

Resist Now #5: Direct Action (a brief and partial view)

A brief re-cap: The natural world continues to rapidly die and pass from memory due to the actions of human beings, a seemingly 'bad animal' that destroys its current home and maintains internal conflict and a hierarchical order based on increasingly shaky social structures and institutions.

Examine any of the basic necessities – food, water, housing, waste, land and the environment, etc – and you'll discover profiteering and corruption, the wool being pulled over the eyes of the majority of the population. To change any of this seems a massive task, the only one really worthy of our attention. There currently exist companies, institutions, political and thought processes that have personal profit and enslavement as their ongoing objective. These can be removed.

Direct action proposes the simple and proven idea that we can take control of our lives and decide to take personal and collective responsibility for how we live; that rather than allowing the voting system and the global market to perpetuate the rule of the many by the few, we do away with pretend democracy and get personally involved; with the aim of equalising possibilities and access to resources for everyone. 'Resistance' – the removal of these institutions and daily controlling forces – and 'sustainability' – putting more energy into our fragile eco-systems than we take out – are two complimentary facets of direct action that require equal attention.

The most effective direct actions create the world we want to see, bypassing the State and authority. Collectives of people acting together for mutual aid and exchange. As such, direct action can include DIY health (growing plants etc),

nature defence, free spaces (squatted housing and sites, social centres, free parties, etc), permaculture (nature based design), independent publishing, awareness/consciousness-raising (discussion groups, leafletting etc), skill sharing, property damage/sabotage, hunt sabbing, office occupations, blockades, splatting fascists, prisoner support, DIY education, etc etc! All these are equally valid, but all have to be taken care of, no use in everyone handing out leaflets and only a few people doing urgently needed hard-core actions.

Often, individuals and groups have used direct action as a last resort when other methods such as lobbying have failed – direct action can be the preferred way of doing things. For example, anti-Genetic Modification (GM) campaigners in the late 1990s first lobbied parliament etc to prevent genetic test sites being established in this country. When this failed, test sites were trashed, and due to the publicity generated – the newspapers in this instance didn't ignore such populist action – supermarkets pulled all GM products, and testing in this country was halted (for the time being). However, the supermarkets still largely control the food chain – while one aspect of the system was stopped, the system itself remained, so grow your own and/or buy locally sourced food (see Resist Now #4: randomartists.org/rupture/rupture-feb08-screen.pdf). In 1990, the Poll Tax was ended by a campaign of non-payment organised through local communities followed by rioting (though it was re-released as the Council Tax).

To conduct a direct action campaign against an adversary, hit a target at its weak points
Continued on the inside...

ACTING ON THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

On 23rd October 2007 the Sustainable Communities Act became law with full cross party support. Local Works, a coalition of over 90 national organisations, had campaigned for 5 years to see this happen. They feel this was a great victory which provides significant new opportunities for communities and their councils.

The Act sets up a new process where local communities and their local authorities (including county councils) can drive central government policy and action on reversing community decline and promoting local sustainability. So it is potentially not another meaningless consultation exercise.

The Act impacts on central government. The aim of the process is to make government do more to help promote sustainable communities. Sustainable communities are defined in that Act as having 4 categories:

1. local economies, e.g. promoting local shops, local businesses, local public services and local jobs;
2. environment, e.g. promoting local renewable energy, protecting green spaces;
3. social inclusion, e.g. protecting local public services and alleviating fuel poverty and food poverty;
4. democratic involvement, e.g. promoting local people participating in local decision making.

So, relevant proposals made by a community or a local authority are ones that a) fall under one of the above 4 categories, and b) are areas in which central government can help.

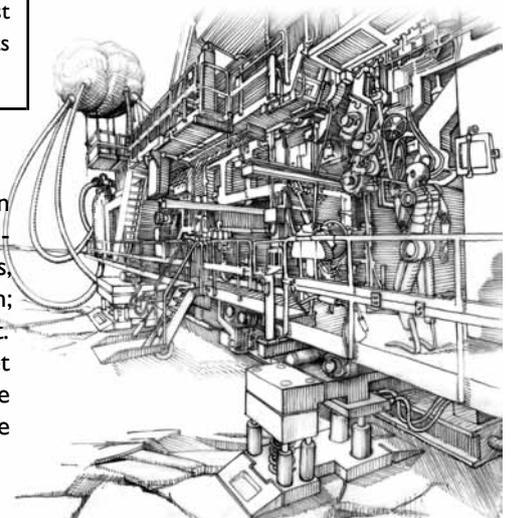
The Act sets up what is called a 'double devolution' process so that local people can drive central government action to promote sustainable communities. **Continued on the inside...**

