

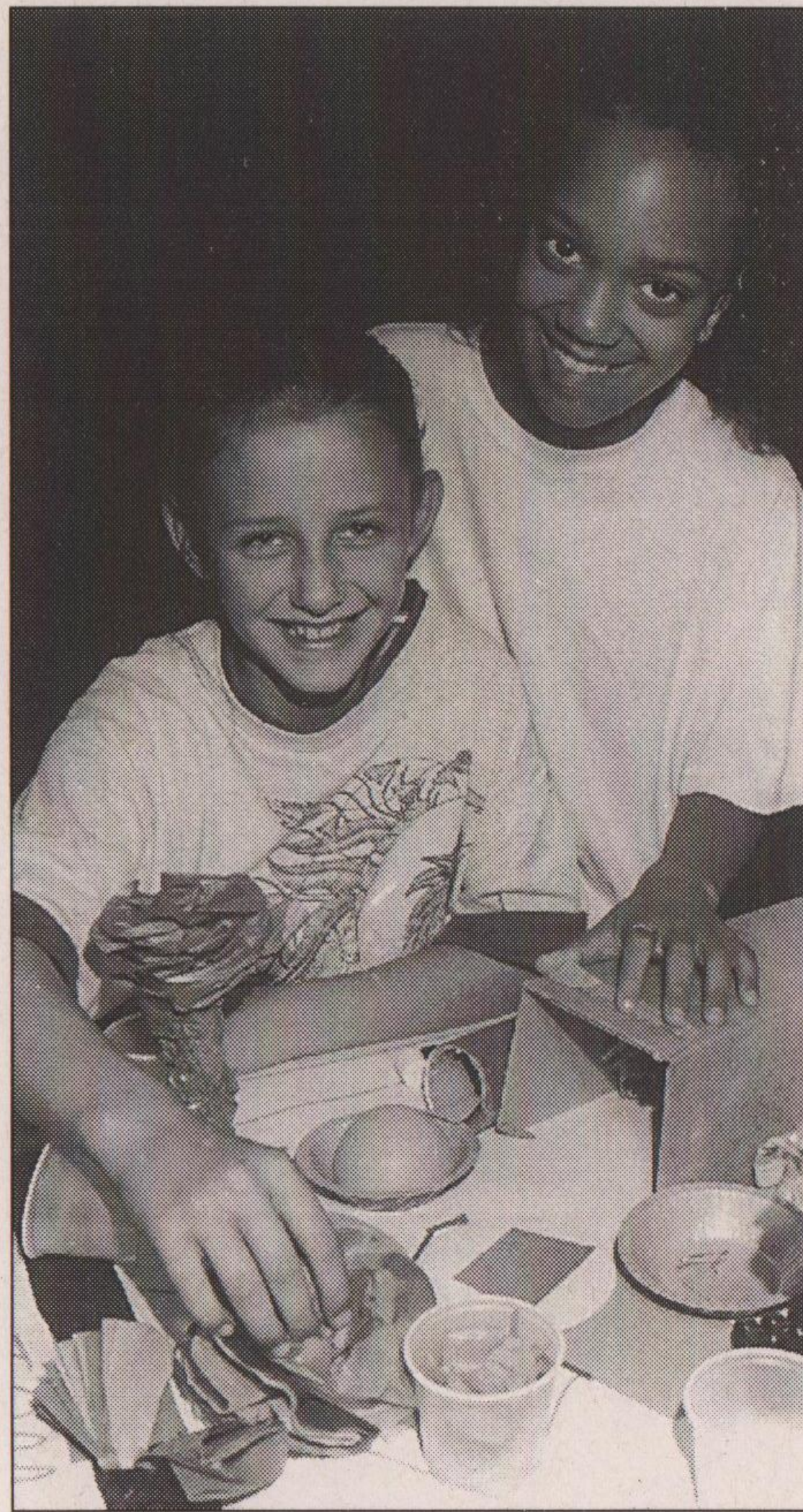
GROUNDWORK GREATER NOTTINGHAM

Groundwork Greater Nottingham is part of the national network of Groundwork Trusts which have been set up since 1981 - to bring about local environmental regeneration by forming partnerships with local government, business and communities. At the time of writing there are forty-five operational Trusts in the country, working in more than 120 towns and cities.

