

NOTTINGHAM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

ABOUT NOTTINGHAM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ...

It is now about four or five years since, one fatalistic summer's evening, I decided to go along to one of Nottingham Friends of the Earth's public meetings. Like most of my fellow-members, I wanted to use some of my spare time to help campaign on environmental issues, and in the process make friends with like minded people. This we have certainly done.

Friends of the Earth aims to influence decision makers at political and commercial levels, as well as transform public opinion, to favour the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment and the wise use of natural resources. FoE has developed a holistic approach to environmental, economic and social issues, in the knowledge that these cannot be successfully tackled other than in an integrated way.

Many of the faces at Nottingham FoE have changed since that first summer's evening, and only a handful of the old stalwarts are still around. Despite all the departures (we seem to have a 'moving mad' membership), and thanks to the many arrivals we have also seen, this group has now been going for around seven years, since its launch by Jonathan Porritt.

Our campaigning subgroups have worked on many environmental issues, ranging from Recycling, Transport and Rainforests to the Protection of Wildlife Sites, and campaigns for Renewable Energy, and against Nuclear Energy. We have also been busy organising seminars, attending conferences and holding many stalls and days of action.

So why not come along to one of our monthly public meetings and find out what we're up to? The meetings take place every second Thursday

of the month at 7.30pm at the County Library on Angel Row in Nottingham (there is no access after 8pm). Come and join us, meet new people, and do your bit to help protect our planet. It's easy really — simply writing a letter to express your opinion can make a difference, and will make you feel good, too!

Astrid Cordon, Nottingham FoE Co-ordinator.



Nottingham FoE campaigning against the 'Big Four' banks role in Rainforest destruction (through Third World debt), in Nottingham City Centre last March. Photo courtesy of Nottingham FoE.

BIODIVERSITY AND HABITATS

When I joined Nottingham Friends of the Earth in 1989 there was an established sub-group campaigning on rainforest issues. The aims of the group were to protect Rainforests by stopping the trade in tropical hardwoods, whilst encouraging the purchase of other rainforest products. The campaigning work was focused on two areas — increasing public awareness of the role of the High Street banks in rainforest destruction, and reducing sales of tropical hardwoods through the DIY chainstores.

At a local level, we worked hard at producing the Nottingham Good Wood Guide. This booklet not only contains background information on Rainforests and their destruction, but also suggests suitable alternatives to hardwoods for various purposes, listing local retailers who don't stock tropical hardwoods or use only reclaimed timber. At an international level, we worked with the Children's Tropical Forest (UK) fund, purchasing tracts of rainforest in Costa Rica, and encouraging other groups to do the same.

It became obvious that the successes of campaigning against the destruction of tropical hardwoods were having a detrimental effect on temperate hardwoods and forests, especially in Canada and Russia. Friends of the Earth then reorganised its campaigns at national level, forming the Biodiversity and Habitats campaign - which aims to protect all endangered species and the habitats in which they exist. Nottingham FoE then reorganised its campaigns to fit this pattern.

The local Biodiversity and Habitats group is currently working on two campaigns. One aims to tighten up the legislation protecting (or failing to protect) the country's SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, such as Attenborough Nature Reserve), and the other aims to raise the profile of the 'Mahogany is Murder' campaign. There was a day of action on SSSIs in October, when we held a stall in town and collected signatures on a petition calling for improved protection for wildlife sites.

TRANSPORT CAMPAIGNS

Transport is one of the most important and urgent environmental issues. Ever-increasing numbers of cars on our roads are a major source of air pollution, with effects such as acid rain, climate change and damage to human health. The Nottingham FoE Transport sub group has been involved in a variety of activities over recent years, focusing on different aspects of the issue.

Since Spring 1993 we have mainly been involved in opposition to road schemes proposed by Nottinghamshire County Council. We linked with many other local groups to mobilise public opposition to the Greater Nottingham Orbital, a huge and environmentally unsound scheme. The County Council eventually decided to remove the road from its Structure Plan altogether — a major victory for all the groups involved.