THE RUPTURE BOOK

For the remainder of this year it's likely that Rupture will be coming out less than once a month. This is primarily to dedicate time and resources to making the long-talked-about Rupture book. The book will be part compendium of some of the great articles, poems, fiction and rants we've printed over the years; an expanded DIY guides section; expanded articles; group manifestoes; pages for individual artists and more as we see fit.

Another reason to slow production of the regular zine is because we really don't get any feedback or textual input from our readership. If people send in articles, creative writing and pics etc. then it will make putting together new issues a lot easier and more feasible to keep it coming out every month – it's partly in your hands!

Or start your own: schnews.org.uk/diyguide/howtosetupalocalnewsletter.htm



Resist Now continued from the front...

while maximising the educational benefits to yourselves and a local community. Make the most of your skills, and learn new ones. For companies that produce goods, check their production and distribution networks, and the 'needs' they have created in a population. Service industries rely on technology, offices, willing workers, share-holders, etc. Governments rely on not being challenged, and on the police, military, and 'justice' system. Each of these can be broken down and challenged much the same as a company. Local communities can organise themselves without the need for repressive bureaucracy.

Sabotage uses property damage to put a spanner in the wheels of industry, from glueing up locks and smashing machinery, to burning down manufacturing plants etc and disrupting infra-structure (transport, power lines and transformers, fiber optics, etc).

In the late 1960s, as Black protestors in the U.S became organised, demanded further rights and numbers at demonstrations increased, the government stepped in and shot leaders Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. What had been a movement still largely characterised by lobbying and polite requests for 'rights' to be acknowledged and acted upon, became in some quarters more militant and locally organised. The Black Panthers, as well as arming themselves in positive self defence to resist ongoing everyday police brutality, educated Black people to take community control of institutions, education, land, housing, clothing and other resources.

During the later period of the Vietnam War (1968-75), protestors worldwide who became frustrated by the lack of success of demonstrations turned militant. In the U.S, a core of students responded to the murder of Black Panthers by police by declaring war on the national government. The Weather Underground disappeared from view and bombed targets (never injuring the general public) connected with U.S imperialism and internal affairs such as the Pentagon, the United States Capitol, the New York Department of Corrections, and many others (see: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Weatherman_actions). However, their actions, while being carefully selected to educate the general public as a prelude to an expected (worldwide) revolution, did little to stop the Vietnam War.

In the late 1970s in Australia, activists operating under the Earth First! (EF!) banner used techniques such as burying themselves in roads and using lock-ons (carabiners looped around a concealed hand and clipped onto difficult-to-remove lumps of concrete and metal tubes etc) to blockade roads, slowing work and costing construction companies money. These and other similar techniques followed in the U.S; EF! Activists there using

The State defends its interests – property ownership, profit-making business, control of land, rent, etc – so it's unsurprising that an 'arms race' of sorts has arisen between the police and activists; the police developing sophisticated surveillance, evidence gathering and forensics, and the resistance responding with imagination and anarchy. Prison is both the model for society-at-large, and the testing ground for new methods of control (wage slavery, movement monitoring through tagging, 'prescription' pharmaceuticals, etc). The police, military, governments and corporations are well armed, and work at maintaining their control 24-7, but they are numerically less. Usually when a 'revolution' occurs, one bunch of business-oriented power addicts gets replaced by another, and the structure that enables their power remains in place, so that has to be removed too, if we are to be successful.

A tension exists in direct action between public, accountable action and hidden, covert

ropeways strung high between trees to prevent felling. This set the scene for much direct action in the U.K from the mid-90s onwards. Tree protestors acting together in numbers delayed the building of the Newbury Bypass to such an extent that the massive program of road-building was halted (see 'Road Raging – Top Tips For Wrecking Road Building': www.eco-action.org/rr/). In these and other similar industrialised countries, generally the State has acted as a buffer to prevent activists being killed but try using EF! tactics in Brasil to prevent the cutting down of the rain forest and see what happens...

