and Clockwork nightclubs in Bristol



02 - 06.04.08 TEMPORARY AUTONOMOUS ART BRIGHTON

The free creative zone hits the south coast for the first TAA to be announced for 2008. More information about how you can get involved can be found on the Brighton groups website: www.subterraneanartbrighton.org For news of TAAs happening in other UK cities go to the central website at www.taaexhibitions.org

11 - 12.04.08 SQUAT FORTRESS EUROPE

2 days of decentralised squat and autonomous centre actions. april2008.squat.net

1 - 15.05.08 STREET BLITZ LONDON

The 2-week open festival of street art hits the capital again. Install your artwork then post up the location on the map on the website for all the world to see. This is your city - leave your mark! www.streetblitz.org

North East London Squatters meet on the 1st Sunday of every month at different squats in the area. Send an email to northeastssquatorrot@riseup.net for more details

PARTIES + EVENTS

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If you run any of the above infolines please put the date on your messages so that people don't travel to find an empty building!