
Indymedia London



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16th May - 1st June 2008

Whitechapel Food Not Bombs

Through thick and thin, rain and sunshine, Whitechapel Food Not Bombs has been serving free vegan meals in the streets of London almost every Saturday for over a year.

Part of the international Food Not Bombs movement, the group (originally called "London Food Not Bombs") has been serving since January 2007, in a small park called Altab Ali Park in Whitechapel. All the dishes are vegan, and most of the food skipped or donated. The group initially cooked at the London Action Resource Centre, but moved on to Rampart.

Throughout the year, FNB activists have been skipping every week, at places such as New Covent Garden market, to rescue edible food that is thrown away by merchants who cannot make a profit on it. The food is then cooked on Saturdays, and until recently has been served in the park - to locals, activists, homeless people, tourists, passers-by. The number of servings vary, from 20 to 80, depending on the weather and the time of the year.

Food Not Bombs often comes along with a small sound system for entertainment, as well as a free shop offering free clothes to whoever wants them. Beyond the weekly servings, the group has been cooking for various events - an action against Starbucks in Whitechapel, a No-Borders meeting, Reclaim Love 2008, a conference against immigration controls.

The group has decided to change its working structure, and to be more flexible about where the food is served. This allows the group to be more flexible, to reach out to more communities and to get involved in more projects.

Every month, the group plans what it will do for the next three weekends. To find out what the group will be up to for the coming month - simply check the website, which gets updated shortly after the first Saturday of the month.

londonfnb.org
foodnotbombs.net

Justice for Cleaners week of action

Justice for Cleaners started a week of action in the city of London. All this week they have been making a truly horrendous racket outside various corporations who should know better than to exploit vulnerable immigrants. If you feel like heading to the financial capital of Europe to let off some steam then they would love to see you.

In late 2006/ early 2007, the TGWU forced several of the major cleaning contractors to sign a union recognition agreement, but there are still a few contractors in the city who haven't signed the agreement at all. They are: Pall Mall, McEllands, & Sodexo.

Then there are the contractors who have signed up but aren't implementing the agreement properly. The most aggressive of which is 'Lancaster' who are dodging the union on access and recognising shop stewards. Lancaster is arguably the most unethical cleaning contractor in London. In mid 2006 Lancaster cleaners at MERRIL LYNCH were told that there were going to a training session off site. They were taken to another location and raided by home office officials, and taken to detention centres.

New London AF Group

During a recent meeting by London Anarchist Federation (AF), it was decided that some members will be creating a second group. This new initiative is supported by London AF as a whole and is viewed as an exciting way to expand AF within the London environment. The second group aims to focus mainly on multi-media related projects and the youth & student aspect of the Anarchist culture. This approach includes, organising gigs, benefit events, public meetings and film screenings.

london@afed.org.uk
afed.org.uk

Citizens Arrest of War Criminal

Sir Richard Dearlove, Master, Pembroke College, Cambridge University and Chief, Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) (1999-2004), and author of the infamous Dearlove Memo had his lecture at Chatham House in London, interrupted by members of We Are Change UK. After disrupting the talk through a window with a megaphone, the activists attempted to effect a Citizen's arrest on Dearlove.

wearechange.org.uk

Reclaim the Campus

A one day conference for student activists to discuss the way forward for building a campaigning student movement. Reclaim the Campus will now be held 11am-7pm, Saturday 17 May, at Birkbeck College. Followed by a benefit gig for Education Not for Sale and No Sweat @ The Cross Kings.

free-education.org.uk

SOCPA Update

A consultation on the freedom to assemble and protest.

The House of Commons Joint Committee on Human Rights launched a 'Call for Evidence' in order 'to enquire into the human rights issues arising from policing and protest', with the proposed repeal of sections 132-138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCPA). These proposed 'legislative changes', including mention of the 'harmonisation of legislation', could be part of an attempt to introduce more restrictive laws further criminalising protest in the UK. For many it is the question of what might replace the repealed sections, believing the original intentions of the Government and SOCPA were to get rid of Brian Haw's peace camp and to render political protest around Parliament as ineffective as possible.

Last week Westminster Council, the Greater London Authority, and the Metropolitan Police responded to the consultations questions.

Key quotes from Westminster Council's response included:

"The City Council would propose that consideration be given to prohibiting the use of loudspeakers in Parliament Square and excluding the local authority's power to grant consent."

"The City Council would propose that the police should consult the City Council before granting consent for a demonstration and for them to be required to have regard to any representations made."

Key quotes from Greater London Authority's response included:

"The impact on the Authority's ability to manage the permanent protests and camping around Parliament Square has required a significant resource investment to prevent low level disorder issues"

"if a protest takes place it will inevitably limit the public uses of the square, and the protests should be limited in duration."

Indymedia London welcomes your involvement:

This is an open invitation to participate in Indymedia London - from the technical aspects, or helping to maintain the open newswire and producing features, to a variety of offline activities such as film screenings, stalls at events, reporting from the streets and whatever else you may come up with. The London collective has regular meetings, often at LARC. Please feel free to come and share your ideas, knowledge and skills.

indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/london

Key quotes from the Met Police response included:

"the MPS believes that the Public Order Act should be amended to allow appropriate and proportionate conditions to be imposed on any procession or assembly taking place anywhere on the grounds of security."

"the MPS is increasingly having to deal with those who choose to protest in the SOCPA area in situations where a power of arrest does not exist [...] The MPS believes that a power to arrest should exist to prevent individuals continuing to commit an offence after they have been formally reported for it. This could be achieved by an amendment to s24(5) PACE."

"the MPS believes that the POA should be amended to allow conditions to be placed on any procession or assembly or lone protestor to prevent a security risk wherever it takes place in the country."

freedomofassembly.blogspot.com

RampArt Update

Developers have put in an application for change of use and redevelopment of 15-17 Rampart Street, the warehouse that has been home to the rampART social centre for the last four years. Objections must be submitted by 28th May (although this deadline is unlawfully short as the notices only went up on the 8th). Email RampArt if you'd like to write an objection:

rampart@mutualaid.org

And they've been working on providing phone and internet at the new space in Shoreditch, without the need to install a fixed line and contract. That's now done... it's good to talk.

rampart.co.nr



London InterACTIVE diners club/radical assembly

This week saw the second Interactive Diners Club, an initiative relaunched for the 21st century. Those who experienced the original pre Criminal Justice Act Interactive Diners Clubs in the early nineties, the RTS meetings of the mid 90's, or the late 90's London Underground meetings etc, will know what this is. The idea is to inspire and re-energise each other, form new links, strengthen old alliances, share skills and resources, raise awareness and get people involved.

This is a social and networking event for activists and campaigners in London (or beyond). It's an opportunity to network with other activists, speak about campaigns you are involved in and learn about other projects taking place.

Dissident Island Radio

Starts at about 9pm every Friday. The show includes a mix of radio plays, info on upcoming actions, legal advice and whatever else is going on, also DJs playing dubstep, reggae, breakcore, drum and bass, etc.

This weeks show features an interview with *Keep it in the Ground* talking about actions against a new coal mine in Derby, and the *Lakenheath Action Group* talking about *Three Strikes and You're Out*; part of a larger campaign for the withdrawal of US bombs from Britain; and an activist from the *Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)* about getting organised at work, upcoming events and campaigns, and the relevance of trade unions in today's society.

dissidentisland.org