In Mexico in 1994, the Zapatistas responded to the U.S implementation of neo-liberal international free trade laws by occupying the Southern-most area of the country with an army supported by and in support of the indigenous population. The Zapatistas made contact with resistance movements around the world, which led to Peoples' Global Action and co-ordinated days of action (for example June 18th 1999). Their occupation continues to the present day...

In this country, the Animal Rights movement has used direct action with arguably the most consistently successful results, preventing foxes being killed through hunt sabbing, liberating animals from torture and violent death, and shutting down businesses engaged in such practices. Animal Rights has broad support and funding from across society, and has used sustained action rather than occasional acts that may cause temporary problems but no lasting change.

This month, activists swooped into the EDO factory in Brighton and smashed equipment and offices, causing much damage to a company involved in making weapons used by Israel and others. After a 5 year campaign, the direct route proved most effective (for the full story: schnews.org.uk/archive/news663.htm).

resistance. The wholesale change of the current system requires everyone's involvement. On the other hand, announcing one's intentions enables the police to prevent them from doing so (unless there are truly enormous numbers!). Small affinity groups can be more 'secure' and effective, but risk being cut off from broader support and becoming an elite vanguard.

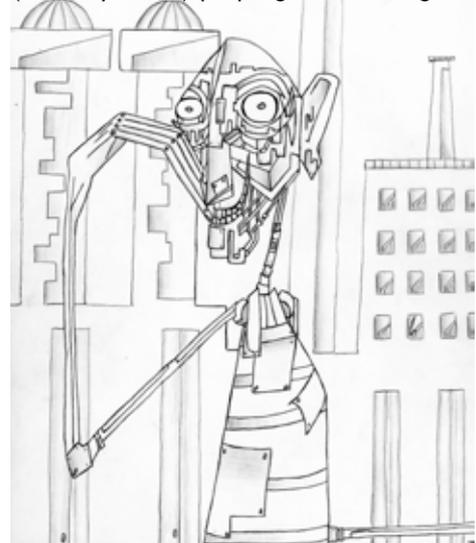
Free spaces – squats, parties, social centres – are both a direct action in their creation and a starting point for further action (not only an end in themselves). In this country, recent direct action has been rooted in DIY culture that grew out of festivals, the more on-it parts of 'hippy' culture and, most importantly, class struggle. Unfortunately, much DIY and squat culture has been undermined by drugs, harder conditions on the dole, and people dropping back in to society. The culture of resistance that grew during the 1990s and reached its peak by the end of that decade has more or less disappeared.

What looked like the beginnings of a broader social movement with links to other movements in other countries has been hammered by State repression, recuperation, bad organisation, class control, and sheer lack of interest or time due to the pressures of everyday existence. The techno society seems to have pacified people, yet at the same time appears to be falling apart – apply further pressure...

Whatever your interests and motivation in life, do it DIY! And no matter what the odds, wreck havoc on the programmers and spread like grass through the cracks in the pavement...

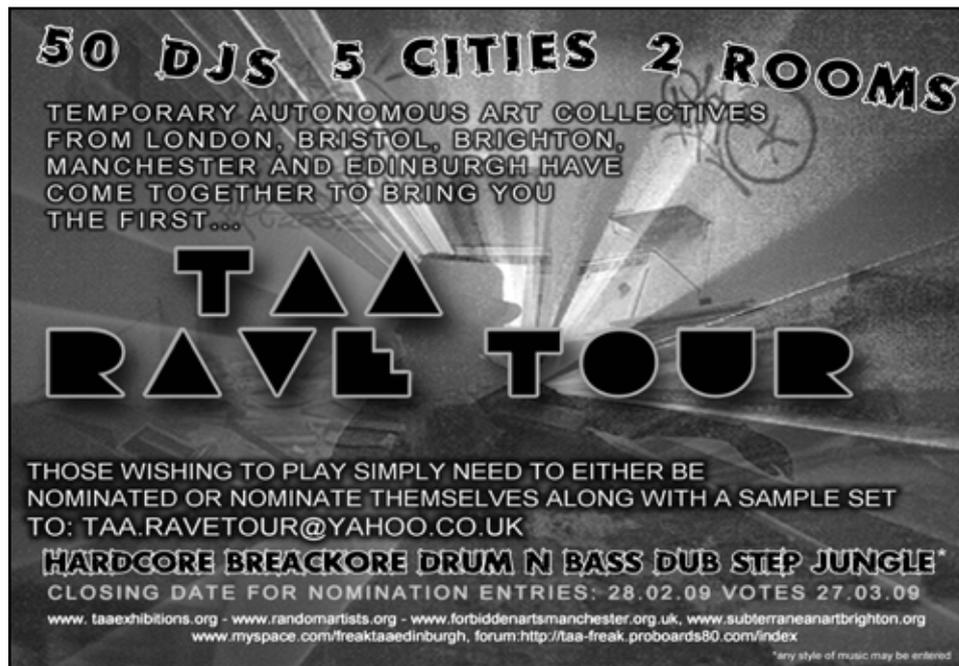
Resist Now – an occasional series. #1 (which sets the scene): randomartists.org/rupture/rupture-oct07-screen.pdf