More recently attention has focused on the proposed Fourth Trent Crossing bridge and road between Colwick and Lady Bay. We think it would be environmentally damaging, not least because traffic will just expand to fill the new space. In summer 1994 the County's glossy and expensive consultation display toured several venues. At each venue groups opposing the scheme, including us, staffed a display explaining the problems with the scheme.

In June 1994 we held a seminar on traffic, air pollution and its effects on health. Experts gave presentations from pollution control, medical, asthma sufferers' and campaign group viewpoints. The event went well, and this strand is one we'd like to follow up. We'll also be keeping an eye on road plans and promoting public transport. Our Transport campaign is on the back burner at the moment, but if you feel like hotting it up do get in touch.

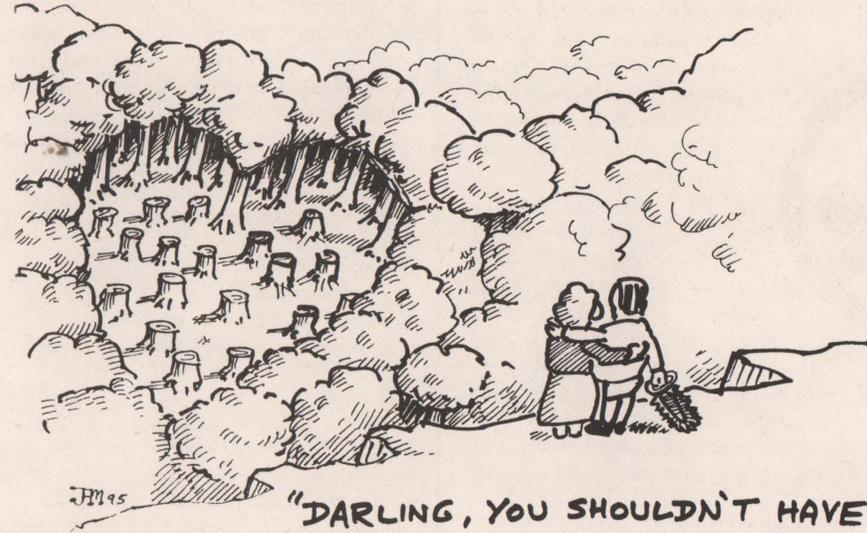
For more information contact Tim Gray on 922 3439.

This petition was presented to Jim Lester MP in December, along with a booklet detailing the damage done to SSSIs, and a copy of more adequate legislation drafted by Friends of the Earth.

The Mahogany campaign is warming up to a week of action between 11th and 18th February, which will include local and national events designed to discourage the purchase of mahogany.

For further information about the Nottingham Friends of the Earth Biodiversity and Habitats Group or the Nottingham Good Wood Guide (priced £1.29 including p&p), contact Jill Gross on 953 8843.

GREEN NETWORK NEWS



OIL SPILL THREATENS WILDLIFE

On Wednesday 4th January a 14 wagon train hit a broken rail close to the railway bridge on Nottingham Road near Sandiacre, causing 4 tankers to derail. Several thousand gallons of diesel were spilled onto nearby land, much of it pouring into the river Erewash, only 3 miles up stream of the Attenborough Gravel Pits Nature Reserve. The pollution threatened not only the wildlife of the river, but the thousands of birds over-wintering at the reserve, which is managed by Notts Wildlife Trust.

Although the NRA (National Rivers Authority) acted quickly to limit the damage, there were fears that the oil could get onto the feathers of birds, causing many to die from cold or poisoning. The NRA contained the spill by digging pits between the site of the accident and the river. As these pits filled with oil it was pumped into containers and taken away from the site. To combat the pollution which actually reached the river, 'booms' were placed across the surface of the river to trap the oil, which was then removed using absorbent mats.

During the clean-up operations, Notts Wildlife Trust and the RSPCA had staff and volunteers on standby, in case the oil had actually begun to cause problems for the wildlife in the area. The Trust also received numerous offers of help from concerned members of the public. Fortunately the birds at the site appear to have escaped harm, due to the rapid reaction of the NRA. However, the long term implications of the spill for the river and nature reserve are still unclear.

continued inside ...

