



2024: Now we step it up

January 01, 2024 by Extinction Rebellion

As we enter 2024, Extinction Rebellion UK is sending a clear message.

The Government, Corporations and Big Oil have not made the necessary and urgent changes needed for a fair and just transition to secure a liveable planet for all. So we will be escalating actions and tactics throughout the course of the year.

YOUR TIME IS UP!

Rebel For Truth | XR UK



In 2023 we saw more record-breaking extreme weather events than ever before. Twenty-one species identified as extinct in the US alone, with many more unidentified all over the world lost to us forever . Our first day of 2C global heating.

And yet our government has invited in more oil and gas, and weakened its net zero targets. They have been criticised by their own independent advisors, as well as the National Audit Office and a cross-party group of MPs. But the government thinks the truth is optional and dissent is criminal, pushing through tougher policing laws that the UN calls ‘troubling’.

WHAT WE DID IN 2023

There have been immense acts of resistance and hope across the world.

In 2023, XRUK set out a goal of disrupting power, not the public.

We kept that promise. In April, 100,000 people came out for The Big One, supported by the biggest coalition of environmental organisations ever assembled. This act of peaceful protest, with family friendly tents and a joyful spirit, gave people who weren’t ready for civil disobedience a chance to show their compassion, anger and power.

We targeted the industries that are harming us.

We helped to shut down the Oil and Money conference, brought to a halt the Farnborough airfield and Luton Airport private jet terminal, disrupted arms fairs and blocked the UK’s largest open cast coal mine, Ffos-y-Fran, ultimately getting it shut down for good.



Blocking the entrance to the Ffos-y-Fran coal mine in Wales, July 2023. Photo: M. Pell.

Our actions were targeted, creative and everywhere.

Here Comes Everyone | XR UK Nations & Regions



In the second half of the year alone, rebels took nearly 1,000 actions across the country. We protested outside banks and insurers, particularly Barclays, Europe's megafunder of fossil fuels, and disrupted AGMs joyfully with song and theatre.

We called out the epic amounts of raw sewage being pumped into our rivers and seas, with family friendly acts of resistance. We saw thousands of people ‘Paint The Streets’ to make XR visible across the UK.



Protests about the dumping of raw sewage into our rivers have been happening all over the UK, with XR local groups collaborating with other NGOs and activist groups. One such protest took place in Hastings! Photo: Cathy Teesdale.

Decide together

Letting the people decide is a central part of XR – which is why we established over 20 community assemblies this year. Each assembly forms part of a bigger plan to escalate informed, joint decision making all the way up to Westminster. More about this in the coming weeks!



The community assembly that took place in Haringey in November 2023 is one of over 20 community assemblies already happening all over the UK. Local groups work together with communities, other NGOs, associations and local councils to come to fair solutions for the community on issues that matter to them. Photo: Tim Varlow.

Decentralised

And we did all this through the power of an autonomous UK-wide movement with more than 200 local groups, community groups and campaigns.

When our rebels break the law in defence of life, we support them.

We are glad to have had many wins in the courts this year. We are grateful to those who have put their liberty at risk in service of a fair, just, and liveable world.

What we achieve, we achieve because we unite to survive.

We worked with hundreds of other movements, organisations and communities, stood in solidarity with others, were supported by over 100 leading public figures, and put the climate crisis in the news.

But our political system is failing us.

Our government has failed to make the urgent changes required for a liveable world, despite the urgency and scale of the climate and ecological crisis.

There is one answer to the situation we are in, an antidote to the lies and misinformation – we demand a Citizens’ Assembly on Climate and Ecological Justice.

Because when you can't trust those in power, the people are the answer!

So now what?

Now we step it up. We mobilise.

Each week in January, we will be sending you a specific route to activism. Turn your rage into resistance.

With truth, we will make a stand, a bold and rebellious stand, for all life on earth.

REBEL FOR TRUTH!