Further resources: schnews.org.uk/diyguide/; Do or Die magazine (voices from UK Earth First!) archive: eco-action.org/dod/; Dave Foreman, *Ecodefense: A Field Guide To Monkeywrenching*; Ann Hansen, *Direct Action*; Keith Mann, *From Dusk 'til Dawn*; corporatewatch.org; Planning an action: eco-action.org/dod/no9/actionstations.htm; Legal info: freebeagles.org; Rebellion to prison society: 325collective.com – ace '325' #6 magazine out now, also prints excellent 'What's Wrong With the Left?' pamphlet (and many others); peoplesglobalaction.org



TAA RAVE TOUR

The TAA Rave Tour will consist of 50 DJs/Producers. This will include 10 DJs/producers from each city (Bristol, London, Brighton, Edinburgh and Manchester) that has hosted TAA events. The nights will be held in 2 room venues and will have harder styles in one (hardcore, breakcore, drum & bass etc) and the second room playing a more chilled variety of tunage. The night will also incorporate live art, visuals, face painting, tuck shop and more. This is a TAA fundraiser in the hope of raising enough money to take TAA to the great outdoors in 2010. In order to choose the DJs/producers from each city nominations and elections will be held. People can either nominate themselves or others can nominate someone they think should be on the bill. Once all nominations are in we will produce the list and from there people can vote. After the closing date all votes will be counted and the winning 10 from each city will be chosen. From there we can decide who wants to play where etc WWW.TAAEXHIBITIONS.ORG



50 DJs 5 CITIES 2 ROOMS

TEMPORARY AUTONOMOUS ART COLLECTIVES
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MANCHESTER AND EDINBURGH HAVE
COME TOGETHER TO BRING YOU
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TAA RAVE TOUR

THOSE WISHING TO PLAY SIMPLY NEED TO EITHER BE
NOMINATED OR NOMINATE THEMSELVES ALONG WITH A SAMPLE SET
TO: TAA.RAVETOUR@YAHOO.CO.UK

HARDCORE BREAKCORE DRUM N BASS DUB STEP JUNGLE*
CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATION ENTRIES: 28.02.09 VOTES 27.03.09

www.taaexhibitions.org - www.randomartists.org - www.forbiddenartsmanchester.org.uk, www.subterraneanartbrighton.org
www.myspace.com/freaktaedinburgh, forum:http://taa-freak.proboards80.com/index

*any style of music may be entered

MUSIC REVIEWS

Excision – Wasted / Serious Business [Rag and Bone]

More dubstep breakage from the USA to see Rag & Bone keeping their roster lively with two hefty cuts. Both tracks has a straight up snare thwack with the so-in-season topsey wahwahwah basslines and some tight, hard kickdrums pumping things along. For lovers of uncomplicated, undiluted filth.

Various Artists – Love Core [Love Love Records]

A free 18 track digital compilation featuring a healthy smorgasbord of breakcore artists young and old piling on the pressure. Some of it leans towards IDM territory whilst other tracks stand firm with a straight hardcore gait. Standout tracks are fun, avin-it frolics from The Fez! and Judith Priest plus Rave Idle fans will remember \$pitting V!trio!s track on here – a breathy, clamped-down purist techno number.

www.loveloverecords.co.uk

THE LONDON FREESCHOOL

The London FreeSchool is planning a further event in mid-February. In order for this to be successful we need a timetable and for that we need you! So, if there's something you always wanted to learn, a skill you are willing to share or a topic for discussion you think is important we would love to hear from you, drop us a line: deschooling_society@riseup.net. The deadline for workshops is 11th February to give us time to finalise and advertise the full timetable. If you can host a workshop then get in touch with when you're available and what you might need to assist you.