Green Network News is a monthly publication aiming to share information and build links between all individuals and organisations in the Nottingham and South Notts area with an interest in the environment.

FREE!

No. 37 February 1995

Inside ...

- Local Groups Focus
- The Dino-Dome
- Energy Conservation Bill

INSTANT BUS INFORMATION

The Bus Information Network now offers instant and up-to-date information about all bus services in Nottinghamshire - providing bus times between any two stops in the county and surrounding areas. The service is available through information terminals at ten different locations, including the Broad Marsh and Victoria Bus Stations, the Nottingham City Information Centre, and Eastwood library.

The Network is managed by Notts County Council, with additional funding from the European Union and Nottingham City Council.

For further information pick up a free leaflet from your local library, or contact the Notts County Council Public Transport Operations Group on 977 4520.

RING LEADER

The plastic rings used to hold together food and drink cans can cause serious damage to wildlife, as animals can become entangled in discarded rings. Recycling the rings helps prevent this damage, as well as saving energy and plastic. The 'Ring Leader' recycling scheme is a 'closed loop' project — the plastic rings are collected and returned to the manufacturer in Ireland, for processing into new rings.

If you would like to save your plastic rings for recycling, they can be taken to the Rainbow Centre at 182 Mansfield Road, open from 10am-5pm Monday-Saturday. More than 100 schools around Nottinghamshire are also involved in the scheme.

For more information about the 'Ring Leader' schools recycling project, contact Stuart Hodkin on 984 7522.

GREEN COMMUTER PLANS

Green Commuter Plans encourage the use of alternatives to the car — providing positive benefits for employers, the community and the environment. Nottingham City Council and the Nottingham Green Partnership are now promoting the use of such plans, and information and advice about how to start the process is available.

The City Council is working with the Metropolitan Transport Research Unit to develop ideas for its own commuter plan, as well as looking at ideas for the transport chapter of the new City Local Plan. Ideas and opinions about what could be included in the plans were collected from a range of public, private and voluntary organisations at a meeting held last December.

Green Commuter Plans can include a variety of different measures — such as the provision of public transport information within the work place, or offering discount/free bus and rail travel-cards for commuting and work-related

journeys. Congestion could also be reduced by improving provisions for flexible working hours and tele-working, or by starting a co-ordinated car sharing scheme.

These plans would provide benefits to the environment and to the community — leading to a cleaner city with less traffic clogging up city and district centres, as well as improved health for people in the city. In the longer term, a reduction in car travel would release road space for more bus and cycle lanes. Employers would also benefit from reduced staff stress from driving, and increased motivation and morale. Savings can also be made (depending on the current level of subsidy to car users), and land used for car parking spaces can be released for other purposes.

For more information about Green Commuter Plans contact Sue Flack or Richard Finch at Nottingham City Council on 948 3500.



OIL SPILL

... continued from front page

This incident has highlighted the vulnerability of wildlife habitats to the threat of accidental pollution. Had the tankers been carrying a heavier type of oil or one of many chemicals, then there would have been far more serious environmental damage. Even so called 'non toxic' substances such as milk or farm slurry can cause serious ecological damage, as they are digested by the micro organisms in the water, resulting in the oxygen in the water being used up, and the suffocation of fish, insects and plants.

Any spillage of pollutants within the catchment area of a river will result in some pollution reaching the river system. For example, the 10 mile stretch of the M1 motorway which falls within the catchment area of the River Erewash

has no features to prevent spillage resulting from traffic accidents reaching the nearby nature reserves. Notts Wildlife Trust believes that environmental and wildlife issues should be given much higher status in the planning system.

The danger of such accidents occurring grows as more and more road and rail links are developed. The Trust monitors all planning applications and comments upon any proposals for development which may affect wildlife. We would welcome any offers of help to monitor the effects of pollution and to keep watch on the many other wildlife sites in the county.

For more information please contact Erin McDaid or John Ellis at Notts Wildlife Trust on 958 8242.