Sources

- Sky News, [Hottest 12 months in 125,000 years – how extreme weather broke more records in 2023](#), 29 December 2023
- The Guardian, ['Grief is a rational response': the 21 US species declared extinct this year](#), 29 December 2023
- Independent, [Earth crosses 2C warning line for first time](#), 20 November 2023
- BBC News, [Could Rishi Sunak's green review threaten UK net zero?](#), 20 September 2023
- Reuters, [UN rights chief urges UK to reverse 'troubling' Public Order Bill](#), 27 April 2023

RELATED TOPICS

[Climate Crisis](#) [Ecological Emergency](#) [Nonviolent Direct Action](#) [Targeted Activism](#)

SHARE

RECENT ARTICLES

18/03/24

What has conflict got to do with the climate and ecological crisis?

18/03/24

Extinction Rebellion blockades offices of fossil fuel hedge fund Marshall Wace and its puppet TV station GB News

16/03/24

Sports

Sport continues to be a catalyst for protest despite misgivings

By Rohith Nair

December 21, 2023 2:19 AM GMT · Updated 3 months ago



Feedback

Cricket - Ashes - Second Test - England v Australia - Lord's Cricket Ground, London, Britain - June 28, 2023 England's Ben Stokes tries to stop a just stop oil protester Action Images via... [Purchase Licensing Rights](#) [Read more](#)

Dec 21 (Reuters) - Sport and politics would ideally never mix but as the world becomes increasingly divided on societal issues, sporting platforms have turned into lightning rods for social activism.

Be it athletes or spectators, disobedience or disruption has been the order of the day as they attempt to transcend the boundaries of the arena and convey their views to millions of people worldwide.

When Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the U.S. national anthem at NFL games to protest against racial injustice in 2016, little did he know the butterfly effect his deed would have as it sparked debates and polarised a country.

But his gesture has since been embraced by top leagues around the world, none more so than England's Premier League -- European soccer's most lucrative and popular competition.



A spillover from the Black Lives Matter movement that began over three years ago, the league's players continue to fight discrimination by taking a knee before some games this season.

"We are unified in our belief that any form of discrimination has no place within football or wider society," the 20 Premier League captains said earlier this year.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

"(We) are committed to using our platform to help celebrate diversity and show our support in the fight against racism."

The continued protests are, to a large extent, to do with rampant online abuse which rears its ugly head every week, with social media platforms seemingly unable to stem the flow of unbridled rage and racial abuse that lands in players' inboxes.

Outside the arena, Olympic medal-winning wrestlers in India found out the hard way what lies in store for those who leverage their popularity to go up against a member of the ruling party after months of protests on the streets fell on deaf ears.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

India's top wrestlers were detained by police in May when they intensified their protest demanding the arrest of their federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment of female athletes, which he denied.

As images of wrestlers being manhandled by police were beamed across the world, 2016 Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik said: "This is how our champions are being treated. The world is watching us."

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

Feedback



ⓘ
Not found

loading

MAJOR DISRUPTION

On the other hand, sporting platforms have also been a stage for spectators to amplify causes and 2023 was no different in dividing viewers when activists disrupted major events from tennis Grand Slams to golf majors and cricket matches.

Just Stop Oil protesters interrupted Wimbledon matches when they released orange ticker-tape onto the grasscourt surface while the group also stopped play by scattering orange powder at an Ashes test and the World Snooker Championship.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

Their controversial and disruptive tactics have been condemned by athletes and fans alike, but they also garnered sympathy from popular and outspoken soccer pundit Gary Lineker.

"I completely understand where they're coming from, disruptive protest is the only one that gets any publicity. I get it," said Lineker, who presents BBC's 'Match of the Day' soccer highlights programme.

"I also understand why people get so upset with it, particularly in sport. I think what is more important is probably our existence in the future rather than slight disruption of sporting events."

U.S. Open tennis champion Coco Gauff, who has spoken out on various causes, also has no qualms about such protests even though [climate activists](#) disrupted her semi-final at Flushing Meadows and one glued his feet to the stand's concrete floor.

"I think that moments like this are history-defining moments," Gauff said. "If that's what they felt they needed to do to get their voices heard, I can't really get upset at it."

▮ The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up [here](#).

Reporting by Rohith Nair in Bengaluru; Editing by Ken Ferris

Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#). [↗](#)

Purchase Licensing Rights



Rohith Nair
Thomson Reuters

Rohith reports on soccer, tennis, cricket, MotoGP and many more sports. He previously worked at Sportskeeda and has been a sports journalist for more than a decade.



