



Information for Social Change

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Summer/ Autumn 2012

**Library Activist Resources and
Alternative Information Networks**

Issue Editor: Martyn Lowe



Information for Social Change is an activist organisation that examines issues of censorship, freedom and ethics amongst library and information workers. It is committed to promoting alternatives to the dominant paradigms of library and information work and publishes its own journal, *Information for Social Change* (freely available online at <http://www.libr.org/isc>). Information for Social Change is an Organisation in Liaison with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

<http://www.libr.org/isc>

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer / Autumn 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

CONTENTS	Page No.
Editorial - Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks (Martyn Lowe)	1.
Contributors (Martyn Lowe)	2.
Book Review - A Short Course In Intellectual Self-Defense (David Dane)	3.
Occupy Elsevier (Stephen Bales)	5.
Campaign Resources For Activist Campaigners (Martyn Lowe)	8.
Coalition Blog a critical Liberal Democrat Act Web site Forum (Paul Catherall)	11.
Dissident Island Radio (Chickpea)	15.
Kettling - A Resource List (Martyn Lowe)	19.

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

Editorial

Martyn Lowe

By way of an introduction -

This issue of ISC is not a 'library based' issue as such, but one which is aimed to show the kind of alternative information networks and resources which are used within the political activist community.

One of the aims of this issue is to get away from information theory, and show just what is being used in practice.

In putting this issue together I have aimed to reflect just what the current issues are, and just how they are being dealt with by the activist community.

I hope that you find these articles of both interest and use.

Martyn Lowe

September 2012.

<http://www.theproject.me.uk/>

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

Contributors

Stephen Bales is an Assistant Professor and Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian at Texas A&M University Libraries. At A&M, Steve works with faculty, students, and community users to fulfil their information needs regarding philosophy, religion, communication journalism, and anthropology.

His research focuses on academic librarianship as a profession, the history and philosophy of libraries and librarianship, and the political economy of the library. Contact: - sbales@library.tamu.edu

Chickpea is a member of the Dissident Island Radio collective.

David Dane is an FE Lecturer who teaches science at a London FE college. He is interested in rationalism/humanism and its connection with ethical Hedonism. David is an active trade unionist, a member of the University and College Lecturers Union, and active within the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World).

Martyn Lowe is a member of the Information for Social Change Editorial Board and has been a founder/ involved in a wide range of pacifist and library activist movements since the 1970s. You can read more about Martyn on his ISC profile <http://libr.org/isc/profile.html> or his blog <http://www.theproject.me.uk/>

Paul Catherall is a member of the Information for Social Change Editorial Board and is a Librarian working in the Higher Education sector, he has been involved with Information for Social Change, Career Development Group Wales and various progressive blogs for several years, Paul has been an active trade unionist with UNISON and recently UCU. You can read more about Paul on his ISC profile <http://libr.org/isc/profile.html>

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

**Book Review - Baillargeon, Normand: A Short Course In
Intellectual Self-Defense: Find Your Inner Chomsky, Seven Stories
Press 2007. ISBN: 9781583227657**

David Dane

The author Normand Baillargeon is Professor of Education Fundamentals at the University of Quebec in Montreal where he teaches the history of pedagogy and the philosophy of education.

The impression I kept getting on reading this book is that the author has provided an extremely useful guide to thinking clearly for oneself.

In this volume the author helps provide intellectual tools to see through everyday spin and jargon. Topics covered include politics, advertising, mysticism and news reporting. What follows is some of the main important points I noticed in this volume.

At the start of part one language is discussed and shows how words can be used to mislead. Examples of the vocabulary used about war are given and lists of terms are provided about what the vocabulary really means. There is also discussion about Sexism and Political Correctness which mentions the issue about 'language police' on American campuses which may hinder free expression and the exploring of all subjects and questions.

There is a discussion on the role of intellectuals and jargon and how some intellectuals can use jargon to cover up the vacuity of their work.

Also included is a discussion on probability and chance/statistics. This helps the reader to be more critical of data presented to them from various different sources. Aristotle's logic is presented to help detect fallacies in argument.

The second part of the book deals with justification of belief and using Hume's discussion on miracles has a well-reasoned attack on the paranormal.