BIRD SURVIVAL GUIDE

A free guide to helping the birds in your garden this winter is now available from the Young Ornithologists' Club, the junior section of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Many small birds face starvation or may freeze to death in winter. The Garden Bird Survival Guide provides a range of information to help you protect these birds, including a pocket guide to garden birds, and a leaflet on nestboxes for garden-nesting species such as Blue Tits and

Robins. The leaflet gives advice on when and where to put up boxes, and which birds different boxes may attract. It even provides D.I.Y. enthusiasts with instructions on how to make a nestbox.

For a free Garden Bird Survival Guide send a postcard to:
YOC, Department N3257, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2DL, giving your name, address and postcode (and age if under 18).

ENVIRONMENT WEEK '95

Last year more than 3,000 events took place during Environment Week around the UK, ranging from recycling of waste to the planting of shrubs and flowers. The organisers hope that even more groups will take part in the 1995 Week - which will take place from 19-29 May. Awards of up to £1,000 are available for projects in a range of categories — covering neighbourhood projects and voluntary groups, as well as schools, colleges and youth groups.

For more information contact :

BT Environment Week '95,
PO Box 4666,
London SE1 2ZB,
or phone 0171 403 5050.

NO SMOKING DAY

This years No Smoking Day takes place on March 8th, with the theme 'It's Time to Stop'. The Nottingham Community Health Trust is hoping to support a range of activities around the day, including the planting of Ash trees at local schools, with time capsules containing objects associated with smoking.

If you would like to help by sponsoring one or more of these trees, or you have ideas for other activities, Liz Pierce or Katherine Whittingham (Health Promotion Officers) would like to hear from you — contact them on 942 6000.

GNN UPDATE

There will not be a feature section in the March issue, but GNN will return to the usual format in April with features on two local groups. If anyone has ideas about possible subjects for GNN to cover in the future, any suggestions would be welcome.

If you would like to write a feature article, or you have a photo that could be used, please let me know. Articles are usually needed around one month in advance of publication, and can be sent on paper or 3.5 inch disk (pc format). We will also be looking for stories about any current events or issues each month; please write or phone if you would like to contribute.

Contact me on 941 7849, or write to me at:

Green Network News
C/O The Rainbow Centre
182 Mansfield Road
Nottingham
NG1 3HW

Adam Woodward (GNN Co-ordinator)

THE DINO-DOME

The Dino-Dome was in Nottingham last month, providing information about energy efficiency, as well as entertainment from the dinosaur family seen in television adverts. The dome was in the Market Square for one week, providing advice from a range of organisations about how to save money on fuel bills. These savings also benefit the environment - energy used in buildings causes nearly half of all harmful gas emissions.

Many ways of saving energy are low in cost or free, and can help you to save money year after year. For example, if you have central heating, turning your thermostat down by just 1°C can cut up to 10% off your fuel bills. A whole range of other simple ideas can also save energy — such as using low-energy light bulbs, turning off lights when you leave a room, and closing curtains at dusk — to prevent heat loss through windows.

If you are aged 60 or over, or receive certain benefits, you can apply for a grant to cover the costs of having your doors and windows draught-proofed, and having lofts, pipes and water tanks insulated.

For a free Energy Efficiency Information Pack, call 0345 868686 (for the price of a local call). For more information about grants, call free on 0800 181667.

GREEN PUBLICATIONS

'Supporting Environmental Action' gives ideas for green campaigning for all - not just specialist groups. It includes case studies of successful projects, and information about a range of issues, such as the links between the environment, health and poverty. Available at £6.25 from the Publications Department, NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL (phone 0171 713 6161).

'The Campaigning Handbook' provides information about running successful campaigns, and avoiding legal pitfalls. The book examines campaigning at all levels — from local government to the European Union, and covers topics such as work with the media, lobbying, direct action and using the law. Available at £12.95 plus £2.50 postage from the Directory of Social Change, Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL (phone 0171 284 4364).

'Traffic and Transport' is a guide to influencing the transport system, produced by Transport 2000. The book could help with campaigns to tackle heavy lorries, tame traffic or improve local bus services. Available at £8.50 plus £1.30 postage from Transport 2000, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EJ (phone 0171 388 8386).

