

The Rougher Guide To Guatemala

One roaming SchNEWS reporter in Latin America writes...

"The incredibly touristy Guatemalan town of San Pedro La Laguna is a world of parallels. At the top of the hill away from the lakeside sits the Escuela Oficial Humberto Corzo Guzmán, a local free school that has been educating the indigenous Mayan children of the area for hundreds of years. Since October last year, a group of parents and teachers have been occupying the school in order to prevent the local government (la Municipalidad) tearing it down to build a 3-storey supermarket... something the farmers of the area really need!

Local bureaucrats, the kind old souls, have been very generous and built the children a new 'urban' school in a completely different town in the middle of the countryside. Consequently most of the children cannot attend the school because their parents cannot afford the transport costs. To add injury to insult, in December last year, 150 men armed with mallets, rocks and machetes turned up to and attempted to 'remove' the squatters with violence - while destroying the infrastructure of the building. Now there are no windows, the roof is badly damaged and much of the equipment inside the school has been trashed, but the parents and teachers held their ground.

Meanwhile just down the hill, less than three minutes walk away, lies 'tourist town'. It is full of Westerners hanging around with their Lonely Planets, blissfully unaware of what is happening in the local population as they smoke their incredibly cheap weed and wait for the next Hollywood movie to play in one of the many Western-owned bars.

La Municipalidad, represented by a nice old chap called Antonio Chavajay Yojcom has done what all modern-thinking governments do and is in the process of suing the parents and teachers occupying the school. Yojcom is also claiming that the local people and the government have been harangued by violence from the squatters who have taken up arms and are using explosives, whilst keeping their own children as hostages. All that can be said about this is that having visited the school on numerous occasions and being invited to participate in the Mothers' Day celebrations, I didn't know hostages could look so happy or move so freely about town..."

For more information or to give messages of support and find out where you can send equipment such as paper and pens, or donate a bit of cash to pay the teachers, write (in Spanish preferably) to escuelacent@hotmail.com

Mind the Gap

This week the Pine Gap 4 began their two week Supreme Court trial in Alice Springs, charged with breaking into the Pine Gap secret US/NSA/CIA spy base in central Australia for a Citizen's Inspection in December 2005.

Pine Gap, run by less than friendly US military corporation Raytheon, is an important node of the satellite system used by the US for operations such as the bombing of Iraq and Afghanistan. The four Christian anti-war campaigners face seven year sentences, after the Attorney General Philip Ruddock consented to the first-ever use of the cold-war Defence (Special Undertakings) Act 1952. In a pre-trial hearing, the Crown prosecutor applied for the bail conditions of the defendants to be changed, putting the four under house arrest and barring them from going within 1½ miles of Pine Gap - to stop them being involved in protests during the trial, including a demo at the base itself.

This comes after five were arrested during a blockade of the remote desert base in October 2006, at a protest marking an earlier stage of the trial. For more see www.pinegap6.org

Positive SchNEWS

The Common Ground Community Garden in Reading was formed when a few anarchists squatted a former Women's Information Centre six month's ago, after it had its funds cut and the council-owned building in the Katesgrove area of Reading was left derelict for five years.

The 'Common Ground crew moved in and cleared up, landscaped the area and repaired the building, adding children's play area, decking and more, mostly from reclaimed materials. They welcomed the public last Saturday to an Open Day - despite a council injunction banning the event.

When the Open Day was announced with publicity in the local community, the council imposed the injunction, to which the squatters immediately distributed a further 500 letters telling people it was still going ahead regardless! On the day, two Polish security guards came down to serve the injunction but, sick of being ignored, they retreated and sat in their car. The day was a success and the centre continues to be open to the public, despite an ongoing injunction. Email katesgrovegarden@yahoo.co.uk for more info.

...and finally...

In the coming months, if you are silly enough to watch the box, you will almost certainly accidentally channel hop onto the ever more haggard face of Davina Macall shouting over another screeching bunch of desperate TV won't-bes in Big Brother.