Each Trust is a business, run like a business and is close to the private sector. Groundwork nonetheless is not a normal commercial operation: it is a not-for-profit environmental business with charitable status.

Funding comes from two sources; sponsorship and project income. During the first five years of a Trust's existence, certain key posts are core-funded on a reducing scale by the Department of the Environment (DoE) until the project work and the management fees generated increases sufficiently to sustain the Trust's operations. The network also benefits from strategic partnerships with other national organisations such as English Partnerships and the Countryside Commission, and secures national private sector sponsorship for major programmes of project work through the head office in Birmingham.

This page includes three further articles looking at particular aspects of the work of Groundwork Greater Nottingham (all four articles are written by John Watts, Groundwork Project Officer). For more information about Groundwork call 979 9227.



Consulting children in Sneinton about what they need in local areas of Open Space (with Groundwork, TANC and City Challenge). Photo courtesy of Groundwork Greater Nottingham.

IT'S OUR ENVIRONMENT TOO

Over the past two years Groundwork Greater Nottingham and the Environmental Team at Nottinghamshire County Council have been working with the Asian and African-Caribbean community in Nottingham on a project called 'It's Our Environment Too' (IOET). This initiative aims to develop environmental ideas within parts of the community frequently excluded from the mainstream environmental movement.

IOET has not only provided funding for day trips to the countryside, but also seeks to encourage groups to 'set their own agendas'. Officers on the project encourage people to ask those who live in their community what they want to change, and then help to get the project off the ground.

However, IOET cannot do projects for people - it provides help, technical assistance, advice on

WORK ON THE GROUND

Most of our project work is identified by local people and is carried out by local people, contractors, conservation organisations and our volunteers.

The kind of work we undertake broadly breaks down into four areas:

- **Physical Environmental Improvements** - including works around factories, in school grounds, pocket parks and verges and byways.
- **Recreation and Access** - improving play facilities, disabled people's and ethnic minority access to the countryside.
- **Environmental Education** - recycling, energy saving and schools industry links.
- **Services to Business and Employment Training initiatives** - environmental auditing, management systems and BS775.

The kind of help usually sought from Groundwork is landscape design and budgeting, help with fund-raising strategies and grant applications, technical support and project management expertise. Groundwork is a member of the Nottingham Environmental Partnership and aims to co-ordinate its work with that of other partners to maximise its effectiveness.

grant applications, and sometimes money. The rest - the vital spark if you like - is up to those talented individuals who have always fought for the communities in which they live.

IOET is also helping to make sure that protecting the environment maintains its position near the top of the political agenda. The environmental movement needs the vital contribution from the Black community if it is to remain effective and relevant to life in 20th century Britain.

WAKE UP TO WASTE

Not only Nottinghamshire, but the entire country, is beginning to run out of big holes in the ground in which we can dump our rubbish. Therefore, waste minimisation projects have an important role to play in the war against waste, and we should all be thinking about reducing the amount of rubbish we produce in our homes. But how many of us know what the building industry throws away each year? And does the building industry know?

The Groundwork Greater Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University 'Wake Up' project

aims to answer some of these questions. The projects main task is to identify what, and how much, the construction industry sends off to be buried for all eternity at landfill sites across the country. It does this by sending 'volunteers' out to landfill sites to sort through and record the waste being tipped from skips and lorries.

The 'Wake Up' project will also investigate how the construction industry can reduce the amount of material (and so money) it throws away each year, and will also look at how much

'waste' (if any) can be re-used and ploughed back into the UK economy.

A project of this type relies heavily on the active support of landfill companies such as Safewaste UK Ltd, and construction giants such as Mowlem Midlands.

Everybody on the project is working closely with Nottinghamshire Waste Regulation Authority, Nottswaste, Biffa, and Greenways, who as a group of companies have all recognised the potential of a project such as this.