Phenomena like dowsing and spiritualism are investigated and debunked.

The final section concludes with dealing with the issue of the media. It shows how the corporate nature of the media and how it is not a value free provider of unbiased news.

At the end of the book a list of organisations involved in Independent Media is given.

To sum up:

My impression of this book is overwhelmingly positive.

I would suggest the reader gets a copy.

We need more books like this.

David Dane 20/8/12

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

Occupy Elsevier

Stephen Bales

For-profit academic publishing models exploit academic workers as both productive and unproductive laborers. Academic librarians must consider this exploitation and explore alternatives. This brief paper offers a critique of existing capitalist structures of scholarly communication and serves as a call to action.

Karl Marx's parsing of the capitalist mode of production does much to explain the exploitative nature of the current mode of scholarly publishing. As is the case with other workers in a capitalist economy, the exploitation of the academic worker hinges on the commodification of her labor, that is, her scholarship's transformation into an exchange value, or quantified market value. Marx (1990) explained that a worker's wages consist of enough money to provide for the conditions necessary for the continuous reproduction of her person and her labor power. The extra value created in the commodity comes as a result of the incorporation of additional, unpaid labor supplied by the worker; labor which is transformed into surplus value and taken by the capitalist.

The academic worker simply does not receive all of the value that they create with their labor. The traditional Marxian position, however, is that academic workers employed by the state or non-profit institutions do not engage in productive labor. Productive workers, Rubin (1979, pp. 213-214) wrote, "exchange their labour directly against capital [. . .] productive workers are those whose labour yields surplus; unproductive workers are those whose labour is devoid of this property." I contend, however, that academic laborers who publish in scholarly journals run by corporate publishing entities (CPEs) are both productive and unproductive laborers. The academic researcher is exploited twice in a process which, in a normative society posited from the Marxian perspective, they should own.

The first moment of exploitation happens when the academic laborer sells her intellectual labor to the college or university that employs her as an unproductive laborer. Mohun (2003, p. 45) identified unproductive laborers as those that do not fulfill one or more of the following requirements: "first, [the labor in question] is wage labour, second, [it] is employed in a capitalist production, process, and third [it] produces surplus value from a social point of view." Fine and Saad-Filho (2010, p. 41) argued, however, that even though "the unproductive [e.g., public sector] workers do not directly produce surplus value, they are exploited if they work for longer than the value represented by their wage—being unproductive is no obstacle against capitalist exploitation."

Although she is not exploited directly by capital, the academic worker is exploited by an organ of capital, higher education, an element of the socioeconomic superstructure which French structural Marxist Louis Althusser (2006) termed an “ideological state apparatus,” an institution that supports and helps reproduce capitalist hegemony (e.g., most colleges and universities).

The tenure track academic librarian exemplifies this exploitation. Librarians with faculty status are often required to engage in research and writing outside of the 40 hours per week that they are expected to devote to librarianship, meaning that research often occurs at night and on weekends, increasing by several hours the amount of completely unpaid time to the working day appropriated by the institution.

The academic laborer, however, is not just tangentially used by capital. The second moment of exploitation arrives with the CPE’s valorization of the author’s productive labor; this happens through the creation of economic capital directly from the author’s surplus labor.

Academic workers submit the products of their intellectual labor to corporate journals for vetting and possible acceptance. A growing number of these journals are published by CPEs such as Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, and Sage. The CPEs have the capacity to trade upon the scholarly cache of the journals’ editorial bodies to entice submissions, but often fail to give equitable remuneration to contributing authors besides the prestige and exposure that comes from publication in the journal.

The academic worker is left with two things from these transactions with their employer and the CPE: (1) the necessary means to reproduce themselves as an intellectual laborer, and (2) a fund of personal professional prestige from which to purchase job security and academic freedom for themselves in the form of tenure. Academic workers essentially give away their surplus labor to “buy” continued employment from the “company store” of the college or university.

Academic librarians must explore counterhegemonic alternatives to CPEs, that is, alternatives which elevate the production of knowledge above the production of capital.