Feedback



Our History



A lot has changed since 2019, and we've changed too. We've achieved the goals we set back then. Most of the environmental movement agrees we have to shift towards a plant-based food system. We've made massive progress on campaigns to have universities and councils go plant-based, with lots of local wins in other animal campaigns.

We've mobilised thousands of people to take action on behalf of animals. Alongside local campaigns, we have also shut down every McDonald's distribution centre in the country, scaled Government buildings, and stopped the supply of dairy to supermarkets. We've been in the media thousands of times globally.

Switching to a plant-based food system and mass rewilding is our greatest hope. But nothing has been put into a measure to act on scale. Four years have passed. We've seen the UK record its highest ever temperature while at the same time more towns and cities are flooded. Globally, we've watched California, Spain and Australia burn worse each year. We've watched the world's deadliest flood in Pakistan. And in March 2023 we were told that there is no credible pathway to stay below the 1.5 degrees of warming required to avert global catastrophe.

According to the IPCC's latest report, "there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all." (IPCC 2022). To get to the heart of why this is happening and to change things, we must go deeper than graphs and economic models.

There is a solution.

We must create actions that capture the national attention for a real conversation about who we are, who we want to be, and the kind of world we want to live in – and the kind of world that is still possible.

We've always acted on both the animal and climate emergencies, because we know both matter to all of us. Our objective remains a plant-based food system, with support for farmers in the transition to rewilding the freed up land so nature can recover.

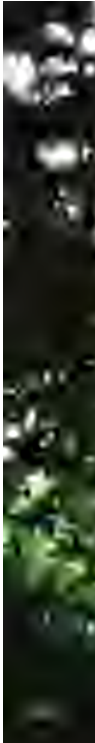
But we have always known that it is in repairing our broken relationship with animals and the natural world that we have the best chance of tackling the climate crisis. And the climate and ecological emergencies threaten all life, not only humans, but all the other animals we share the world with.

We act to bring about a transformation of society for all life, a reorganisation of our systems: economic, political, farming, and fishing. We act to bring about a food system that is safe, secure and sustainable for all life. This includes supporting farmers through dialogue and building together a transition towards this plant-based production system.

It sees these transformations as a way of making inequality – whether in race, class, gender or species – problems of the past. Our vision is of a world where human and non-human beings enjoy the abundant resources of our shared planet, live free, and have a voice.

We are all in this together. We act for all life.

This movement is Animal Rising.



Contact us - info@animalrising.org
Join our mailing list
Privacy policy

Activist Website Design 2023

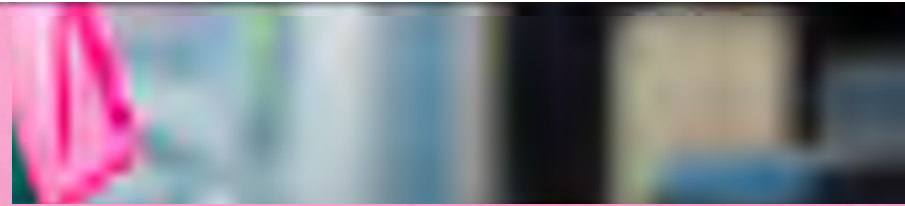




This summer will be the Summer Of **Animal Rising.**

Our campaigns this year are going to be huge, putting our treatment of animals in the spotlight.

We'll be freeing animals, occupying farms, and disrupting cruel and outdated animal racing events. Everything we do is **open and accountable**.



That's because we believe the change we need will come through repairing our connection with other animals, by challenging wherever they're exploited.

Whether in animal farming or fishing, in laboratories, in zoos, or in 'sports' like horse racing.

The way we treat animals
not only harms them, but harms us
and the natural world.

Animal farming and fishing is devouring the planet;
it destroys ecosystems and lives wherever it takes over.
These industries require vast amounts of land and fresh-water,
causing mass pollution as they go, killing rivers and wild animal
populations. Animal farming itself is disproportionately responsible for
deforestation, land clearance, and biodiversity loss.

If you love animals and the natural world, you see this all around you every day.

This

**Contact us - info@animalrising.org
Join our mailing list**

We want to help bring the animal movement together
and create an irresistible force for change.