GREEN NETWORK NEWS



HEAT-WAVE THREATENS WILDLIFE

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has warned that the prolonged dry weather is having a significant impact upon the wildlife of the County.

The main threat is posed by the almost daily grass and forest fires, which are destroying nesting habitats for birds and killing thousands of beetles, spiders and other insects - important food sources for some birds and small mammals. This is a short term problem at the moment, but if very large areas of habitat are destroyed then wildlife could continue to suffer well after the hot spell ends.

The other major problem for wildlife is the lack of drinking water. Small mammals such as moles

and hedgehogs also obtain a lot of their water needs from the food which they eat, such as slugs, snails and earthworms, which are very hard to find in these conditions.

The lack of rain will also affect most trees. A Trust spokesperson commented 'If we get a fair amount of rain in the near future, most trees will not suffer any long term damage, but if the drought continues for much longer many trees may begin to die. This will obviously result in a loss of habitat for wildlife'.

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. 43 September 1995

Inside ...

- Network A.G.M.
- Pedals Group Focus
- Groundwork Focus

THE DROUGHT - IN BRIEF

- Friends of the Earth are calling for water companies to pay more attention to the problem of replacing old pipes, before planning more reservoirs - in the Severn Trent area, 25% of piped water is lost through leakage.
- A Severn Trent Spokesperson stated 'Severn Trent does acknowledge that the level of leakage is too high, and since 1989 we have spent £100 million each year to improve the water supply pipe network. Over the next 5 years we are hoping to reduce the leakage rate by half (10 million gallons per year)'.
- Any water pollution problems are likely to be more severe in the drought, due to increased concentration. You can help by looking out for signs such as oil, chemicals or dead fish in streams and rivers.

Any problems should be immediately reported to the National Rivers Authority 24 hour emergency line on 0800 807060.

EARTH CENTRE

The Earth Centre in South Yorkshire is now open, with a variety of environmental attractions for all the family - including exhibitions, displays, demonstrations and events. The Centre is set in 350 acres of parkland, containing food and farming projects, an aquatic ecology centre, a river boardwalk and an ancient woodland. Attractions for children include river trips, art workshops and safe play areas.

The centre is open 7 days a week, with admission charges of £2.50 for adults, and £1.75 for children/concessions. The centre is accessible by rail, located immediately next to Conisbrough railway station.

For more information phone 01709 770566, or write to:

The Earth Centre, Kilner's Bridge, Doncaster Road, Denaby Main, Nr Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN12 4DY.

HEAT WAVE

...Continued from front page

The full effect of the drought on trees may not become apparent for many years to come, as there could potentially be problems with increased susceptibility to disease or with branches dying back.

If these conditions continue in future years, then the implications of our native wildlife are great. Some wetland habitats may begin to dry up, and certain species of plant and animal may no longer find conditions here suitable for them. We may also see populations of plants and animals from hotter areas of the world becoming established.

There is not a lot that can be done to help wildlife in the countryside, but people can help by being extra vigilant against causing fires.

At home there is much more you can do to make your garden a haven for wildlife during the heat-wave. Always ensure that there is somewhere for wildlife to drink water in your garden, such as an old tray or dustbin lid (avoid large deep containers as some animals may drown).

You can also provide dog food for hedgehogs, mixed with water, and place a pile of logs or stones in a corner of the garden. This will provide a shady, damp environment for insects such as wood lice, helping to provide food for other wildlife.

Erin McDaid.

For more information contact Notts Wildlife Trust on 958 8242.

GREEN NETWORK AGM

Would you like to meet like minded people from 'green' organisations, listen to interesting speakers and influence the future of the Green Network? If you would, come along to the 1995 Green Network AGM, which takes place on the evening of October 5th, from 7pm at Nottingham County Library.

Last years event was a big success, and we are hoping to attract even more people this year. This is an open meeting - you do not need to be a member organisation to attend, only to vote. Good value food from Veggies Catering will be available from 6.30pm.