Ideally, librarians should take active measures to defeat capital’s domination of academic production, such as working towards the legitimation of open access scholarship as a means for disseminating research and gaining tenure. Open access publishing models of the most liberal sort, i.e., those in which the author is required to pay little or nothing for open access publication while retaining ownership of copyright, address inequities found in the current publishing model and offer a means of resistance to the continuing commodification of academic labor. It is the responsibility of academic librarians qua academic laborers to challenge existing models of scholarly communication that exploit themselves and their colleagues.

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Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

Campaign Resources For Activist Campaigners

Martyn Lowe

Introduction to this List

This is not intended to be a comprehensive list, but it will give you some idea of the various activist networks and resources which are currently used by various radical campaigners.

I have included both information upon activist groups in this resource list, and what kind of legal help is currently available if things go wrong.

The Ethical Consumer

<http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/home.aspx>

This is a bi-monthly publication & resource guide which is well worth reading. It maintains a very excellent Active Boycott List.

<http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/boycotts/currentboycottlist.aspx>

Fitwatch

'Fitwatch began in 2007 as a response to the constant harassment and intrusive surveillance protesters received from Forward Intelligence Teams (FIT). Deploying a range of tactics, Fitwatch has worked to ensure FIT policing is on the agenda not only within activist circles, but also in the wider public through our media work.'

<http://www.fitwatch.org.uk/>

Green and Black Cross - legal support

Green and Black Cross Legal Information provide legal observers on the ground at various demonstrations.

They produce various legal briefings, and a stop and search guide.

<http://greenandblackcross.org/legal/>

Legal Defence and Monitoring Group

The original idea behind the Legal Defence And Monitoring Group was to form legal back up on demonstrations in and around London.

The group aims are:

- To monitor police behaviour on demonstrations & pickets.
- To give unconditional support to anyone arrested or injured.
- To provide sympathetic solicitors to those people arrested who want one.
- To assist anybody assaulted by the police or wrongly arrested to sue the police.
- &
- To monitor court cases and provide support to those held on remand.

<http://dmg.org.uk>

Rising Tide

Rising Tide is a grassroots international network of groups and individuals who take direct action to confront the root causes of climate change and to promote local, community-based solutions to the climate crisis.

<http://risingtide.org.uk/>

Seeds for Change

Seeds for Change is a network activists providing support and training to activists, campaigners, community groups and co-operatives.

<http://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/>

Veggies

Veggies has been promoting vegan catering, while supporting campaigns for human and animal rights, environmental protection, and social justice since 1984.

The Veggies Networking Directory

Veggies Directory (aka the 'Animal Contacts Directory' and 'Vegan Business Connection') has some 7000 entries in it.

The directory includes the following categories: -

- Activist Support
- Animal Rights

- Environment
- Human Rights
- Social Struggles
- &
- World Issues

<http://www.veggies.org.uk/directory/>

WikiLeaks

WikiLeaks aims to bring important news and information to the public.

Here is what they say about themselves: - ' One of our most important activities is to publish original source material alongside our news stories so readers and historians alike can see evidence of the truth.'

Martyn Lowe

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

Coalition Blog a critical Liberal Democrat Act Web site Forum

Paul Catherall

<http://act.libdems.org.uk/group/coalitionblog>

By July 2011 the Coalition Government, composed of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative political parties had been running the UK for around a year, many of the most controversial items of government legislation such as abolition of EMA (*Educational Maintenance Allowance* for the post statutory college education sector) and increased tuition fees had already been implemented, large student protests had taken place during late 2010, partly as a response to a substantial increase in tuition fees, and the summer of 2011 had been marked by widespread youth riots across England.

These issues were hotly debated on Liberal Democrat (LibDem) forums. As a consequence of these and other developments, I felt it would be useful to record government policy, legislation and government-influenced matters as a record of developments, but also to express and invite views on these topics. As someone who had originally supported the LibDem party during the May 2010 election and in previous national elections, I had already been active on LibDem discussion forums so felt it would be more beneficial to document Coalition policy on a major Web forum of the LibDem Party, exposing these discussions to the key voters and supporters of the Party directly.

