

May 2006 Update on Faslane 365 for all Blockading Groups

Dear Faslane 365 Supporters, sorry for the delay in getting this update to you but as you will see we have been busy! Please forward it to all the people in your area who are interested in F365 as we only mail it out to the main contact in each Blockading Group (BG). It will soon be on the website for easy access. It contains news about the Blockading Rota, information on accommodation, an invite to look around Faslane, and other useful updates, love and peace, Angie.

•**29 groups have signed up to the Blockading Rota so far** – but many more are at various stages of mobilisation. For those groups that have not yet done so, please decide on your dates as soon as you can as it will make it more inclusive, giving time for people to book days off work, arrange child-care and get prepared, as well as encouraging us all! A copy of the Rota can be found at the end of the newsletter and you will see that we now have 1 Environmental Group; 1 Political Party; 1 Solidarity Group; 1 Student Group; 1 International Group; 2 Women's Groups; 2 Religious Groups; 3 Professional Groups; 4 Peace Groups; and 12 Geographical Groups.

•**A Health Professional's Blockade.** "We are 2 General Practitioners who are trying to organise a health professionals' blockade. If any health professionals, including nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, dentists, physios, radiographers etc. would like to join us please can they contact:- Diana Warner, 0117 942 6303 (Bristol) dwarner@tantraweb.co.uk or Lesley Morrison, 0172 172 1703 (Peebles, the Scottish Borders) lesley@ljmorrison.fsnet.co.uk "

•**Academics/Scholars are mobilising** - for a block in January next year. If any of you know academics please invite them to get in touch.

•**Journalists/Writers/Publishers and other related professions are getting organised** – why not invite any that you know? If you want a pro-forma invitation then contact me for one.

•**What does the commitment to take on a 2-day Block and blockade over 2-days actually mean?** There is a short discussion of this at the end of the update, along with the Rota and Accommodation information.

•**The map of groups mobilising is now on the website.** People accessing the website will now be able to get in contact directly with those groups wanting to find more people for their blockading groups. If you find that your group is not on the map then please contact Adam through the info@faslane365.org email address and let him know. Please network as widely as you can so that everyone hears about Faslane 365 and is invited to take on a block or join in one.

•**We have received signed statements of support from 96 Organisations; 7 Academics; 2 Religious Leaders; 5 Right Livelihood Award Recipients; 19 Parliamentarians; and 100 individuals.** Updated lists are available on the website. We could get lots more signatories so please send the statement out far and wide (it is on the website) to organisations, religious leaders, academics, parliamentarians and individuals in your area so we continue to gather support. They can be invited to join your Block at the same time!

•**Training and support.** If you need a chat about mobilising, training or any other support then please give me a ring on 01263-512049 or send an email to info@faslane365.org It is best to book your training days as soon as possible as there are so many groups preparing and time is short.

•**Accommodation.** Please see the separate briefing at the end of this update.

•**An invite to Trident Ploughshares Disarmament Camp 2006.** “For the last eight years Trident Ploughshares have had camps in 40 acres of woodland near to Coulport Naval Base. This is where Trident warheads are stored and then put onto Trident submarines and is just 10 miles from Faslane. The camp is open to anyone who agrees to abide by our nonviolence and safety guidelines and this year we would like to invite anyone who is taking part in Faslane 365 to join us even for a few days to have a look around and get their bearings around the bases. We can organise tours, training and workshops and you can meet other people who have experience of taking action around Faslane. The dates of the camp are July 29th to August 12th. There will be surprise actions throughout the fortnight but we have announced a blockade on Monday 7th August, which would be a good opportunity for people who haven’t been before to see what happens. For more information about the camp see <http://www.tridentploughshares.org/article983> Look forward to seeing you, love Trident Ploughshares.”

See pages below for Rota, Accommodation and Thoughts on Blockading Commitments.