If you love animals,
join us.

SIGN UP NOW

How we achieve change

We follow in the footsteps of other nonviolent social movements who have brought about lasting change, such as the Civil Rights Movement. We are a love-based movement, and we believe compassion, kindness, commitment and taking responsibility are the values that will bring about a safer, fairer world.

We focus on creating “actions of the heart” balanced with campaigns that achieve high levels of media coverage. This is to create a crucial national conversation about our treatment of animals and the natural world.

We have three streams of nonviolent protest actions which will continue throughout the summer.

1.

Open animal rescues and farm occupations. Spotighting the stories of animals suffering through exploitation. Open rescuers hand themselves into the police and take accountability for their actions, because we know we have nothing to hide and are morally justified in preventing further harm.

2.

Mass trespass onto animal racing events. As a nation of animal lovers it is about time we put these cruel, outdated practices under the spotlight and bring them to an end. There are more fun ways to spend a weekend than watching animals die, and as a society we will find ways to love animals without harming them.

Public facing disruptions. This includes supermarket sit-ins, restaurant sit-ins, roadblocks, and more. All conducted peacefully and nonviolently. We do these attention-grabbing actions to help people rethink their connection with other living beings and the natural world.

If you want to help end the suffering of animals and speed up the transition to a plant-based food system, come and join us.

Sign up now

**Contact us - info@animalrising.org
Join our mailing list
Privacy policy**

Activist Website Design 2023





Grand National Disruption: Social Change Lab Reports Positive Long-Term Societal Change



- Last April, Animal Rising supporters made headlines at the start of the Grand National when they delayed the race by 15 minutes after gaining access to the track, attempting to stop the race and protect the lives of horses [1].
- The disruption successfully began a national conversation about “our broken relationship with other animals and the natural world,” with Animal Rising calling for a plant-based food system and rewilding
- Research from the Social Change Lab found that regardless of how much someone knew about the protest, attitudes towards animals had improved six months after the protest occurred [2].

A report published by the Social Change Lab on (21/02/24) that focused on the short and long-term effects of disruptive animal rights protests analysed Animal Rising’s disruption of the Grand National last April. Their research found that initial negative attitudes towards the protest weakened and, essentially, disappeared six months after the protest, with the same being true of attitudes towards animals in general.

Dan Kidby, Co-Founder of Animal Rising and one of the individuals who delayed the race said:

“This research is, yet another, sign that the British public is moving in the right direction. We rightly call ourselves a nation of animal lovers and are beginning to show it. Alongside this research, we’ve also seen the Jockey Club scramble to regain credibility by changing regulations for 2024’s race. However, this is simply not enough - people across the country can see through their weak attempts at covering up the truth.”

Those surveyed actually displayed more positive attitudes towards animals in several metrics, including changing the way society treats animals for both food and entertainment, agreeing that society has a broken relationship with animals, and finding it unacceptable to use animals for entertainment.

The report also found heightened support for implementing policy changes to protect animals, including bans on horse racing, animal testing, and factory farming, indicating that society increasingly agrees that how we treat animals needs to be changed. One possible conclusion suggests that anger over protestors and their methods were short-term effects that eventually receded. At the same time, the notion that society has a broken relationship with animals has remained and indeed strengthened.

To date, individuals have been charged in conjunction with the disruption of the race itself - with only 10 being charged in conjunction with blocking the M57 motorway and access roads to Aintree itself [3]. Ahead of 2024’s race, Animal Rising continues to call for an end to horse racing and a broader societal shift to mend our broken relationship with other animals and the natural world.

At this point, Animal Rising is not offering any further comment on whether the group will - or will not - attempt to stop this year’s race.

ENDS

Word Count: 467

High-Quality Pictures and Videos: <https://show.pics.io/animal-rising-breaking-news/>

All images and videos in this file, on our social media, and website can be used with credit to Animal Rising under ‘fair use’ for the purposes of reporting.