The early posts added to the blog dealt largely with education related issues, particularly following on from the work of 38 Degrees (<http://www.38degrees.org.uk/>) and the Anti-Academies Alliance (<http://antiacademies.org.uk/>) in critiquing the ongoing Government promotion of Academies and Free Schools, de-regulation of the state-funded education sector, introduction of non-mandatory qualified status for teachers and de-regulation of schools from statutory regulation and Local Education Authority (LEA) Control.

On July 02 2011, the Government issued an update to state schools and LEAs by removing 150 pages from school regulations on school trips (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-14000093>) the posting highlighted the dangers of poorly regulated school events with examples of recent tragedies where safety guidelines had not been followed.

The Japanese Fukushima Nuclear disaster of early July 2011 was also covered in the blog, outlining how the Coalition had apparently sought to issue a Public

Relations campaign in defence of the Nuclear Industry , prompting calls from senior LibDems for the energy and climate secretary Chris Huhne to resign.

The London Riots had also rocked the major cities of England during the summer of 2011, some coverage on the blog and elsewhere on the LibDems forums queried why the riots had been restricted to England, with negligible incidents in the rest of the UK, potentially indicating a link between English domestic policy such as EMA abolition, tuition fee rises etc. and youth discontent.

Other education related posts queried the adoption of the 'Pupil Premium', asking if this apparent funding really revealed a more questionable context for Academy schools:

"Compare this with the pupil premium to encourage poorly regulated academies to accept and support lower class kids, this 'solution' would not be needed if we had not allowed the school admissions code to fall into disuse by the academies."

On the topic of Academy schools, the blog often debated the status of these poorly regulated and unaccountable schools, funded by the state but often run for profit by commercial providers, the blog raised new phenomena in English Academy schools such as segregation by ability, colour-coding of uniforms, abolition of the school summer break and use of 'shame' tactics to increase pupil performance.

Other areas mentioned by the blog included forced conversion of state schools into Academy status, the forced selling off of school/ local authority assets and land and creation of for-profit services within schools such as charging parents for additional tuition within the school day.

The blog particularly raised the role of the LibDem party in supporting either directly or through inaction the rise of Academies:

"Given the opposition to the academies by LibDems through conference motions, why is the party allowing the disestablishment of our schools system, loss of many schools regulations, curriculum, admissions code, nutritional standards and abolition of school health and safety practices, not to mention relaxing the rules on creationist and religious components in state schools."

During 2010/11 the Coalition Government appeared to be influenced heavily by Right Wing 'Think Tanks' and advisory gurus such as Steve Hilton; the blog queried debates on the suspension of consumer rights, suspension of Labour laws and sales of national parks to name a few areas debated.

Another repeated focus of the blog addressed the policy focus of the LibDem leadership within the Coalition Government e.g. reform of the House of Lords, Proportional Representation, taxing high band homes and other areas, whilst either allowing or supporting the Conservative policies toward Liberalisation and Privatisation of the NHS/ schools system and repeal of the Meritocratic state by reversing decades of statutory, post-statutory and University reforms:

“LibDems will look particularly unelectable, ridiculous and irrelevant... whilst the entire secondary and primary schools sector is privatised under the most dubious academies project in England, jobs are being lost to the economy, the NHS is being carved up and universities are abandoned.”

Aside from strategic liberalisation and cuts to education and health budgets, the blog also queried the lack of investment in Small to Medium Sized Businesses whilst pumping vast amounts of the UK Gross Domestic Product into the arms and Nuclear industries.

The blog frequently compared national UK policy to comparative policy in the devolved regional governments of Wales and Scotland on areas such as the economy, housing, education and health policy, pointing out the more settled and progressive nature of the devolved administrations of the UK during the Summer 2011 riots in English cities.

Debate on budgeting priorities were also reflected in the discussions on the rising question of Scottish Independence, with gains by the Scottish National Party as they obtained historic electoral success during 2011-2012, securing a massive Scottish Parliament majority at the expense of all the mainstream UK political parties.

“Most Scots wouldn't even be considering this route, but for the imposition of extreme right wing policies authored in Westminster by the likes of LibDem ministers. Unfortunately, and indeed tragically, these ministers simply refuse to understand or accept that they are now outside the regions of balanced centre or left-of-centre politics demanded by the majority of Scots, and that they have taken the LibDems down a toxic, neoliberal path beyond the pale of conventional politics and the traditional left-of-centre majority.”

