

Diary Dates

Saturday 5 April

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Acton Bring and Take Event

organised by

Freeconomy Wrexham.

Everything for Free!

Acton Community Centre,

Overton Way, Acton.

More information on pages 6-7.

Thursday 10 April

5.45 - 7.45 pm

**TOTAL petrol station demo
for Burma**

Hoole TOTAL petrol station,
Hoole Road, Chester.

We already have loads of banners
etc. so just bring yourselves.

Saturday 12 April

11.30 am - 2.00 pm

Wrexham

Hope Not Hate march & rally

organised by

Wrexham Trades Union Council.

Meet at Wrexham Museum.

More info opposite.

Monday 14 April

6.15pm

Wrexham Peace & Justice

Forum planning meeting

Quaker Meeting House,

Holt Road, Wrexham.

All welcome.

Saturday 26 April

1.30 pm

**Cardiff - No Military Academy
march and demo**

to protest against the

St Athan Military Academy.

Meet opposite Cardiff City Hall.

Coach now taking bookings from
Wrexham & Oswestry.

See below for details.

Friday 2 May

7.30 pm

On the Verge

The film they tried to ban

Documentary film about the

Smash EDO campaign against

Brighton arms manufacturers.

FREE entry.

Wrexham: venue to be confirmed.

Send name and phone number to:

freeconomywrexham@yahoo.co.uk

or call 0845 330 4505

Thursday 22 May

7.45 pm

The Lady of Burma

Theatr Clwyd, Mold

Play by Richard Shannon, with

Liana Mau Tan Gould as

Aung San Suu Kyi.

Tickets £9 and £7 concessions.

Join the cast for a Talkback

session post-show.

Box Office: 0845 330 3565

Hope not Hate rally in Wrexham



Marc Jones

Wrexham Trades Union Council

Saturday 12 April will see an anti-fascist march and rally in Wrexham town centre. It's organised by Wrexham Trades Union Council under the banner of 'Hope not Hate' in the run-up to the local council elections.

All progressive people committed to defeating the hateful message of the BNP, who will be standing in the coming council elections, are encouraged to take part.

The march starts at 11.30 am at the museum on Regent St. There will be a short march to Queens Square by midday (hopefully led by the Cambria Drum Band) and then there will be music and brief speeches from 12.00 - 2.00 pm.

Placards, banners (especially imaginative ones!) are welcome to emphasise that Wrexham as a town is against the BNP's divisive message. Please spread the word to friends, relatives and work colleagues to make sure this is a huge demo.

Any other ideas to make the event more successful are also very welcome - please contact me on:

marcjones@phonecoop.coop

Tel: 01978 366 735.

More information about the campaign:
www.hopenothate.org.uk

No Military Academy

George Miller

You may not have heard about the St Athan deal being foisted on the people of Wales without consultation or debate. It involves paying an American arms manufacturer, producer of cluster bombs among other horrors, some £15 billion of tax payers' money to set up a huge privatised military university. Armed forces will be trained by arms dealers, subsidised by us, in the techniques and methodology of the 'war on terror'. Bad enough anywhere, but in Wales (Cardiff) with its pacifist traditions... The Welsh Assembly support it because, they claim, it will mean thousands of jobs - the usual mantra - but it is now clear that the majority of these will be highly paid experts and civil servants drafted in from elsewhere in the UK and abroad.

**DEMONSTRATION and MARCH against St Athan Military Academy
in Cardiff. Saturday 26 April.**

COACH from Wrexham and Oswestry. BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW.

Please come if you possibly can. To book a seat and for further details, call:

Margaret: 01691 650527 or George: 01691 658330.

Send your cheque for £12 per seat to:

Derek Williams, OCP, 54 Whitefriars, Oswestry, SY11 2LW.

Cheques payable to 'Oswestry Coalition for Peace'.

For more information about the campaign, see:

www.no2militaryacademy.com

Hands Off Iraqi Oil Day of Action Genny Bove

As reported in the last issue of WPJN, 23 February was an international day of action targeting oil companies which are attempting to benefit from the sell-off of Iraq's oil reserves.

Over 30 separate actions took place in the UK, the US and the Netherlands, in solidarity with the Iraqi people's struggle against the plunder of their oil reserves.

In February 2007, the Iraqi cabinet approved proposed legislation on oil which, if passed into law, would allow the likes of Shell, BP and Exxon to take over control of most of Iraq's oil reserves, depriving ordinary Iraqis of scores of billions of dollars. Shell and BP, with the help of the UK Government, have been actively pushing for this law and these contracts since 2003, fiercely resisted by the oil workers and their unions. The Iraqi Oil Workers Union has been a highly visible and vocal opponent of the oil law since the beginning. Union members have rallied in the streets, created physical blockades to prevent foreign oil companies from trespassing onto their fields, and they have continued to organise despite threats to their jobs, their lives and the lives of their families.

Round-up of Actions:

Wrexham

In Wrexham, five people maintained a very visible demonstration at the Shell petrol station opposite NEWI on Mold Road for the morning, displaying placards and banners, leafleting drivers who stopped to fill up at the garage and discussing the issues with passers-by. Using the pedestrian crossing (they're so useful!) we crossed and re-crossed the road with our banner *No profit from war*, while the purpose of the demonstration was clearly displayed to waiting drivers by the *Hands Off Iraqi Oil* placards attached to the traffic light poles.



London



In London, a gang of pirates conducted a tour of some of the institutions and corporations which stand to gain from the corporate take-over of Iraq's oil by foreign companies. As the tour blurb said:

Shiver me timbers. They profit from the stormy conditions of occupied lands, economically sunk and shocked by war. Through glittering shindigs, they bring buccaneers and soldiers of fortune together. Their plundering they call 'development', their privatisations they call 'partnerships', and their profiteering they call 'investments'. It's high time these booty-hoarders were exposed! Come and join the London Hands Off Iraqi Oil tour of corporate pirates, ooo aaarrrrrr, me hearties!

Washington DC

Oil Change International (OCI), in coalition with other US labour and peace organisations, hosted a press conference and march to expose the true intent of this law.

Trina Zahller of OCI stated that *no Oil Law or long-term contracts passed under the occupation will have legitimacy. They are seen as products of coercion, exploitation and physical violence against the Iraqi people.*

Gene Bruskin, the co-covener of *US Labor Against the War*, presented an open letter to Iraq's Prime Minister Maliki and President Bush signed by four hundred trade union leaders, members and labour allies in support of the demands of Iraqi unions.

Amsterdam

In Amsterdam, a bunch of clowns turned up to party at a BP petrol station...

Time for a picnic and some dancing at the gas station! We pimped up the place with our flags, posters and other party stuff. The customers were pretty surprised. They got our flyers and they really liked our cookies, chocolate and sweets. We cleaned and played in their cars.

The petrol station was closed by a BP employee after about half an hour 'for security reasons.'

Birmingham



The 'Hell' petrol station in Kings Heath, Birmingham was shut for two hours, following a banner-hang from the roof; a blockade: *Shell is closed for ethical repairs*; leafleting, with local young people enthusiastically joining in; and a 'rebranding' team dressed in smart suits, who defused driver tension with a questionnaire.

More about Hands Off Iraqi Oil

Hands Off Iraqi Oil is a UK coalition opposing any foreign exploitation of Iraq's oil reserves that rips off the Iraqi people. Members include *Corporate Watch, Iraq Occupation Focus, Jubilee Iraq, PLATFORM, Voices UK, and War on Want.*

To be added to the updates list, email: handsoffiraqioil@gmail.com. (Sorry, there's no postal address.)