It is a collectively run project open to all, in fact we are actively seeking new bodies who want to get involved and help organise similar events to this.

Check the website from now onwards for more information on what is planned for the weekend. We hope to have all the descriptions for workshops up as soon as possible and the full timetable will be posted around the 13th February.

LONDONFREESCHOOL.WORDPRESS.COM

SCA article continued from the front...

This means that:

1. The Act gives the government a legal duty to 'assist local authorities in promoting the sustainability of local communities'. Councils will be invited to make proposals to central government as to how it can help them promote the sustainability of local communities. So it is local authorities, not the government, that are in the driving seat as to what the government must do.

2. The Act specifies that local authorities cannot make suggestions to central government without involving 'local people'. Councils must set up (or recognise if they already exist) 'panels of representatives of local people' – which must include people from usually under-represented groups: ethnic minorities, young people, older people, tenants etc.

In October 2008 central government invited local authorities (district, borough, city, unitary and county) to 'opt in' to make proposals on how central government can help promote local sustainability. Councils that do opt in must then set up citizens' panels and must 'reach agreement' with local people, regarding the proposals on promoting local sustainability that local authorities will ultimately submit to central government. This is the point where proposals on e.g. defending Post Offices and other local services, promoting local jobs and businesses can be made by communities.

Then in April 2009 central government must publish the local spending reports containing detailed accounts of all public money spent (by local and central government), broken down by local area.

The whole process is expected to re-occur on an annual basis. Councils that did not opt in to the first round will now have a chance to do so.

Here are some examples of what the Act could be used to help communities achieve:

- Keeping essential community services like Post Offices open.
- Promoting small businesses by increasing the rate relief they receive.
- Forcing large out of town superstores to pay local domestic rates on their huge car parks.
- Promoting local renewable energy, e.g. by removing the restrictive barriers relating to the local grid.
- Promoting local food and other products, e.g. by giving rate relief to businesses that earn 50% of their turnover from selling local food and goods.

To get involved you can: 1. Lobby your council to opt in. 2. Make this public knowledge. 3. Spread the word, help distribute leaflets. 4. Get involved in your citizen's panel which your council must set up when it decides to opt in.

You can get more detailed information from: www.localworks.org or www.unlockdemocracy.org.uk and by emailing info@localworks.org

PARTIES + EVENTS

www.headfuk.net
 www.nofixedabode.info
 www.pitchless.org
 www.network32.com
 www.squatjuice.com
 www.crossbones.co.uk
 www.partyvibe.com
 www.hekate.co.uk
 www.tribeofmunt.co.uk
 www.clubneurotica.com
 www.ragandbonerecords.co.uk
 www.uglyfunk.com
 shockraver.free.fr
 www.dayliterobbery.org
 www.rif23.org
 www.abacusounds.net
 www.hyponik.com

ART + MEDIA + THE REST

www.taaexhibitions.org
 www.randomartists.org
 www.network23.org.uk
 www.resonancefm.com
 www.dbreach.fm
 c8.com
 www.indymedia.org.uk
 schnews.org.uk
 www.eroding.org.uk
 www.squatter.org.uk
 squatworld.blogspot.de
 www.riseup.net
 www.56a.org.uk
 325collective.com
 www.braindamageradio.com
 www.dirtysquatters.com
 www.instructables.com

PARTYLINES

Headlight

Fuckery	07092 898151
Disjunkt	07835 175534
Arena.lsd	07985 552013
NFA	07092 812259
Hekate	07092 017667
Pitchless	07946 839775
Ill Eagle	Rig active, phoneline not
Abacus	07974 892670
FUBAR	07984 199768
Malfauteurs	020 7806 9555
Unsound	07946 466573
Club	
Neurotica	07788 856941