Reckon that's crass? Endemol, the show's producers have plumbed the depths even further, scraping the morality barrel 'til it squeaks with 'The Big Donor Show'. Three terminally ill patients women are pitted against each other to compete for one healthy kidney. Presumably the viewers will get to text in to decide the lucky winner- That's entertainment folks....

SchNEWS suggests adding to the reality genre with 'I'm a human being, get me out here!' where randomly picked punters are thrown into Guantanamo and the audience get to choose who gets tortured. (Ant: "Ooh, well, tomorra's Bush*ucker trial is called confession session", Dec: "ah doont like th' soond a' that!!")

Or what about Terror Academy where simple country folk are trained to maim and kill by wisecracking Americans, with the eventual winner given their own pro-Western dictatorship, and the losers going on to form their own group and having much more success. Oh no, the CIA have already done that one...

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers loose lips sink ships and all that. Honest!

WAKE UP!! FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TAPE, IT'S YER...



Friday 1st June 2007

Free/Donation

Issue 590

PIG IGNORANCE

CHARGES DROPPED AS OXFORD COPS ACCIDENTLY TAPE THEMSELVES

Fourteen campaigners against the Oxford Animal Lab, charged with various public order offences, walked free on May 30th after revelations of a police stitch-up. During the trial, a transcript of a dictaphone tape recorded by the cop's Tactical Advisor on the day was presented as evidence by the defence. The hour-long tape conclusively shows that Thames Valley Police are conspiring with Oxford University to smash the campaign (OK, hardly a surprise but to hear it from the horse's mouth...!)

The charges related to a legal demo against the Oxford University arcane Encaenia ceremony last year. Those arrested, including campaign spokesman Mel Broughton, were barred from the city centre

"We're going to prosecute the sh*t out of them."

Commander Shead,
Thames Valley Police

for an entire year. Five were arrested on the day and a further eleven in raids on their homes. The four week trial has highlighted a deliberate and sinister policy by Thames Valley Police (TVP), code-named 'Operation Rumble' to intimidate and harass legal campaigners who support the main anti-Oxford Primate Lab group SPEAK. It has also exposed the close relationship between TVP and Oxford University.

The tape was recorded after ham-fisted PC Travi accidentally left his dictaphone running after their arrests. He refers to protesters as 'c*nts', comments that "Oxford University is a sleeping giant" and says that "protesters do not realise just how powerful the university is". Officers are clearly in awe of the academic institution saying that "it's got Masons" and "influence with MPs and barristers". The officers also mention that the University has friends in the DTI, Department of Trade and Industry, as well as the Home Office.

The officers talk about manufacturing a public order situation by "inciting someone with a double buggy (pram)" to claim that the pavement was blocked by protesters - confirming that they had intended to make arrests regardless. One says "we knew we were going to take bodies today" and reports "...just got feedback from the uni - they were very impressed". PC Travi is also clearly heard saying to the Bronze commander on the day (Inspector Sharp) "The University's got Masons, it's got you."

Later on their return to base, the Silver Commander Shead says of those arrested "We're going to prosecute the sh*t out of them." (Just like Inspector Morse, eh?!) The transcripts also clearly reveal that Thames Valley police have played an active part in trying to create the conditions in which a draconian High Court injunction

(see SchNEWS 581) could be implemented against SPEAK. They talk about "waging a dirty war" against Mel Broughton, the main spokesman of the SPEAK campaign, and the "need to persecute him".

With these revelations the judge at Bicester magistrates acquitted all the defendants, except two who were given absolute discharges. She refused to accept that the officers comments had been just 'banter' - the proffered excuse. One senior police officer under cross examination even attempted to excuse the behaviour by putting it down to one officer having come from Liverpool and another's because he was an "ex-squaddie".

Outside court, Mel Broughton said: "I am extremely angry and disturbed about what has been revealed...I think anyone in the country who believes you have a right to protest and a right to free speech should be very, very concerned."

