

# Land is our most fundamental resource

The UK is one of the most private nations on earth. Very few people own the land they live on. Those who do own land often claim the right to do with it as they please. Land is often used by these "owners" in ways that show no regard for the needs of non land owners who use and value that land.

We were born with a right of access to the basic resources of the planet. Yet the state of dispossession is common to almost all the individuals and groups in these islands. If we are to have a socially just and ecologically sustainable future, we must have a say in the decisions which our society makes about land use, its ownership and value. As guardians and beneficiaries of the soil we live on we are prepared to assume our full rights and responsibilities. Nobody has a prior claim: The land is ours.

This basic insight is the inspiration behind the TLIO network. TLIO exists as a common forum where people can get the resources and respect they need. This allows all of us to follow our own pathways to a saner relationship with the land we live on.

There is no formal membership structure: anyone is welcome to become involved in TLIO activities as long as they are in agreement with our simple statement of principle. Key decisions are made by consensus at national gatherings, and carried out by a smaller group of committed activists from across the country.

*Our Statement of Principle: The Land Is Ours campaigns peacefully for access to land, its resources and the decision making processes affecting them, for everyone, irrespective of race, age or gender.*

**The Land Is Ours** has nine established local groups and special interest groups. They are situated in geographical or topical areas that TLIO supporters and activists have defined as important. These are;

**Networking Group.** Situated in Oxford the Networking Group is the hub of the TLIO network. It coordinates all TLIO groups, bringing together people with similar needs and interests and supporting them in their projects, research and actions. It answers thousands of enquiries a year and stocks an extensive selection of publications on land issues.

**The Allotments Coalition Trust (ACT).** ACT was born from the September 1998 TLIO allotments conference to "protect and promote allotments". It has received support from allotments activists and associations across the country and is set to launch in September 1999. The group is currently fundraising and preparing for its launch.

**Chapter 7.** Chapter 7 is the TLIO group tackling planning issues. It takes its name from chapter 7 of Agenda 21 - "sustainable human settlements" and is aiming to inspire a fundamental change in approach to planning in this country. It has developed "15 criteria for rural sustainable development" and is having increasing success in lobbying government and organisations to adopt these criteria.

**Diggers 350.** In 1649, at the end of the civil war, the Diggers asserted the right to rent free land for all. From 30th March and continuing all 1999 (and onwards) we will be celebrating and reviving the Diggers spirit. Events scheduled include an academic conference, a memorial stone raising, street theatre, production of an education pack, actions and land based happenings throughout the country.

**Local Groups.** TLIO has 11 local groups - with Bristol, South Downs and East Anglia groups particularly active over the last two years.

**Education Group.** Formed in early 1999 the education group is developing a series of land rights education packs for children and adults and a comic book history of land rights. Education is a fundamental necessity if we are to support people in developing their own approaches to the problems of land use we face.

**TLIO encourages the development of local groups and special interest groups. If you have a need not covered by any of the above groups then please get in touch - we can often find an organisation that can help or we can help you set up a new group.**

## Donations:

If you can make a donation, please send a cheque or postal order made out to 'The Land Is Ours'. Even a couple of pounds will make a difference.

I enclose a donation of .....

## Newsletter:

If you'd like to receive the TLIO newsletter for one year fill in the box below.

Alternatively, send your request by email to: [office@demon.co.uk](mailto:office@demon.co.uk)

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Address:.....  
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## Regular donations:

The easiest way to give, and to ensure TLIO a regular income, Fill in a:

## BANKERS ORDER FORM

To: The manager, name of bank.....

Address of bank.....  
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Please debit my/our account sort code:.....

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and credit the account of THE LAND IS OURS,  
A/C 50013380 Sort code 008-90-38 at the  
Co-operative Bank, 13 New Road, Oxford,  
OX1 1LG Forthwith the sum of £.....(figures)

Amount in words.....

and thereafter monthly on the day of each  
month until further notice.

Name:.....

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Signed:.....date:.....



**The Land Is Ours,  
Box E,  
111 Magdalen Road,  
OXFORD  
OX4 1RQ**

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stamp  
here**

## **The story so far...**

In places where people are being denied access to land for everyday recreation, groups of ordinary people have come together to assert their right to roam over uncultivated land. Mass Trespasses have been held in Oxfordshire, at Luton and on the South Downs.

In 1996 we drew attention to the situation in London where large areas of inner city land were being developed for executive flats when many local people were homeless by occupying a prime development site in Wandsworth for nearly six months.

In April 1997 Bristol TLIO local group occupied a derelict piece of land in Clifton and created Easter Garden, a community garden built in a week with the participation of over 200 local residents.

TLIO holds regular convergences and workshops for activists. These events have been the birth place of inspiring activities, actions and many of TLIO working groups.

During the next year TLIO activists are going to draw on these experiences and find new forms of positive action, bringing more and more people into the movement for positive change.

### **To get involved contact:**

**The Land is Ours Networking Group,  
Box E, 111 Magdalen Road,  
Oxford OX4 1RQ.**

**Tel: 01865 722016**

**Email: [office@tlio.demon.co.uk](mailto:office@tlio.demon.co.uk)**

**Website: <http://www.oneworld.org/tlio/>**



# **The Land is Ours**

*a landrights movement for Britain*

LAVERSTOKE  
PARK  
PRIVATE  
NO RIGHT OF WAY  
NO ENTRY EXCEPT  
ON BUSINESS AT  
LAVERSTOKE HOUSE  
THIS GATE WILL BE  
LOCKED ON  
CHRISTMAS DAY

*'a common treasury for all'*  
- Winstanley