



# FREE BEE



## #4 MANCHESTER AUTONOMOUS NEWSLETTER

### Review of Direct Action last year

The following actions were reported on Indymedia in 2007.

**JANUARY** – Police break up a rave in Belle Vue, attack and assault the party-goers, many of them teenagers

**FEBRUARY** – Climate activists paint 'carbon footprints' onto the pavements outside travel agents, petrol stations, supermarkets and a humvee garage all over the city

– 150 young people protest against police brutality and the criminalisation of free parties in the centre of town

– Climate activists blockade an Esso petrol station for more than two hours using D-locks and chains

**MARCH** – Congolese and Libyan refugees hold a demonstration at Dallas Court, Manchester's immigration reporting centre, and attempt to blockade the centre after a female Congolese asylum-seekers was detained and threatened with deportation

**MAY** – 150 people on a demonstration against deportations from Strangeways Prison to the city centre

**JUNE** – Thousands march on Stop the War demo as Brown is crowned new PM. 2 arrests were made as samba band initiates sit-down protest to the dismay of demo stewards

**AUGUST** – More than 100 people on a demonstration against deportations from Rusholme to the city centre

**SEPTEMBER** – An autonomous group blockades the entrance to the BAE Middleton factory car park early that morning in solidarity with the DSEi (arms fair) protests in London. The gate is locked, planks of wood with nails hammered through them fastened to the road, and oil poured around the area to cause additional disruption

**OCTOBER** - Activists from Manchester Climate Action and Manchester Plane Stupid blockade the security check-in of terminal 3 of Manchester Airport using several arm-tube devices. They delay several domestic flights in a protest over CO2 emissions. Police make no arrests, but the action forces airport bosses to agree to a public debate

- Manchester University students besiege a prestigious ceremony attended by vice-chancellor Alan Gilbert, some breaking through security into the building. The protest for free education and against Gilbert's mismanagement forces the VC to agree to a public debate and other concessions

**NOVEMBER** – Activists super-glue shut the locks of the Northern Assurance Building in an act of sabotage against FD Tamesis, housed in this building. It is intended to highlight the company's involvement in the construction of what will be the UK's largest immigrant deportation centre, Brook House near Gatwick Airport.

– 20 human rights campaigners blockade a TOTAL garage on Oxford Road using arm tubes. This is in protest at Total Oil's investment in the military regime of Burma

– Activists from Manchester Climate Action and Rhythms of Resistance Manchester disrupt shopping on 'Buy Nothing Day' by setting off the fire alarms in the Trafford Centre and releasing a banner attached to helium-balloons in the Arndale Centre

**DECEMBER** – Climate activists shut down all Flight Centre branches in the city centre with superglue in the entrances' locks. They also close the entrance to a Hummer dealership with a D-lock. This coincides with the national Climate March in London

– No Borders activists prevent immigration snatch squad vehicles from leaving their site in Salford by locking a gate with a motorcycle chain. This is part of a day of action against targeted dawn raids to arrest and deport asylum-seekers

### Mule and Shift out now

Shift magazine issue 2 asks; "Heathrow or Gatwick-which camp are you in?" Shift is a magazine for analysis of contemporary radical politics. This issue compares the politics of the Climate Camp and the NoBorders camp, includes an interview with the Space Hijackers, and has a review of the 8th December Climate March. A copy costs £1.80 and can be bought from the Cornerhouse cinema or from [www.shiftmag.co.uk](http://www.shiftmag.co.uk)

## SHIFT



Around 4000 copies of independent newspaper the Mule are now being distributed around Manchester. The Mule seeks to provide 'news with a kick', and is a non-profit, grassroots UK wide project committed to using media production and mass distribution as a tool for promoting social, environmental and economic justice and peace. You can read, comment on and contribute articles via [www.themule.info](http://www.themule.info). The latest issue reveals shocking truths about the British print media, features an interview with sacked nurse and union activist, Karen Reissmann, and much more.

## MULE

### Local activist suffers police harassment

A Manchester woman was arrested last December for blocking the entrance to Dept. of Transport in protest against plans to expand Heathrow airport. The police sought to press charges under SOCPA legislation, clearly in breach of SOCPA's original intent. She was bailed under condition, requiring her to leave the City of Westminster. At the Campaign Against Climate Change march the next day, FIT officers spotted her and arrested her again.

Her subsequent court appearance was adjourned, so not surprisingly, she didn't bother going. Angered at her non-appearance at the non-existent court date, the police falsely issued an arrest warrant. After managing to get this annulled, it's Greater Manchester Police's turn to get involved—they come to nick her again. Finally, when up in court the police notice their false use of SOCPA and suddenly change charge to aggravated trespass. Clearly it's a matter of ends not means for the filth when it comes to intimidating protestors. The case continues...

### Upcoming...



Pull a prank that packs a punch

Rising Tide International calling for a day of action against the fossil fuel industry on April 1st 2008

[www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk)  
[www.fossilfoolsday.org](http://www.fossilfoolsday.org)

More on all the above at [www.thefreebee.blogspot.com](http://www.thefreebee.blogspot.com) (under construction)