For more on the SPEAK campaign www.speakcampaigns.org



LET'S GET THIS LOT FITTED UP AND GO FOR A PINT EH, LEWIS..?

ER, AH THINK THAT THING'S ACTUALLY ON, SIR...

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For decorating gum...

One artistic Londoner has been livening up the streets of capital recently by handpainting pieces of discarded chewing gum. 80% of the multi-billion dollar sales in the UK end up on the pavement of course. And if you're one of the 28 million Brits hoodwinked into thinking there's any health or social benefits from chewing a worthless by-product of the petro-chemical business doused in sugar and aspartame... wise up!

Despite having just finished a piece at the request of his local Fortis Green Safer Neighbourhood police team, the budding Michelangelo was just settling down to recreate St Paul's Cathedral on another unsightly bit of grey sludge when he attracted the attention of two City of London cops. After initially declining their invitation to move on, he was summarily nicked, dragged off to the cells for seven hours and was injured trying to refuse a DNA sample.

It remains to be seen whether he will be able to chew up Police in the courts if they try to do him for criminal damage (what was he damaging? A piece of previous criminal damage. Clever you see!) or whether all the media publicity will eventually lead to him getting doubleminted...

Rostock & Two Smokin' Barrels

FINAL COUNTDOWN TO THE G8 PROTESTS IN GERMANY



The G8 Summit starts in Germany next week, as the protests - and police repression - build up a head of steam (see also last week's SchNEWS 589). This Monday 5,000 were on the streets of Hamburg to protest against the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), another shindig during the run-up that brings together EU and Asian bureaucrats and business leaders.

Being the week before the G8, the police gave a big welcome to the international protesters who were in Germany, with a large display of force. The march, led by a large black bloc, was surrounded by a ring of riot cops sending in snatch squads, firing water cannons and pepper spray on the crowd. The demo was eventually

abandoned. Meanwhile groups were held in 'kettles' (to 'let off steam' presumably - how droll), while some were nicked making their way back to the Rota Flora social centre. Afterwards, hundreds built barricades at the Rota Flora and were met by equal numbers of police who used water cannons as protesters responded with thrown objects. At least 86 were arrested.

* On 2 June there will be a large International Demonstration in Rostock, but on the same day in Schwerin, numbers are needed at an anti-fascist counter demonstration against the members of the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD), who are planning a mass-demo of anti-G8 neo-nazis, presenting themselves as the 'the only real anti-capitalists'.

* For useful info upon arriving in Germany, events in the lead up and during the G8, see: www.g8-2007.de and <http://dissentnetzwerk.org/node/2928>

* 5-7 June - international G8 Alternative Summit in Rostock, for more see www.g8-alternative-summit.org/en/

* During the summit, the RampART Centre in London's East End will be hosting a series of G8 info nights with films, presentations and discussions for planning solidarity actions etc. plus nightly reports and screenings of footage. See www.rampart.co.nr & www.noborders.org.uk

SchNEWS In Brief - UK RESISTANCE ROUND-UP

** Nine people from five countries found themselves nicked on Tuesday (29th) at Faslane Naval Nuclear Base. They'd been taking part in the 'Footprints for Peace Interfaith Peace Walk' after walking to the Scottish base from Dublin via Coulport nuclear weapons depot. Cops moved in after they blocked the entrance to the base, an action that is part of the ongoing year long Faslane365 blockades (see SchNEWS 589). Web www.faslane365.org

** Actions in defiance of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (See SchNEWS 583) continue. From 23rd - 28th June there will be a "War is Still the Issue" Peace Camp in Parliament Square. Go along for as long as you can manage to demand that UK plc pulls its troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan, bins Trident and stops warmongering in the direction of Iran. See www.warisstilltheissue.org

** On Tuesday morning (29th) diggers moved in to flatten the Collierstown graveyard site at Tara. Tara (Teamhair) in County Meath, Ireland, was the ancient inauguration site of the early Irish Kings and enjoys more than a little archaeological significance. Under threat from a new motorway (see SchNEWS 585), protesters need more people on site to resist the development. www.savetara.com for more info.