The blog also attempted to discuss the work of activist groups such as 38 Degrees, particularly in relation to the reform of the NHS into a liberalised, semi-privatised entity based around independent General Practitioners commissioning services using state money from an open market of providers.

The blog also particularly pointed out the contradiction between Liberal Democrat policy, conference motions and previously stated positions in respect to recent health and education liberalisation and de-regulation:

“The 38 degrees site's recent professional legal review tallies with the view of the BMA that the NHS bill will be deeply damaging to the UK health system and will likely result in many abuses, inconsistencies and lack of accountability, not to mention the potential transformation into a profit based sector serving international users.”

Welfare de-regulation was also raised in the blog, including ongoing withdrawal of the council housing system in England, retrenchment of support for disabled people, compromising their right to a dignified state of living and the forcing of cancer sufferers off state support and into employment.

The blog also described the role of individual LibDem politicians, often listing those who often opposed policies deregulating educational, health, welfare, employment and infrastructure systems.

The blog also chartered some of the early publicity surrounding Social Enterprises, such as 'welfare to work' companies, querying the effectiveness and morality of these businesses and their fitness for purpose in managing and profiting from our young people, elderly, unemployed, prisons, police services etc.

The blog also followed the planned reform of the NHS in England, including the blocking by the Coalition Government of the NHS risk register (which would have described the damaging outcomes of health liberalization under the 'Health and Social Care Bill') as demanded by the Information Commissioner, the blog discussed the role of senior Liberal Democrat politicians in blocking the publication of the register:

"LibDem peers have voted with the government to oppose Labour's last minute attempt to stop the health and social care bill in the Lords, only Lord Greaves supported this measure to stop the Bill. LibDem Peers also opposed Lord Owen's attempt to delay the Bill until the publication of the risk register, with no peers supporting this motion. This unfortunate behaviour sends a very clear message to the progressive electorate that the LibDem party are unelectable, unfit for government and are a serious threat to a progressive UK agenda, furthermore these politicians are an embarrassment to anyone who has supported the LibDems over the years."

Finally, the blog also frequently queried the legitimacy of Neoliberal policies designed to block or prevent investment in infrastructure, the economy, education and Higher Education as drivers of prosperity, especially querying how health and education liberalization, in areas such as Special Educational Needs de-regulation are essential for the austerity agenda:

"Many LibDem leaders now argue the current agenda is based on a rationale to reduce the deficit, however, many of policies being supported or authored by the LibDedms at the moment have no obvious deficit reduction dimension, take the recent breakup of the SEN legislation for individual needs provision in schools, how does allowing the deregulated academies to avoid SEN help children or reduce the deficit?"

In summary, the blog attempts to chronicle major aspects of the Coalition Government with particular emphasis on the damaging effects of Neoliberal reform on education services, but also drawing attention to the questionable support for these policies by the Liberal Democrat Party as stakeholders in UK Government. You can view the blog live on the LibDem Act Web site at <http://act.libdems.org.uk/group/coalitionblog>

Paul Catherall is a Librarian in the Higher Education sector and author of *Delivering E-Learning* (Chandos Publishing, 2005).

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

Dissident Island Radio – an article about London’s favorite radical DIY radio collective.

Chickpea

What’s this Dissident Island business all about then?

Our central activity is the regular internet radio shows we produce, which we stream live every first and third Friday of the month and is archived for download shortly after.

Shows feature interviews on the politics and practice of grass roots campaigns and organizing, radical struggles of present and past, Do-It-Yourself tech guides, lots of banter, laughter, an occasional vegan recipe, prisoner support info (so you can write to someone in jail)...

Music is a big part of the show too, not only being an expression of resistance and creativity but something to give the brain a break and the feet some work. Almost every show to date has ended with a live DJ or musical set of some kind.

The show format is fluid, reflecting the interests, enthusiasm and ideas of the people who are involved in Dissident Island at any given time. If you listen to shows from different points during our five plus years of broadcasting, you may hear the evolution in the show – one encompassing more than improvements in sound quality (although that’s definitely happened!) In staying curious and developing alongside the project, the show and wider project remains interesting for everyone involved!