For more information or further comments, please contact:

Nathan (Press Back Office): +44 1225 29 6691

press@animalrising.org

Notes to Editor:

[1] <https://www.animalrising.org/post/grand-national-disrupted-animal-rising-occupy-track>

[2] <https://www.socialchangelab.org/post/what-are-the-short-and-long-term-effects-of-disruptive-animal-rights-protest> Animal Rising highlights that the research does not, beyond doubt, show that the Grand National protest caused the change in views. “However, it has to be stressed that the overall positive shifts could also be due to factors unrelated to Animal Rising’s actions, so it would not be justified to claim (with certainty) that Animal Rising’s protests caused this positive development, even though it is intuitive that they at least contributed.”

[3] <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2023/november/ten-people-charged-following-protests-held-on-the-day-of-the-grand-national-2023/>



Grand National

'We won't be there': Animal Rising will not protest at Grand National this year

Animal rights group to suspend direct action against racing

'The public don't want racing to be part of British culture'

Exclusive by **Greg Wood**

Thu 4 Apr 2024 22.00 BST

Animal Rising, the animal rights group that staged a high-profile attempt to stop the [Grand National](#) taking place 12 months ago, will confirm on Friday morning that it will not target this year's race at Aintree next weekend and that it is suspending its campaign of direct action against racing indefinitely.

Last year's National was delayed by 15 minutes after a group of Animal Rising's supporters attempted to scale a perimeter fence and glue themselves to one of Aintree's famous obstacles. The protesters were [among 118 individuals](#) arrested by Merseyside Police on the day of the race, in which Sandy Thomson's gelding Hill Sixteen suffered a fatal injury at the first fence.

Animal Rising staged a further protest at Epsom on Derby day in early June, when Ben Newman, one of the group's founders, ran on to the track shortly after the start of the Classic, but was removed by security personnel before the field had reached the home straight. Newman subsequently [received a suspended prison sentence](#) for breaching [an injunction](#) that had been granted to the Jockey Club, which owns Epsom, in May, to prevent disruption at the meeting.

The group abandoned plans to attempt to disrupt Royal Ascot in mid-June, however, and Nathan McGovern, a spokesperson for Animal Rising, said on Thursday that this year's Grand National will not be a target.

“We won't be there,” McGovern said, “and the reason for that is that as far as we can see, last year there was a huge public conversation on the back of the Grand National, Epsom et cetera, and it would appear that the public have in large part been convinced that they don't want racing to be part of the fabric of British culture going forward.

“If we look at the trend in dropping attendances at the races, that's downwards year-on-year, and beyond that, there are also public surveys and polling. YouGov's current figures on horse racing are around a 47% disapproval rating and only a 23% approval rating, and those numbers speak for themselves.”

The maximum field for this year's Grand National has been reduced from 40 runners to 34, and the start has been moved closer to the first fence in an attempt to limit the speed of horses in the early part of the race. The off-time has also been moved, from 5.15pm to 4pm.

The changes were introduced at least in part as a response to Hill Sixteen's fatal injury, after which Thomson suggested that his horse had become “absolutely hyper” during the delay to the start, which could have contributed to his fall.

“We think this is trying to offload the blame,” McGovern said. “We empathise with Sandy Thomson's grief, and we've always maintained that the vast majority of people in horse racing genuinely love their animals, but this is a sport that puts animals knowingly in harm's way.”

Animal Rising's direct campaign against racing, however, may now be a thing of the past. “Never say never,” McGovern said. “But is disrupting races going to be the most effective way to end horse racing? We think not, because we think the public has already made that decision for themselves.”

Article count on

You've read 23 articles in the last year

This is what we're up against

Teams of lawyers from the rich and powerful trying to stop us publishing stories they don't want you to see.

Lobby groups with opaque funding who are determined to undermine facts about the climate emergency and other established science.

Authoritarian states with no regard for the freedom of the press.

Bad actors spreading disinformation online to undermine democracy.

But we have something powerful on our side.

We've got you.

The Guardian is funded by its readers and the only person who decides what we publish is our editor.

If you want to join us in our mission to share independent, global journalism to the world, we'd love to have you on side.

If you can, please support us on a monthly basis and get 50% off an all-access digital subscription. It takes less than a minute to set up, and you can rest assured that you're making a big impact every single month in support of open, independent journalism. Thank you.

One-time	Monthly	Annual
----------	----------------	--------

£4 per month	£10 per month	Other
--------------	----------------------	-------

Continue →

Remind me in May