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

31.01.09 DISSIDENT DUBS 2

A night of Dub, Dubstep, Jungle and more. Benefit for the Library House collective and Dissident Island Radio. Starts early with films, stalls and free-shop from 6pm. £3 squids in from 10pm onwards. The London & Brighton, Asylum Rd, Peckham, London SE15
 www.dissidentisland.org

01.02.09 ALTERNATIVE PRESS FAIR

Bringing together the worlds of alternative comics, zines, self-produced art-books, poetry and diy/punk culture. 12pm – 6pm (+ music to late). St. Aloysius Social Centre, 20 Phoenix Road, NW1 1TA.
 comicsandzines.wordpress.com

07.02.09 STIRPE999

A lineup of live electronic music to present Italian broken beat record label. 10pm – late. London venue tbc, phone 07092 375924

11 - 14.02.09 The Plot Thickens 2 presents THE ARCHETIST

A touring exhibition based on a story on the final piston-powered leg of the tour involving over 20 artists. Experimental electronic concerts on evenings of 13/14th. The Rampart Street Gallery, Rampart St, London E1 2LA
 theplotthickens.org / therampart.wordpress.com

13.02.09 FUCK YOUR PARTNER, LOVE YOUR PLANET

Benefit night with bands, DJs, stall, films and cabaret for Tasmania's Ancient Forests. 7pm – 2am. £7/£5 concs. The Island, Silver St, Bristol. www.stillwildstillthreatened.org

14.02.09 SCRAP CLUB

A variety of ripe household objects to smash to bits in a barrage of sledgehammer swings. 6pm – 11pm, £8.50 via SeeTickets.com or £10 on the door. Area 10, Eagle Wharf, Peckham Hill Street, London SE15 5JT
 www.scrapclub.co.uk

14.02.09 DMT HARD SESSIONS

All though this event falls on Valentines Day, the only romance we want to see is your face, our bass bins! 10pm – 6am. £8 entry. Black Swan, Stapleton Road, Bristol

21 - 22.02.09 BRIGHTON ZINE FEST

Zines, pamphlets and all sorts of anarchist propaganda and paraphernalia. 21st – workshops + bands at the Cowley Club, 22nd – A zine fayre at West Hill Community Village Hall. Address: Cowley Club, 12 London Rd Brighton

BNI 4JA / West Hill Community Village Hall, Compton Ave, Brighton BN1 3PS
 www.brightonzinefest.co.uk

20 - 22.02.09 THE LONDON FREESCHOOL

A weekend of workshops, discussions and skillsharing to promote free, community organised learning.
 londonfreeschool.wordpress.com

21.02.09 Disjunkt, Abacus & Ill Industries present TERRADISCO

10pm – 7am, £8 on the door, slightly less in advance. Hidden, 100 Tinworth St, Vauxhall, London. www.terrardisco.co.uk

27.02.09 BRAINDROP

Mixed up bag of mashness across the board of rave music. The Scala, 275 Pentonville Road, London www.braindrop.co.uk

06.03.09 WALK THE PLANK

Drum 'n' Bass, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Electro-Punk, Breaks, mash ups all split in 2 different rooms. 10pm – 6am. £6 B4 11 and £8 thereafter. The Rhythm Factory 16-18 Whitechapel Rd London E1 1EW.

01.04.09 FOSSIL FOOLS DAY 2009

What's happening this year? Watch the website and start organising. www.fossilfoolsday.org

10 - 12.04.09 FREE-KUENCY FESTIVAL PORTUGAL 2009

Bands, DJs, Live-sets, VJs, Circus, Bars, Food and More. Infoline: (00351) 911935661
 freekuencyfestival@hotmail.com
 myspace.com/freekuencyfestival

01 - 05.05.09 FRENCHTEK

03.05.09 LONDON ZINE SYMPOSIUM

Bringing together zine, small press, comic and radical writers to celebrate DIY and zine culture. 12pm – 6pm. The Rag Factory, 16-18 Heneage Street, London E1 5LJ
 www.ragfactory.org.uk

04.05.09 RECLAIM THE STREETS against EDO MBM/ITT

Reclaim The Streets style demo/carnival on Mayday against Brighton's bomb factory. More info: www.smashedo.org.uk

OTHER SOURCES FOR LISTINGS:

Cheap/free in London: freelondonlistings.co.uk
 Other parties: www.headfuk.net/parties.htm
 EU parties: shockraver.free.fr/infoparty23.htm