Faslane 365 Rota – 29 Groups - updated 19May06

Date	Group 1 st Day	Groups 2 nd Day
1Oct06	Greenham Women & Aldermaston Women	
2Oct06	Women in Black	Greenham Women & Aldermaston Women
3Oct06		Women in Black
5Oct06	Sheffield	
6Oct06	Keep Space for Peace	Sheffield
7Oct06		Keep Space for Peace
8Oct06	Assynt	
9Oct06	Seize the Day	Assynt
10Oct06	Bristol	Seize the Day
11Oct06		Bristol
12Oct 06	Cyclists	
13Oct06	Edinburgh	Cyclists
14Oct 06		Edinburgh
15Oct06	Scottish Green Party	
16Oct06	Nordic Group	Scottish Green Party
17Oct06		Nordic Group
23Oct06	Glasgow	
24Oct06		Glasgow
26Oct06	Norwich Plus	
27Oct06	Quakers	Norwich Plus
28Oct06	Sussex Students	Quakers
29Oct06		Sussex Students
31Oct06	Tweeddale	
1Nov06	Clergy/Iona	Tweeddale
2Nov06		Clergy/Iona
5Nov06	CND	
6Nov06	Stop the War	CND
7Nov06	Manchester	Stop the War
8Nov06	Palestinian Solidarity	Manchester
9Nov06		Palestinian Solidarity
13Nov06	Draig Goch	
14Nov06	North Wales	Draig Goch
15Nov06		North Wales
19Nov06	Tyneside	
20Nov06		Tyneside
6Dec06	Power of the Word	
7Dec06		Power of the Word
11Dec06	TP	
12Dec06		TP
24Dec06	Christmas Crackers	
25Dec06		Christmas Crackers
7Jan07	Academics	
8Jan07		Academics
13Jan07	Dundee	
14Jan07		Dundee

Accommodation

With so many groups coming to Faslane over such a long period we are all going to have to think very creatively about accommodation.

People who are not travelling too far could come straight to Faslane on their first day and could go home after they have finished on their second day – flexible transport arrangements will allow people to leave as they are released by the police (if arrests are made!)

Other groups might have a mixed approach to accommodation. For instance most of the group could travel overnight to arrive at Faslane but a small group who know that they can't manage this could arrive the day before and stay in a Bed and Breakfast in Helensburgh.

There are not many options for groups of 100 plus supporters to stay together near to Faslane due to the local sensitivities. However the Youth Hostel and campsites are a possibility.

There are a number of Church halls in Glasgow which have been used for Big Blockades and we are contacting these but we will have to keep them for groups who have got really stuck or international groups.

On May 15th Scotland's churches launched a joint petition urging the UK Government not to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system. Leaders of The Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church signed the petition. If anyone in your group has relatives or friends in the Glasgow area they could try and connect with a local church. From this you might find accommodation and other support as well as some more blockaders. This personal contact will work better than anything we can do.

We have compiled below some useful information that may be of help.

SCOTTISH YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION

There are usually lots of regulations in SYHA Youth Hostels including a curfew.
CENTRAL BOOKINGS: 0870-155-3255.

Deposit (20% of full fee) required 4 weeks from date of booking. Full payment 6 weeks before date of arrival

Dates & Prices <<http://www.syha.org.uk/SYHA/web/site/HostelRates/Rates701.asp>>
(Or phone No above)

Check Availability <http://www.syha.org.uk/SYHA/hostel_availability/av_701.htm>

Glasgow YHA

Address: 8 Park Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6BY Hostel Tel: 0870 004 1119

Map Reference: O.S.64 (GR 575662). Total beds 148 Open all year.

Loch Lomond YHA (At Balloch)

Balloch Central train station is 2 miles from the Youth Hostel. Also possible to cycle there safely. Loch Lomond YHA (Balloch) O.S. map ref: O.S.56 (GR 368834). Total 153 beds. Open until October 28th. After that you can book the whole hostel for £1500 a night until it reopens at the end of February. This hostel often gets fully booked especially in the summer.

Independent Hostels

Glasgow Euro Hostel

318 Clyde Street, Glasgow G1 4NR.

http://www.euro-hostels.co.uk/Glasgow_hostel/

It is open all year and has 364 beds. The more people you share with the cheaper it is. For a 14 bed dorm it is £14 per person per night. Reception is open 24hrs. You can book on-line or phone 0141 222 2828.

Bunkum Backpackers

26 Hillhead St, Glasgow, G12 8PY. Telephone: 0141 581 4481.
Fax: 0141 581 6258. Email: BunkumGlasgow@hotmail.com
Web: www.bunkumglasgow.co.uk

Or to find other cheap Glasgow hostels see
<http://www.hostelscentral.com/city-193.html>

CAMPING & CARAVANS

Luss Camping and Caravanning Club Site

Faslane 8 miles (non-members tents welcome), Luss, Loch Lomond, Alexandria, Scotland G83 8NT. Tel: 01436 860658. No calls after 8pm please. Closes Oct 30th to March 30th

http://www.myccc.co.uk/MA_MembersArea/SiteFinder/SiteDetails.aspx?SiteId=7180

Lagganbeg Camping and Caravan Park

Gartocharn, Loch Lomond, Argyll, G83 8NQ. Tel: 01389 830281. Open all year except February.