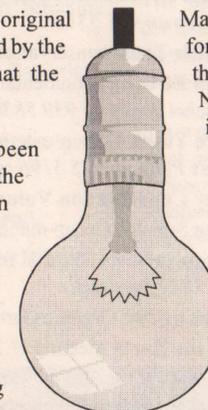
THE HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL

Last year GNN reported that the original energy conservation bill was defeated by the government — on the grounds that the proposals were too costly.

However, a new bill has now been introduced into Parliament, with the aim of encouraging the introduction of energy saving measures in Local Authority housing.

The bill would require District level councils (such as Nottingham City Council), to draw up energy conservation plans for their housing stock. These plans would show the costs of energy saving measures (such as insulation), and the savings to be made through reduced energy bills. These plans would then be sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for approval.

The third reading of the bill in the House of Commons is most likely to take place on the 24th



March. A mass rally of Parliament is planned for 16th March, to show public support for the proposals, and a local campaign in Nottingham is being organised — including a public meeting before the rally in London (but dates had not yet been confirmed at the time of going to print).

For more information about the Home Energy Conservation Bill contact the Association for Conservation of Energy on 0171 935 1495.

For details of the public meeting in Nottingham, contact Alan Simpson's office, 1, Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GQ, (phone 979 9498).

If you would like to travel to London for the rally in March with other people from the area, or you are able to offer transport, contact Nigel Lee on 978 8059.

A REFRIGERATED SUCCESS STORY

The Greenpeace campaign for green refrigeration has been a dramatic success in moving the refrigeration industry away from the use of damaging chemicals, although some manufacturers are not yet convinced of the viability of non-damaging alternatives. This article describes the development of the campaign, and provides details of how to find a 'green' fridge to buy.

In 1992, as the ozone debate raged on, and reports of the 'hole' grew ever more alarming, the Greenpeace campaign moved towards users of industrial refrigeration, as well as manufacturers of domestic fridges, who were both refusing to abandon CFCs, or choosing to adopt damaging alternatives — HFCs which are powerful 'greenhouse' gases, or HCFCs, which attack ozone.

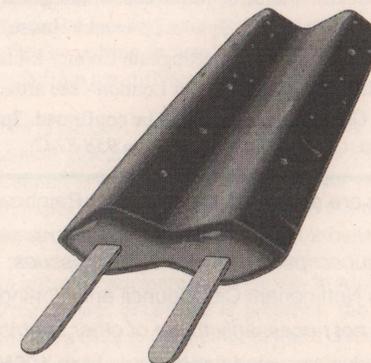
The industrial users campaign focused on the leading supermarket, Sainsburys. The campaign was a success, with Sainsburys agreeing to research, test and adopt the 'green' alternatives if practicable. Many other supermarket chains also promised action, including Tesco, who stated that alternatives would be in use in stores by the end of 1994. However, Tesco have recently reversed this decision, and decided to retain HFC refrigerants.

The campaign also focused on the domestic fridge industry, which would not accept that reliable 'green' fridges could be developed. In order to demonstrate that such fridges could be produced, Greenpeace funded a technology college to research and produce a prototype, using a propane and butane mix, which is very cheap and entirely atmosphere friendly.

Several German manufactures are now exporting non-damaging fridges to the UK, along with Swedish producers Electrolux. Many of these manufacturers intend to completely switch their production to alternative technologies within the next few years. However, British manufacturers LEC and Hotpoint have declined to adopt the technology.

The 'Greenpeace Guide to Fridges', a leaflet giving details of green fridges, can be obtained by calling 0171 354 5100, and asking for the Public Information department.

Phil Edmondson,
Nottinghamshire Greenpeace Co-ordinator.