Do you only do regular podcasts or do you do anything else?

D*I does so many things besides the twice monthly shows. We regularly broadcast special edition radio panel discussion shows or event-focused radio – like the two G20 radio shows produced during the London G20 anti-summit protests in April 2009, a special discussion on Direct Action inspired by anarchist-anthropologist David Graeber’s ethnography, and a lively, diverse panel on ‘Activist Realism’, discussing the relationship between critical theory and street-level activism.

The collective also embarked on an ambitious project: X26 Radio (1) – a convergence of radical, independent radio projects that organised around the

March 26 2011 mass demonstrations and protests in London against UK government-imposed austerity and pension cuts to public sector workers. X26 Radio highlighted the huge variety of protest activity via a 12 hour live stream, mobile sound systems roaming the city streets and a FM pirate transmission that covered the entirety of central London. We spoke to participants in the myriad of political activity, from union marches to protest blocs to direct action. X26 Radio provided protesters and listeners alike with a noncorporate, independent and free (as in freedom!) version of the days' events. The twelve hours of continuous live coverage included news round-ups, telephone calls from people on the street providing accounts and insight into what was happening. Check out the archives by looking for "X26 Radio" in your search engine of choice.

Taking the show on the road is a big part of the fun too. D*I has left familiar surroundings to venture out to grassy fields to produce radio shows from the Kingsnorth and the Blackheath Camps for Climate Action in the UK. At the end of 2009, the D*I group went to Denmark to produce English language radio shows covering protest activity and the radical convergence at the COP15 in Copenhagen (COP15 Indymedia Radio). We even produced a (rather hilarious) 8 hour live stream during the 'Reclaim Power' day of action on 16 December 2009, giving live updates from the street streets of Copenhagen. In early October 2010, the D*I crew got an invitation up to Manchester, producing a Manx-special, and giving some workshops at the Redbricks Estate on DIY podcasting and audio editing.

D*I loves hitting the streets! We like to attend the monthly Critical Mass ride with a mobile sound system in tow. This sound system, and others mini-ones, are part of a sister project called 'Sound vs. System' looking to build mobile sound equipment as resources for the radical left protest movements in London and beyond – an effort to put the 'party' back into 'protest'...these sound systems have made it to protests in Brighton with SmashEDO, to Heathrow for an anti-aviation demo, to Grow Heathrow for fundraisers and other adventures around London with Rising Tide and London NoBorders.

D*I is working with other radical radio producers and techs to bring about a UK-wide radical radio network called Catalyst. It is currently on hiatus at the time of writing this article but will be broadcasting again soon!

D*I has also painstakingly gathered enough blinking, noise-making boxes to warrant a studio space – after moving through several social centres we've found a permanent home at the London Action Resource Centre (LARC). D*I is also involved in the upkeep and maintenance of this invaluable political resource space – by partaking in the open LARC User-Group activities.

Benefit gigs? Is that how you make money? Where does your money come from for the project? Do you get paid to do this?

Benefit gigs are another thing the D*I crew get stuck into – it takes a lot of energy but is a load of fun to throw a good party. And D*I does this in part to raise the funds for its equipment, and then splits the profits with groups in need of cold hard cash without requiring massive funding application efforts or coming with strings attached – groups include the Drax 29, various London social centres, London Indymedia, the London Anarchist Bookfair Collective, the

Advisory Service for Squatters, and D*I have collaborative with other organisers such as No Fixed Abode and Hackney Solidarity and a list of sound systems, DJs, VJs, and volunteers that wouldn't fit on this page!

As to getting paid – we don't pay ourselves. We do all of this political work out of the goodness of our hearts and from the desire to create a world we want to live in*. The show can be one way of discovering and communicating political ideas we find interesting, to each other in the collective and the people who tune in – and much of what we do is fun for us!

(Having said that, don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to money, equipment, time and/or material to our project... or would like to get involved in the Catalyst Radio network)

How can I get in touch? Can I sign-up to your email list? Can I send submissions for your show?