This event will provide an opportunity to listen to speakers from local organisations, including Eddie Orchard and Fiona White from GPT Beeston, which has become involved in a variety

of 'green' initiatives, including the recycling of office waste. Nik Millington of Playworks will be talking about the work of Play Resource centres in the area - turning waste products into safe play material for children.

The AGM will include a time for talking to like-minded groups, and an opportunity to discuss the future of the network, such as Green Network News and plans for a printed directory of local environmental organisations. Displays from local environmental organisations will be included, as well as a free raffle!

If your organisation would like to have a display at the AGM, or you would like to offer a raffle prize, please contact Adam Woodward on 941 7849.

Hewthorn Herbs & Wild Flowers
Julie Scott
Simkins Farm
Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 5AS
Tel: 0115 981 2861

Gardens Open 10.30am to 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays During School term time

Open Days For 1995 2-6pm on the following dates

September : Saturday 23rd Sunday 24th

October : Saturday 7th Sunday 8th

The Gardens are open outside these hours by arrangement. To avoid disappointment please telephone first to make sure someone will be available

TAKE THE PLEDGE!

The Nottingham Women's Environmental Network (WEN) is now calling on local people to pledge a 10% reduction in car use over the next year, and to donate at least £1 to the WEN 'Breath of Fresh Air' Campaign.

The campaign points out that increasing traffic levels are damaging our health - the incidence of asthma in the UK has tripled since 1973, an increase roughly in line with car ownership.

As almost half of all car journeys are under 2 miles in length, most car users should be able to cut down on car usage - try walking, cycling or taking public transport for short journeys.

There are also many ways of reduce your exposure to airborne pollution - such as trying to plan walking routes where traffic is less dense, and keeping young children above the level of exhausts if possible (either in a pram or sling).

To find out more about the current day's air quality, call Freephone 0800 556677.

To find out more contact:

Margret Vince on 960 5843,

or write to:

Chris Vincent, 7 Highfield Road, Nuthall,
Nottingham, NG16 1BQ.

GNN UPDATE

These are the subjects planned for feature articles in the next issue of Green Network News:

October — Young People focus.

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
c/o The Rainbow Centre
182 Mansfield Road
Nottingham
NG1 3HW

Adam Woodward (GN Co-ordinator)

INSTANT INFORMATION

Do you need information about Transport Campaigns or Energy Conservation, or are you looking for a 'green' speaker? Green Network has a variety of free and up to date information about organisations involved in the environment in Greater Nottingham and South Notts. The database (of nearly 150 organisations) can also be purchased on Computer Disc for £5.

Contact Adam Woodward, c/o the Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW, or call 941 7849.

UNSAFE GULLY GRATES

Ten years or more ago, a 15 year old cyclist in Derbyshire suffered a fatal crash after one of his wheels got caught in a kerbside drain cover with slots parallel to the direction of traffic. Nottinghamshire County Council promised then to replace all such grates. However, there are still some around, and the County Council is unwilling to fund the replacement of all of the grates - only those that are damaged, where work is already being carried out, or those they consider to be dangerous.

As the local Cyclists Touring Club Rights Network member, I have been writing to the County, and also to several of the Districts who act as the County's agent in maintenance matters, to try to get a commitment to remove all of these hazards - as any such grate must be a potential danger to cyclists.

It would help me for anyone who knows of any such drains to let me know their precise location, so that - when I eventually get an undertaking that the County Council will replace all of the grates - I can send them a list of as many as possible.

It would also be useful if people could write to the County Council to ask for such grates to be replaced.

Contact me on 986 0299, or write to me at -
29 Bathley Street,
Nottingham NG2 2LJ.

Contact the Department of Construction & Design at -
Nottinghamshire County Council,
Trent Bridge House,
Fox Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 6BJ.

Graham Lansdell.

AN UPDATE FROM FIELDS

Several important decisions have recently been made which affect plans for development schemes in the Lady Bay area - which FIELDS has been campaigning to protect.