THE NOTTINGHAM GREEN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1995

- Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)** activities - including a variety of practical tasks.
Contact Karen on 931 3316.
- Sun's (& some other days) **Notts Wildlife Trust** conservation activities at wildlife reserves around the county. *Contact Erin McDaid on 958 8242.*
- Wednesday 1st **Nottingham EIA** (Environmental Investigation Agency) meeting. 7.30pm at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road.
Contact Rachel Jones on 939 5830.
- Friday 3rd **Greenpeace Youth Group** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St.
Contact Alex Penn on 925 5196 to confirm date and venue.
- Sunday 5th **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. *Phone 975 6376 for details.*
- Monday 6th **Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meatcher on 925 7186.*
- Tuesday 7th **Green Network News** editorial meeting - all welcome. 3pm at Lawrence House, Talbot Street.
Phone 941 7849 for details.
- Tuesday 7th **NOGS** (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. *Contact Mike Poyzer on 958 7006 after 6.30pm.*
- Thursday 9th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. *Contact Tim Gray on 922 3439.*
- Weekend 11th-12th **Going Green II** at the Holme Pierrepont Lakeside Adventure Base. An introduction to Youth Work and the Environment for part time youth workers and others working with young people.
To find our more or to book a place, contact Jo Ward on 950 5792.
- Saturday 11th **Notts Cyclists' Touring Club Beginners Section** ride to Southwell - all welcome. Meet at 11am, outside the Grove Hotel, Daybrook Square, Arnold. *Contact Graham Lansdell on 986 0299 for details.*
- Sunday 12th **National Trust** volunteer group activity, at Belton House. *Contact Jon Swift on 01246 861343.*
- Monday 13th **Oxfam Campaigning Group** meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green.
Contact Graham Gardener on 978 7319 to confirm date and venue.
- Monday 13th **Nottingham Permaculture Association** meeting. *Phone Phil Corbett on 947 4977 for details.*
- Thursday 16th **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station. Venue to be confirmed.
Phone Ron Gillott on 920 1238.
- Monday 20th **Notts Wildlife Trust** City Group AGM, followed by an illustrated talk by Dr Jack Rieley (Chair of the Nottingham Urban Wildlife Scheme). 7pm at the offices of Browne Jacobson Solicitors, 44 Castle Gate, Nottingham.
Contact Erin McDaid on 958 8242.
- Monday 20th **Pedals** meeting. 7.30pm in the upstairs room of the Trippe to Jerusalem, Brewhouse Yard/Castle Road.
Contact Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.
- Wednesday 22nd Nottingham **Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 7.30pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.
Call 960 5843 for details.
- Wednesday 22nd Rainbow Centre **Video Evening** at 7pm. *Call 958 5666 with requests, or for details.*
- Tuesday 28th **Bulwell Environmental Group** meeting. Crabtree Farm Estate Community Centre.
Contact Diana Langley on 927 3813.

MARCH 1995

- Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's **BTCV** activities - see February.
- Sun's (& some other days) **Notts Wildlife Trust** activities - see February.
- Wednesday 1st **Nottingham EIA** (Environmental Investigation Agency) meeting. 7.30pm at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road.
Contact Rachel Jones on 939 5830.
- Friday 3rd **Greenpeace Youth Group** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St.
Contact Alex Penn on 925 5196 to confirm date and venue.
- Saturday 4th **Notts Cyclists' Touring Club Beginners Section** ride to West Leake - all welcome. Meet at 10.30am, at Wilford Toll Bridge. *Contact Graham Lansdell on 986 0299 for details.*
- Sunday 5th **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. *Phone 975 6376 for details.*
- Monday 6th **Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meatcher on 925 7186.*
- Tuesday 7th **NOGS** (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. *Contact Mike Poyzer on 958 7006 after 6.30pm.*
- Wednesday 8th **No Smoking Day.**
For more information contact Liz Pierce or Katherine Whittingham (Health Promotion Officers) on 942 6000.
- Wednesday 8th **Green Network News** Editorial Meeting. 3pm at Lawrence House, Talbot Street. *Phone 941 7849 for details.*
- Thursday 9th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. *Contact Tim Gray on 922 3439.*
- Thursday 16th **Home Energy Conservation Bill** Mass Rally in London - see article for details.
- Monday 20th **Notts Wildlife Trust** City Group talk - speaker to be confirmed. 7pm at the offices of Browne Jacobson Solicitors, 44 Castle Gate, Nottingham. *Contact Erin McDaid on 958 8242.*

Green Contact Details are also available from The Rainbow Centre on 958 5666.