** A couple of Mondays ago (21st), three students from the University of Sussex locked on to the gates of EDO MBM at 6am for the second time this year. Bosses had to remove a panel from the fence to ensure the bomb makers could get into work. EDO make bomb release mechanisms that are helping the slaughter in the Middle East (See SchNEWS 586). On 7th June they'll be a benefit gig at the Cowley Club in Brighton to help raise funds for the upcoming action camp taking place from 27th - 30th August. See www.smashedo.org.uk

** Camp Titnore in Worthing, West Sussex, celebrated its first anniversary last weekend. And as well as celebrating the achievement of the last year, it is looking ahead by calling for more people to join the occupation and for solidarity action against the businesses threatening to destroy the countryside location. * People are needed to go and

stay at the camp, even just for a weekend. The call has gone out for non-violent direct action against firms involved in the scheme, such as Tesco, Heron Group, Bryant Homes/Taylor Woodrow and Persimmon Homes. More information call 07913 534083 or see www.protectourwoodland.co.uk or www.eco-action.org/porkbolter

** Trebanos National Grid have given the Brecon protest camp a landowners notice to leave the site in south Wales immediately. They now need to take the camp to court to be able to serve them with an eviction notice which will then allow the camp to be removed by the police eviction teams. More people are needed at the camp to get it ready for when the time comes as this is now the beginning of the last big push to the eviction. For more tel 07903152822 or see <http://fightthepipe.co.uk> email fightthepipe@hotmail.co.uk

** Like going to festies but always feel a bit guilty about chugging off across the country in a half empty car? Or want to go to the Climate Camp but have no transport? Never fear, Freewheelers are here. Admittedly we will all have to go by solar powered bicycle before too long, but for now you can offer / get a free liftshare to protests, conferences, festies and more, including international events at www.freewheelers.com

Camp for Climate Action

14th-21st August, is to be held at a site near Heathrow this year, highlighting the gov't's major airport expansion plans, including a planned third runway at Heathrow. The aviation industry is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. Coming after the success of last year's camp at the Drax Power Station, this year will feature a day of mass direct action to disrupt the airport, as well as other autonomous actions and events, plus a week of workshops and organising around taking action about climate change. The camp is welcome to all, and will be powered by renewable energy, and feature other practical steps towards a sustainable future. "We are the last generation that can do anything about climate change." For more see www.climatecamp.org.uk