<http://www.lagganbeg.co.uk/>

Lomond Wood Holiday Park

(caravans only - no tents) 01389 - 759 475

<http://www.holiday-parks.co.uk/lomondwoods/index.htm>

Other camping options

Peaton Wood near to Coulport, where Trident Ploughshares have their camp has camping space. The landowner is only allowed to have camping there for 28 days a year so there are 14 days left in 2006. Please get in touch if you want to camp there and we will see if there are days left and liaise with the landowner.

Faslane Peace Camp is about a mile from the North (main) gate, a few hundred yards from the South (back) gate. The Peace Camp are setting aside a caravan and a bus for Faslane 365 to use. This will allow people to get a break a few at a time. It will be a warm, dry space where hot drinks can be made. There will also be access to a phone. They do not have the facilities to put up 100+ people night after night. The camp is always under threat of eviction and with local elections coming in May 2007 we have to be careful not to cause friction with their neighbours.

Bed and Breakfasts

There are many Bed and Breakfast in the area. See www.visitscotland.com
or www.a1tourism.com/uk/helensburgh.html

More information is available from: Helensburgh Tourist information Office. 08707 200 615 Open Easter to October

Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Gateway Centre 08707 200 631 Open all year

What does the commitment to take on a 2-day Block and blockade over 2-days actually mean?

Each Blockading Group (BG) booked into the Rota for a 2-day block has a commitment to cause, by peaceful blockading, as much disruption as possible for the two-day period. We want again to emphasise that you can be as flexible as you like in how you aim to do that. At recent mass blockades the pattern has been for blockaders to arrive in time to block the entrance of the day-shift workers between 7 and 8 in the morning but some groups may decide on an earlier or later arrival and it will be good to keep the MOD guessing by being unpredictable.

A BG consists of blockaders along with supporters, some of whom will have specific roles. Each BG will ideally mobilise, prepare and provide support for a minimum of 100 people prepared to blockade one or more of the 4 gates (only the North and South gates are usually used) at Faslane over a 2-day period. In some cases two or more groups may work together to provide the necessary numbers. Arrangements should be made to ensure that no-one does more than they are physically or mentally capable of and that everyone is supported and that the whole 2-days are conducted in a nonviolent and peaceful manner.

Here are some suggestions as to how BGs might approach the task:

- The blockaders can blockade the entrances to the base in any manner that they wish by walking, sitting, standing, dancing, locking-on, sleeping, conducting seminars, playing music etc. If they are removed but not arrested by the police they could keep returning to continue to try to blockade. If some gates are being kept clear by the police, but others are being left blockaded, then they may wish to move to the open gates.
- As well as varying the time of arrival the BG can arrive in waves – not everyone need arrive or leave at the same time. It is suggested that the 100 plus blockaders are organised into smaller affinity groups to allow flexibility.
- Experience shows the vital importance of legal support teams who can provide support at the base by observing and recording arrests, by tracing people through the arrest process and by providing transport from police stations as people are released. It is a good idea to have legal observers with each affinity group as well as at each gate.
- Each BG is encouraged to bring along as many demonstrators, witnesses, entertainers and supporters as they wish – the more the merrier. They can arrive in waves and stay for as short or long a time as they wish. Their creative support and energy is vital to maintain good humour and an active presence. Here are some of the things they might like to be engaged in at Faslane before, during and after the blockaders have all been arrested – a continuous vigil with placards; staggered meetings/discussions at the main gate; decorating the fence; talking to the press and doing radio and TV interviews; meeting with overlapping BGs to exchange information and get to know each other.
- In terms of being flexible about the finishing time, BGs may want to give a positive end to their blockade by some kind of handover ceremony to the next group. If the blockaders have all been arrested and the others in the group do not wish to remain at Faslane then those of the BG not engaged in actual legal support may prefer to move onto Helensburgh, Dumbarton or Glasgow and leaflet or engage in street stalls and discussions or support people from their own blockade or previous blockades in their court appearances.