Get in touch by sending us an email (dissidentisland at riseup dot net). If you want to stay on top of the happenings on the island (parties, workshops, events, shows), why not sign up to a very low-volume email list? You can do that by...sending us an email! And whether you're a radio aficionado/o or new to this whole internet-radio phenomenon, you should definitely check out our archive (2). Listening to one of our shows is only a couple computer mouse clicks away and there's bound to be a topic we've covered that you're into. D*I is always on the look out for interesting political material and non-corporate, independent music for shows and gigs (and just out of interest too). If you've got something to share: a message, a campaign, music, a poem, a recipe, a DIY guide, info and practicalities on an upcoming demo, protest, action, strike, whatever else – why not get in touch? And if you're interested in making your own radio, D*I are happy to do regular skill-shares and workshops for folks interested in starting up internet radio shows.

This is getting long. Can you wrap it up already?

OK fair enough. This whole spiel doesn't really answer the 'what is dissident island?' question directly, but hopefully it does so in a round about way... because I like to think that D*I is defined more by what it does than how its branded at any given time. The project is fluid, with many bits in the works and many bits required to make it work, with ideas and half-ass plans constantly being hatched ...and then realised into existence! It's all a nod to the Do-It-Yourself ethos that is about doing what you want to do and finding a way to do it for yourself – and understanding that it is liberating, not to mention fun, to be empowered and autonomous via DIY culture in this highly hierarchical, patriarchal, professionalised world we live in.

D*I also nods to centuries of autonomous, citizen, grassroots documentation, investigation and information dissemination on protest movements, liberation ideology and action. Free media is one of many essential tools that help to create community and realise social and environmental justice in the present – creating a world we want to live in, here and now.

Some notes:

- (1) For archives and more information check out: x26radio.ucrony.net
- (2) you can listen to all the shows mentioned about by looking through our archive, which can be found at (<http://www.dissidentisland.org/archive/>)

Information for Social Change Number 32 Summer 2012

Library Activist Resources and Alternative Information Networks

Kettling - A Resource List

Martyn Lowe

“Being Kettled is both very boring and an extremely frightening experience...”
Nonviolent Activist.

An introduction to the Kettling experience

I've only ever been 'Kettled' twice in my life.

The first time was during 2000 when I landed up in the middle of Trafalgar Square.

On that occasion it lasted for four and a half hours. The square was full of would be protesters and tourists. We were surrounded by black clad & helmeted riot cops. That was the moment when I decided to buy myself a mobile phone.

The second occasion was on the 3rd of May this year, and just over road from St Pauls Cathedral.

On that occasion I was almost pushed over in the panic to get away from some very inexperienced baton wheeling City of London constabulary. While in that Kettle I managed to have a very friendly conversation with a community police officer on the subject of energy conservation. The contrast between confrontation and communication could not of been greater.

I know a lot of individuals who have been Kettled many more times than me. In ways they regarded it as just an occupation risk for anyone who campaigns for social justice, or the creation of a better world.

This should not be so.

Getting Kettled is not a nice experience to go through.

It is both frightening, and an abuse by the police of one's human rights.

There are no books about Kettling which one will find within any public library, which is why I have put together this webpage resource list on the subject.

Definition

A Definition of Kettling & history of its use is to be found on Wikipedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kettling>

Strasbourg

' Human rights court backs police 'Kettling' - Majority of Strasbourg judges rule in favour of Met in case brought by demonstrator and bystanders over 2001 incident.'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/15/human-rights-court-police-kettling>

Kettling police powers

'A conference on defending our fundamental liberties during the Olympics and beyond.'

<http://www.redpepper.org.uk/kettling-police-powers/>

Kettling the Cops

This is a video which was taken by activists during a demonstration by the police.

It is very funny to watch.

<http://www.dontpaniconline.com/video/kettling>

Criticism

The Network for Police Monitoring (Netpol) produced a very critical report about Police protest tactics.

<http://netpol.org/2012/07/24/new-report-documents-total-policing-clampdown-on-freedom-to-protest/>

The Guardian newspaper covered this report with the headline: -

Police protest tactics 'give officers excessive and disproportionate control'.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jul/24/public-protest-police-tactics-disproportionate>

There is a lot of other very useful information about kettling to be found upon the Netpol website.

<http://netpol.org/resources/guide-to-kettles/>

Both the problems & criticisms about Kettling will last for some time to come.

Martyn Lowe