To be sure of receiving Green Network News every month, your name can be added to our mailing list. These are the voluntary (optional) subscription rates for 1 year's issues; Individuals - £2.50, Groups - £5.00.

Greater Nottingham Green Network thanks Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council for their support.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of other contributors, or of the Editorial Group.

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CPRE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

PROTECTING THE COUNTRYSIDE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Since its formation in 1926 the Council for the protection of Rural England (CPRE) has played a distinctive role in working on behalf of the public interest in a beautiful and varied countryside—exerting an effective influence on decision makers in Brussels, Westminster and Whitehall, as well as local authorities. CPRE is one of the country's leading conservation charities, funded almost entirely by donations, and working to:

- stimulate public awareness and enjoyment of the English countryside,
- promote the improvement and protection of the countryside (and its towns and villages),
- undertake and commission research to enable a better understanding of the issues affecting the countryside,
- act as a centre for advice and information on matters affecting the planning, improvement and protection of the countryside.

The Nottinghamshire branch of CPRE has undertaken a wide range of activities, including the 'Autumn Explorer' train journey in 1993. This train took 270 passengers on a remarkable journey featuring several lines within the county which had very rarely seen passenger trains since the 1960s. The event won national recognition for the branch, which was awarded the Calor Gas trophy for the best environmental initiative of 1993.

Activities arranged for members include farm walks, guided tours and lunches. Members of the Nottinghamshire branch are kept informed of local activities (as well as national issues with local implications) through the branch newsletter which is printed twice each year.

During 1994 the Notts branch has been involved in the consultation process in:

- the Local Government review,
- the Notts Minerals Local Plan,

- the Notts County Council draft Structure Plan review,
- the draft Local Plans of Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Nottingham City.

We have also given evidence at Public Enquiries into:

- the Silverhill Colliery development,
- the Robinettes Open-cast Mining site,
- Grantham Canal development,
- Bleasby Housing development

The local branch has given talks, attended conferences and put on exhibitions, and has regularly been featured on television and radio, as well as in the newspapers.

If you are interested in any aspect of our current work or you would like to know more about the different ways in which you could become involved, please write to Mrs Carol Collins, Church End, Main Street, Kinoulton, Notts, NG12 3EL (phone 01949 81798).



The 'Autumn Explorer' rail tour at Ollerton Station. The Major of Ollerton with Mrs Valerie Gillespie, Notts CPRE Chairman (centre) and Mrs Carol Collins, Hon. Secretary (left). Photo courtesy of Notts CPRE.

THE TRANSPORT CAMPAIGN GROUP

Nottinghamshire CPRE currently provides the secretariat for the Nottinghamshire Transport Campaign Group (TCG). The group exists to provide a forum for discussion of ideas and sharing of information between organisations interested in promoting a more balanced and environmentally acceptable transport policy in the County. Members currently include Pedals, Transport 2000, FIELDS, and the Railway Development Society. The group has met five times since its formation in the Autumn of 1993, and has concentrated mainly on the County Council's Structure Plan Review and 'Transport Policies and Programme'.

Although several of the bodies making up the TCG have submitted comments during the consultation process on the Structure Plan,

comparison of submissions shows that there is much common ground. Some of the member organisations, including CPRE, were invited to participate in the Examination in Public (held at the end of January), and worked to support each other by putting forward similar views, though each from our different perspectives.

The 'Transport Policies and Programmes' is the annual document produced by the County Council in which it bids for funding for various transport schemes from the government's Department of Transport.

In order to learn more about the way in which the Programmes document is prepared, the TCG invited a County Councillor to join a discussion last May. We are hoping to have a representative

from the Department of Transport visit us this Spring, to talk about the criteria by which the various schemes put forward for funding are judged. As the group learns more about this whole process it is hoped that we will be better equipped to feed our views into it, and thus promote a more environmentally sensitive approach.

If you would like to know more about the TCG or CPRE's views on transport, please contact:

*Carol Collins,
Church End, 61 Main Street,
Kinoulton, NG12 3EL
(phone 01949 81798).*