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PARTY & PROTEST

MAINSTREAM-FREE SUMMER GUIDE

JUNE 3 - Camden Green Fair and Bikefest on World Environment Day to launch London Sustainability Weeks. Going for 16 years, last year attracting 20,000 people. With solar powered circus and cinema, plus live music through solar and wind power, as well as mini city farm, kids stuff, etc, at Regent's Park (Cumberland and Gloucester Gates) London, 12 - 7 pm. 020 7974 2260 www.camdengreenfair.org.uk ** **2-3 - G8 Protests in Rostock, Germany** - a big united demonstration in the Baltic port of Rostock against war, privatisation and climate chaos. For more see www.g8-2007.de and <http://dissentnetzwerk.org/node/2928> ** **6-8 - G8 Summit** - Heiligendamm, northern Germany. For a list of protests and events leading up to and during the G8, accommodation and other details see www.g8-2007.de and <http://dissentnetzwerk.org/node/2928> ** **7 & 21 - Concert to Counter "Live Earth."** Instead of driving or flying to the nearest megaconcert, walk or use public transport to the centre of your own home town. Then dance or sing to the music of your own iPod or MP3 player (or original tape walkman or cd player, surely). At 7:07pm precisely. Email info@liveearth.org, web: www.liveearth.org ** **8 - Silent Disco in Faslane Naval Base.** Bring your mp3 player, discman, walkperson, etc and boogie against the nuclear bomb - dance to your own tunes and shake your arse at the warmongers. Bring spare batteries, banners and/or handbags for dancing round. This is a family friendly event. Place: North Gate, HMNB Clyde aka Faslane Naval Base. Time: 3pm-ish til late as you like. Price: Free. Info: silentdiscofaslane@hotmail.co.uk, www.myspace.com/silentdiscofaslane ** **8 -9 - World Naked Bike Ride 2007.** A 50-city worldwide environmental protest against oil dependency - a unique celebration of the body and the bike! Free. Nudity optional. 8 - York, Southampton, Manchester. 9 - Brighton, London. www.worldnakedbikeride.org.uk ** **9 - Enough! End the Israeli Occupation!** An International day of action to mark the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War and Israel's military occupation of Palestine. Meet at Lincoln's Inn Fields for the march to Trafalgar Square. 1.30pm www.waronwant.org/?lid=13692 ** **11-16 - Cambridge Children's Festival** - Week of fun activities for kids, culminating with a Family Festival Fun Day on the Saturday on Jesus Green. www.cambridgechildrensfestival.co.uk ** **15-17 - The 6th Thimbleberry music festival:** set on an ancient Viking settlement high up in the Wear Valley. Thimbleby Hill Farm, Stanhope, County Durham. £40 incl. camping. www.Thimbleberry.co.uk ** **16-17 - The Riverside Festival** - Two days of local rock and pop bands, entry free but £10 camping. The Millfield, Charlbury, Oxfordshire. www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com/ **16-24 - Broadstairs Dickens Festival** - The 70th Anniversary of this Dickensian festival, literature, cricket and music hall entertainment. Half of the events are free. 01843 861827 www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk ** **17 - The Third West Country Scythe Festival and Competition** near Langport, Somerset. www.thescytheshop.co.uk/festival.html ** **22-24 - Leigh Folk Festival** - The largest free folk festival in the country. Folk, blues, Celtic, English, Scottish and African dance group, country dancing, line dancing and jive. Lots of kids events laid on. And all free (Beards optional). Leigh on Sea, Essex. www.leighfolkfestival.co.uk ** **22-24 - Glastonbury.** Need we say less. We'll be there, desperately trying to interest some of the muddy munters in direct action politics. ** **23 - Leicester Pride** - Gay festival for the Midlands. Free. www.leicesterpride.co.uk ** **23 - Midsummer Tree Ceremony,** Broadwater, Worthing. Meet Cricketers pub, Broadwater ** **23 to 28 - "War is STILL the Issue."** Peace camp in Parliament Square to celebrate Blair's Departure. An "unauthorised" by SOCPA demo. A nonviolent direct action workshop and legal briefing will take place the evening before the Camp: 7 - 9.30pm, Friday 22 June at D3, Diorama Arts, 3-7 Euston Centre, London NW1 3JG. Camp at Parliament Sq. from 12 noon on 23rd. e-mail gabriel@voices.netuxo.co.uk, web www.voicesuk.org. ** **24 - July 1 - Bournemouth Live!** Week-long mix free concerts of pop, rock and classical music. Starts with a Marching Band on 24th through the streets of Bournemouth. bournemouthlive.info ** **24 - Anarchist Federation (London) Social Change Not Climate Change:-** Ecology, Environment and Anarchism. Place: Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont Street, London WC1.(tube Russell Square) 7pm. www.afed.org.uk ** **29-July 1 - Workhouse Festival** - A 3 day eclectic extravaganza of music, cabaret, solar venues, djs, dance tent, comedy, green crafts, campaigns stalls, healing area,

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TIME WARP

FLASH BACK TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS

On the bill classic reformed line-ups of **Bong, Breakwind, There & Then, Ossified Tentacles** and more...

Free entry in a dilapidated vehicle.

