



The Protestor's Handbook, by Bibi van der Zee (Guardian Books, £7.99)

Bibi van der Zee thinks “politics is at its best when energetically argued by amateurs”, and her book aims to make “the weapons of campaigning” available to all. Outraged by that new runway or nuclear storage facility planned for your neighbourhood? Then this DIY guide to campaigning is packed with practical advice - from organising a meeting (“the pub is often the place where most gets done”) to petitioning MPs, planning marches, taking direct action and culture jamming: challenging corporations in their own space (“kneeling to worship chickens in Asda”). Her legal advice helps you stay the right side of the law and highlights the erosion of civil liberties. Since 2006 police can impose pre-charge bail conditions on protesters, for example banning them from certain areas. But does protest make a difference? After all, millions took to the streets to stop the Iraq war, but Bush and Blair ignored them. Van der Zee has no doubts on this score. “For me,” she says, “protest is right up there with a kiss and a poem as part of the hope for humanity.” **PDS**