

May Day 2000 – A Festival of Anti-capitalist Ideas and Action

BULLETIN

No. 4 February 2000

*Things are hotting up with only 9 weeks to go to the Mayday weekend, and the various sub-groups are working overtime. More hands and brains are needed to help - if you can do so contact 0181 374 5027 or come to the next planning meeting. Financially we still need your support. A number of donations have been gratefully received, but many more are needed, from whatever source - no questions asked! **Cheques should be made payable to 'Mayday 2000'**. Alternatively why not organise a benefit for Mayday?*

How to contact us :

Post - BM Mayday, London, WC1N 3XX

Office tel no - 0181 374 5027 (a/machine)

Press enquiries only - 07989 451 096

E-mail discussion list - mayday2000-subscribe@egroups.com

Website -

www.freespeech.org/mayday2k

Planning Meetings

These meetings get reports from all the sub-groups, sort problems arising and finance stuff, and discuss anything not covered by subgroups. If subgroups are not represented at the meeting then coordination falls apart – also no

information will appear in the following Bulletin.

Meet 2pm at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, WC1 on 5 and 19 March and 2 April.

Action

The peaceful protest being organised for Mayday itself will be a game of Monopoly played out on London's streets. There are numerous possibilities for autonomous actions, including land, housing & squatting, various capitalist enterprises, women's issues, animal rights, prisons, asylum seekers & the state etc. etc! Get together with your mates, form an affinity group and dust off your old Monopoly board and get planning! The main meeting point will be 11.00am at Bond Street tube station. A centre piece will be the transformation of land through guerilla gardening. There will be a meeting on 12 March, 1pm in ULU, Malet St, WC1 to discuss this (hosted by EnviroSoc) and guerilla gardening is being discussed by RTS, which meets on Tuesdays at 7pm, Cock Tavern, Phoenix St, Euston Tube.

Costumes & banners

No event would be complete without props and banners. Come and help make them in a day of hands on fun and creativity on 11 & 12 March from 1pm at DIYplc, Commercial Hse, 43A Commercial St, Aldgate Tube. Bring cloth, newspaper & paint etc. A van is available to pick stuff up.

Contact: 2k@gmx.de or go to RTS on Tuesday.

Publicity

100,000 leaflets and a similar number of stickers will have been printed by the time you read this. We need to get these out as widely as possible. Let us know how many you want. We need to do street and door to door leafletting – what area can you do?

Snappy ideas for A3 size posters are also needed.

The telephone number for press enquiries only is 07989 451 096. This phone is held in rotation, by some people who are prepared to give comments/interviews. We will not co-operate with film crews, photographers, documentary makers and the like. There will be a press release nearer the date.

Culture

Film Festival - for the Friday to Sunday is more or less organised.

Play – A drama collective from Bradford are putting on the play 'Haymarket Martyrs' contact: janenoel@everett3.freeserve.co.uk Auditions for budding thespians and technicians are being held at the Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Road, N4 on 28 Feb & 1 March, 7.30pm.

Socials - Mayday 2000 will have stalls and/or speakers at the following gigs:

Blyth Power & Leon Rosselson-

Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Road, Finsbury Park Tube, 11 March 8pm-late, £4/2

Chumbawamba

Rocket, Holloway Road
29th March £tbc

Dubday 2000 featuring:

Jah Music International & Versatility Sound System, Downstairs at the Dome, 178 Junction Road, N19

Tufnell Park Tube, 15 April £tbc

Fun-da-mental & Transglobal Underground & Earthtribe

Downstairs at the Dome, 178 Junction Road, N19

27th April £tbc

Bookfair/Conference

Bookfair - booking forms for stalls on the Saturday have gone out, cost min £26 per table. Ring for more info or e-mail 'hsg@clara.net'.

Workshops/Meetings - The mini-planning conference produced more ideas for workshops than we have space for. A programme for the 2 days will be produced. The venue is not suitable for some of the suggestions received. We have always hoped that other events would spring up around the main venue, including other meetings, workshops, and socials - this now seems likely, be it people occupying or renting additional space. We will publicise in the programme all confirmed events we know of - send in details.

Kids

As well as a crèche, there will be a self-managed youth/kids space in the venue. If you're interested in helping with that space contact Tom at war1921@altavista.com

Coordinators & security - we need about 30 people to 'work' the weekend on a rota providing info, dealing with hiccups, and/or

security. If you can reliably commit to this contact us. We stress the need for respect for each other and the venue and local community. The task of looking after everyone is everyone's task.

Videos - there'll be a video room at the venue with continuous showings. If you have ideas and videos contact Jes: maydayvideo@technobabble.demon.co.uk.

Speakers from abroad - Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin (a former Black Panther and US activist) has confirmed and we are committed to covering his costs. He will also do a national speaking tour before the conference. Funds are limited for other speakers, but the issue will be discussed at the next planning meeting.

Meetings of this sub-group are on 12 and 26 March, 12 noon, Pullens Centre, 184 Crampton St, SE17,.

Legal Defence - The Legal Defence & Monitoring Group (LDMG) may cover the Mayday action, but feel that all groups and individuals have to take responsibility for assisting each other in confrontational situations.

Gender

There'll be a women's space at the venue, facilitated by Women Speakout, who are also organising a women only conference on 27-28 May. Contact: c/o Spiral Squat, 402 Queensbridge Rd, Dalston, E8. There will be other discussions on related themes over the weekend.

Football

There will be an informal but passionate tournament for all ages/sexes on the Saturday,

along with a mass kickabout & picnic - teams wanted. See website and elsewhere for details.

Mayday Elsewhere

There are a number of events planned around the country, including Brighton, Bristol, Leeds and Sheffield. Send us your details and we'll publicise as much as we can.

Vampire Alert!

A warning! As in London, it is clear the hierarchical, authoritarian left groups such as SWP & Workers Power are targeting our movement as a fertile recruiting ground. Their tactic where possible is to muscle in and take control, reducing activities to boring, unexciting affairs and where possible linking them to the traditional trade union marches - purely to maximise their paper sales. Watch out for these manipulative parasites.

International

Mayday 2000 is happening throughout the world. We know of events in the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Switzerland, Turkey & USA.

Help is needed translating texts - go to www.lobster1.dircon.co.uk/

Finally

Mayday 2000 promises to be the event of this year, but it will only be as good as the sum of the people involved. Why not pick the area that interests you and contact the subgroup to see what needs doing. Alternatively organise something for the weekend and let us know. Together we can make it huge!