-- Can someone remember to bring some acid --


Stoner Farm, Berkshire (off the A417 near Didcot) -- 20-22 August --

-- www.purple-om.com --

LUNCH BOX

Raw Food In The Raw

Back to the roots with a ten day camp of nudity and raw food. Homous is technically cooked chickpeas and is therefore not welcome. July 10th, near Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, Wales. Contact 01559 232 23333




Middle Earth First

A fayre for pixies, flower fairies, goblins and all hobbits. With fiddly-diddly music, fluffiness and dream catcher workshops. Bring your own glitter. Glastonbury Tor. June 1st. No orks.



Twee Brook Rural Fair

Shite horse show, back breaking agrarian farming methods, cheny cider competition, wood chopping and whistling raffle. Bring the family and mix your gene pool. August bank holiday, Twee Brook Common, near Barham Woods, off A1066, Norfolk.



BONGOPALOOZA

Enjoy music from across the global south, and buy lots of tat imported by hippy entrepreneurs and sold at 200% profit.



August 31st, Newmarket Community Hall, Bristol www.chewedupandspatout.com


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YOOP VIBRATIONS

An urban flava shoot-out with FOUR massive sound systems bustin' out all the latest white label dub plates - wit' bass on da richter scale! All day free community mash'up at Streatham Rec Ground 12pm-late. Socially inclusive graffiti wall * Wiggers welcome!

Organised by the **Community Integration Initiative**



HANGER 9-11

Conspiracy Nutter Convention

Aliens have been negotiating with our governments for decades, and whole populations are subject to mind control experiments... yet how do we, as the Conspiracy Nutter Movement, reach out to new people?

Day 1 Do Ipods lower your IQ? * **Are 9-11 conspiracies** put out by the CIA to cloud the waters? * **Diana:** Spotted at The Priory? * How to be one of the 12,444 lucky survivors of the coming holocaust.

Day 2 Do Rubik's Cubes use alien technology? * Who was pulling Sven's strings as England mysteriously crash out of World Cup? * **Katrina, Bird Flu and Madonna** - we expose the hidden links. * **The Net:** Is it closing in?


Knowing that 'they' want to stop the truth coming out, the event will be held in a foil lined bunker in a secret location in the east Midlands, date to be announced.

See www.youcouldntmakeitup.org



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Mean Middleman presents

T-Mobile

in the park 07

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- 35,000 people and 400 bands -

Sony stage £110 for weekend, Coke stage £80 for weekend, Big Mac arena (under-age venue) £70, Starbucks jazz cafe £100. Camping £20 per night. Parking £50 for weekend. No food or alcohol will be allowed onto the site. No fire, no parties, nothing recyclable. Just bring cash.

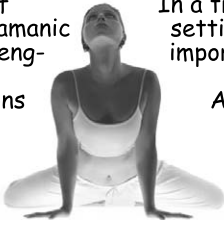
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Touchy-Feely Fields

A ten day orgy of healing, reiki, shamanic sodoku, filofax feng-shui, thin cotton robes, incantations and tantric yurt building.

In a tranquil rural setting where an important leyline meets the A39 in Lower Godney, Somerset.

August 1st-11th, £85 including tee-pee camping, all organic super foods and whale music.



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kids area and more. Llanfyllin, Powys. Advance sales £40 adults, £15 youth, 12 and under free. Tel 07890 458561 www.workhousefestival.co.uk ** **30 - London Pride** - Procession from Oxford Street to Hyde Park in London Village. www.pridelondon.org ** **30 - World Development Movement annual conference** - Activism past, present & future. Speakers include Ngugi wa Thiong'o & George Monbiot plus sessions on apartheid, slavery, climate justice, privatisation struggles, music & protest, women's rights, corporate globalisation. 1-6pm. University of Leeds. Free entry. tel 020 7820 4900, www.wdm.org.uk