The County Council has delayed plans for the Fourth Trent Crossing for at least a year following the response of the Minister of Transport, who stated that the Department of Transport 'are not convinced that the proposed crossing is justified in strategic terms ...'. This means that the County Council are now unlikely to gain the funding needed to build the bridge. FIELDS will therefore be calling for an official statement from the Council that they will be abandoning the scheme.

The Environment Secretary has recently allowed Rushcliffe Borough Council to return the land 'East of Lady Bay' to the Green Belt, following a 20 year conflict between Notts County Council

(who own the land), and the Borough Council (the Planning Authority). This means that the County Council will not be able to go ahead with plans to build a business park on the land. The Council could call for a Judicial Review but FIELDS are hoping that the decision will be accepted.

The Public Enquiry into Pickering Leisure Ltd's planning application for a 9 hole golf course has given permission for the project. However, the permission will hopefully not be used, as the company will be unable to go ahead with plans for an adjacent 'Leisure Funland' and hotel complex, due to the return of the land to Green Belt status - the golf course alone is unlikely to be viable.

For more information contact Piers Keating of FIELDS on 981 7969.

BRAVE

The Department of Transport announced plans in 1989 to investigate ways to improve road conditions on the A453 from Clifton to Nottingham, with three options - to improve the existing road, or to build a bypass - via Beeston Rylands or the Ruddington area. BRAVE (Beeston Residents Against Vandalism of the Environment) was formed to stop the third option - which would become a dominant feature in this relatively undeveloped tract of countryside, causing havoc and distress to wildlife and natural habitats. This damage to the green belt would occur while doing nothing to improve road safety on the existing road through Clifton.

The bypass would be a dual carriageway from Barton-in-Fabis via Beeston Weir to Thane Road in Nottingham. The road would be 25 metres wide and eight metres high over the Trent at its highest point, sloping to four metres

above the floodplain, then on to a huge embankment parallel to Beeston Canal to Thane Road.

In June 1992 the Department of Transport (DoT) announced their preferred route to be the improvement of the existing road through Clifton. However the Beeston Rylands by-pass option had received similar levels of support, and a public inquiry may therefore be necessary to resolve outstanding objections.

If a public inquiry is held BRAVE will put our views forward, but we do need support from other environmental groups. If you can help in any way please contact us by writing to:

BRAVE,
c/o K Roberts (Secretary),
4 Canal Side,
Beeston Rylands,
Nottingham NG9 1NG.

GREEN NETWORK A.G.M.

The 1995 Green Network A.G.M. will take place at Nottingham County Library from 7pm on 5th October.

• Speakers from Playworks & GPT Beeston •

• Discussion of Future Plans •

• Displays from Local Groups •

• Food from 6.30pm •

If you would like to book display space, or offer a raffle prize, contact Adam Woodward on 941 7849.