JULY 1 - Brading Day - Back in 1285 King Edward gave the people of Brading on the Isle of Wight a Royal Charter to hold an annual fair. With music in the evening. Beechgrove Playing Fields, entry £2 www.bradingday.org ** **6-8 - Antiworld Outdoor Festival Experience** - over 21 types of trance, techno, house etc. At a secret location near London. www.antiworld070707.com ** **7 - St Paul's Carnival, Bristol** - Community carnival that culminates with the masquerade procession <http://visitbristol.co.uk/site/st-pauls-carnival-p35371> ** **8 - Phillip K Dick day** - Part of a film being made in London about the prolific and prophetic science fiction writer, at Hyde Park, London. The filmmakers are looking for actors and others interested in working as part of a film crew. All afternoon. Email punkstamaineanddrones@no-log.org ** **13-15 - Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival** - Annual trade union festival and rally in Dorset to commemorate the Tolpuddle Martyrs. This year Tony Benn and Billy Bragg will be joined by Chumbawamba, the Men They Couldn't Hang, Mark Thomas, the Badgaddies and more... Tolpuddle, Dorset. Free - charge for parking and camping. 0117 947 0521 web www.tuc.org.uk/tolpuddle ** **13-15 - Godiva Festival,** Coventry memorial park. Free music festival with bands from the local area dubbed as: "The Midlands' Biggest and Best Free Festival." 024 7622 7264 www.godivafestival.co.uk ** **14 - Kelvedon Free Music Festival** - Essex bands playing pop/rock. Innit! kelvedonfreemusicfestival.co.uk ** **14-15 - Rhythms of the World** - UK's largest world music festival, acts from all round the world and a street bazaar selling the usual hippy tat. Hitchin, Hertfordshire. 01462 454649 www.rotw.org.uk ** **20-29 - A-Camp 2007 Anarchist summer camp** in Austria. Not a holiday camp "which results from the separation of work and leisure time, which is dictated by society". Rather, an "opportunity to freely mould a shared life during the camp, get to know each other and integrate anarchist theory with the practice of solidarity, during debates and workshops as much as in everyday life." www.a-camp.info ** **28 - Swindon Mela** - Free celebration of Asian arts and culture. 3 Stages in Town Gardens, noon to 7pm. There is life in Swindon after all. www.swindonmela.com

AUGUST 3-5 - Creation Fest - Free Christian pop/rock music festival. Wonder if George and Tony are going? Woolacombe, Devon. www.creationfest.org.uk ** **4 - Brighton Pride** - Parade starts from Madeira Drive at 11am to Preston Park, where lycra clad revelry continues till 8pm. www.brightonpride.org ** **10-13 - AR2007 International Animal Rights Gathering 2007,** Appelscha, northern Netherlands. Next to a forest with camping. The day before (9th), there will be an Animal Rights march through Amsterdam, focusing on fur and vivisection targets. Sleeping places are arranged in Amsterdam, after the demo we will all move to the gathering site... www.ar2007.info ** **11-27 - Edinburgh International Book Festival** Many free events for adults and children, including the Amnesty International imprisoned writers series. www.edbookfest.co.uk ** **14-21 - Camp for Climate Action** - at a location near Heathrow airport to highlight airport expansion and the role of the aviation industry in carbon emissions and climate change. www.climatecamp.org.uk ** **18-26 - Llandrindod Wells Victorian Festival** - A festival transporting the town back to Victorian times with Victorian costumes, carriages, window displays, small children cleaning chimneys and repressed sexuality. 01597 823441 www.victorianfestival.co.uk ** **26-27 - Nottingham Carnival** - Dancing in the streets with a couple of million others. ** **27 - World Bog-Snorkelling Championships** - In the dense Waen Rhydd Peat Bog near Llanwrtyd Wells - in Mid Wales. Competitors have to complete two lengths of a 60 yard trench cut through the peat bog wearing snorkels and flippers but without using any conventional swimming strokes. <http://llanwrtyd-wells.powys.org.uk/bog.html>

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