THE NOTTINGHAM GREEN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 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.*
- Monthly Meetings **Nottingham EIA** (Environmental Investigation Agency). 7.30pm at the Nottingham Knight, West Bridgford.
Call 01509 235885 for details.
- Weekend 1st-3rd **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity, at Belton House (Lincolnshire). *Contact Phil Greensmith on 01782 330814.*
- Friday 1st **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 2nd **Notts Cyclists' Touring Club Beginners Section** ride to Longdale Craft Centre - all welcome.
Meet at 10.30am, at Arnot Hill Park, Nottingham Road, Arnold. *Contact Graham Lansdell on 986 0299 for details.*
- Sunday 3rd **The Nottingham Green Festival**, at Victoria Embankment, include a combination of environmental group stalls and displays, food, music and entertainment. *Contact John Truscott on 958 2369.*
- Sunday 3rd **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. *Phone 975 6376 for details.*
- Monday 4th **Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meatcher on 925 7186.*
- Tuesday 5th **Oxfam Campaigning Group** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row.
Contact David Eminson at the Oxfam Campaigns office on 942 3892.
- Tuesday 5th **NOGS** (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. *Contact Mike Poyzer on 01636 814324 after 6.30pm.*
- Wednesday 6th **Green Network News** Editorial Meeting - all welcome. 3pm at Lawrence House, Talbot Street. *Phone 941 7849 for details.*
- Weekend 9th-10th **BTCV Training Course - Making Hurdles**, in Nottinghamshire. Cost £30. *Call 931 3316 for details.*
- Sunday 10th **'Countrytots in Autumntime'** - a short walk for children and parents in Bestwood Country Park, from 2-4pm.
Meet at Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. *Call 967 0042 for more information.*
- Monday 11th **Nottingham Permaculture Association** meeting. *Contact Phil Corbett on 947 4977.*
- Thursday 14th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. *Contact Tim Gray on 922 3439.*
- Friday 15th **Critical Mass** Cycle Ride to protest against traffic congestion. Meet in the Market Square at 5.15pm.
Contact Box CTM, Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW.
- Weekend 16th-17th **BTCV Training Event - Hedging**, from 10am-4pm each day. Cost £5 or £2.50. *Call 931 3316 for details.*
- Saturday 16th **Notts Cyclists' Touring Club Beginners Section** ride to Grantham Canal - all welcome.
Meet at 10.30am, at Rushcliffe Leisure Centre, Boundary Road. *Contact Graham Lansdell on 986 0299 for details.*
- Sunday 17th **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity, at South Peak Estate. *Contact Steve Howard on 0121 323 4051.*
- Monday 18th **Pedals** meeting. 7.30pm at the Trippe to Jerusalem (upstairs room), Brewhouse Yard/Castle Road.
Contact Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.
- Thursday 21st **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station.
Phone Ron Gillott on 920 1238.
- Saturday 23rd **'Race Night'** using recorded races (professionally presented), raising money for FIELDS. From 8pm.
For tickets & information contact Sue Blount on 982 0883 (no tickets at door).
- Monday 25th **Nottingham World Development Movement (WDM)** meeting. 7.30pm at the International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Road. *Contact Nick Osmond on 960 7797 for details.*
- Tuesday 26th **Bulwell Environmental Group** meeting. Crabtree Farm Estate Community Centre. *Contact Diana Langley on 927 3813.*
- Wednesday 27th **Nottingham Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 8pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.
Call 960 5843 for details.
- Saturday 30th **Lady Bay Community Association** presents a **'Crackin' Good Ceilidh'** with Belzebug.
From 8pm at West Bridgford Community Hall. Tickets £4 from West Bridgford Library or J. Scott on 982 2616.
- Saturday 30th **Notts Cyclists' Touring Club Beginners Section** ride to Gunthorpe - all welcome. Meet at 10.30am, at Colwick Park & Ride Site (Colwick Racecourse entrance). *Contact Graham Lansdell on 986 0299 for details.*
- Weekend 30th-1st **BTCV Training Event - Tree Felling**, from 10am-4pm each day. Cost £5 or £2.50. *Call 931 3316 for details.*

OCTOBER 1995

- Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's **BTCV** activities - see September.
- Sun's (& some other days) **Notts Wildlife Trust** conservation activities at wildlife reserves around the county. *Contact Erin McDaid on 958 8242.*
- Monthly Meetings **Nottingham EIA** (Environmental Investigation Agency). 7.30pm at the Nottingham Knight, West Bridgford.
Call 01509 235885 for details.
- Sunday 1st **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity, at Kedleston Hall. *Contact Brenden Hill on 0121 354 1370.*
- Sunday 1st **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. *Phone 975 6376 for details.*
- Monday 2nd **Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meatcher on 925 7186.*
- Thursday 5th **Green Network AGM**. 7pm at Nottingham County Library (food available from 6.30), with speakers from local 'green' organisations. *Contact Adam Woodward on 941 7849.*

P E D A L S

16 YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING

Pedals, the Nottingham Cycling Campaign, has now been going for well over 16 years. Its main aims are to encourage more people to use bikes and to campaign for better and safer conditions for cyclists.

A variety of cycle facilities have been introduced in much of the Nottingham area, including cycle paths, shared paths and 10 sets of special traffic signals. Most of these facilities, concentrated largely in the flatter part of the conurbation, between West Bridgford, Clifton, Beeston and the City Centre, have done much to improve cycling conditions, although some have been spoilt by poor detailed design, construction or maintenance.

Good secure cycle parking is very important, especially in these days of rampant cycle theft, and Pedals has also achieved much here. These achievements include cycle lockers in the Trinity Square and Broadmarsh car parks, with the prospect now of more to come, both at Trinity Square and in the Fletcher Gate car park upgrading.

The north side of Nottingham has so far seen relatively little cycle provision and it has been a long battle to get this rectified. Top of the priorities in this area is an extension of the Ring Road cycle tracks from Derby Road to Mansfield Road, Daybrook.

Also particularly important in this area is the promotion of cyclists' safety through carefully designed traffic-calming. Some traffic-calming schemes have made life worse for cyclists and we are trying to get more cycle-friendly designs in future.

Safer links from the urban area into the countryside are also a priority for the future, encouraging leisure as well as commuter cycling, and making sure that cyclists' needs are taken far more seriously in all planning and traffic management decisions.

Hugh McClintock.

For more information about Pedals contact Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.



One of the Guided Cycle Rides in Nottingham during Hovis National Bike Week in June. The ride aimed to highlight the lack of secure cycle parking at several local supermarkets. Photo courtesy of Ian Prince.

BIKE MAINTENANCE CLASSES

This year's cycle maintenance classes were set up after Pedals members were struck by the way people were keen to go on rides led by experienced cyclists with repair skills, yet reluctant to venture out on their own.

Pedals wanted to release that demand and to restore confidence to all, especially women. Short, local and cheap basic maintenance classes fitted the bill. With grant aid from the County Council and Shell's Better Britain Campaign we bought bike stands and tools, hired halls and arranged instructors. A small charge covered running costs and provided us with an income for the future.

It became clear that we had tapped a rich vein - the classes filled up very quickly, even those months ahead. The majority of people who attended were women. A great deal was learned within a short period, and many people ended the course far more confident than when they started. A lot of people have said they want to learn more.

It is clear that the classes are here to stay, and more will be established next year. However, Pedals believe bike maintenance classes can reach many more people. With the equipment and skills we possess we will be able to offer our services to any group or organisation who would like to set up bike maintenance classes for their members - such as community associations, youth clubs, schools, social clubs and employee associations.

As a voluntary group we are limited in the number of classes we can organise. Offering our services to other groups will be a means of spreading the classes to a wider audience. Great things from little acorns grow!

If you would like more information, please contact Nick Moss at 21 Brockley Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5JY, or call 981 1129.

GUIDED CYCLE RIDES GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Hundreds of people now take part in the Guided Cycle Rides Programme each year, first launched by Pedals in 1983. The idea was to encourage new people to cycle, including those normally too terrified about venturing forth on their own in heavy traffic.

The original 6-ride summer programme has grown into a very varied all-year programme with dozens of rides of different lengths. They take place in evenings and at weekends and include short rides of 5 or 10 miles, as well as one of 40-50 miles for the really keen, and many of medium lengths. Rides especially geared for families are also a key part of the programme.

Varied starting points are offered in the programme which, since 1985, has been co-ordinated by the County Council. Many other people now act as ride leaders, including some of the County Council's own staff and local Cyclists' Touring Club members.

The emphasis is on an easy and enjoyable pace, and special care is taken to make sure that less experienced riders do not get left behind. In most cases rides end up at a pub, which is always a prominent feature of the occasion!

As well as making more people aware of the enormous health and environmental benefits of

cycling, the rides have earned a reputation for being very friendly and enjoyable events. There is now a special end of season Christmas Dinner for ride regulars!

Guided ride leaflets are normally published in early Spring by the County Council and are then available from local libraries and cycle shops. To get your name on the mailing list, or for more general information, contact Steve Jones at Notts County Council on 977 4207.

Hugh McClintock.

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.

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

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