

GREEN NETWORK NEWS

HOLIDAYS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Would you like a holiday with a difference? You could help to build sand trap fences on the unspoiled Welsh coast, instead taking of a more traditional beach holiday. This is just one of nearly 600 holidays and weekend breaks offered by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).

These holidays provide a chance to get out and about, meet new friends and learn new skills - such as dry stone walling in the South Pennines, or cutting marsh hay next to the waterways of the Fens. The amount of travelling involved is up to you, as holidays' take place in a wide variety of locations, from Nottinghamshire to the Isle of Wight!

Accommodation is included in the price of each holiday, and could range from a log cabin to a fully equipped study centre. Food is also included, and everyone helps out with the cooking and cleaning. Social events are often organised in the evenings.

Most of these holidays include around 12 people - from this country and sometimes from overseas. Participants vary in age from 16 to 75, and come from a wide range of different backgrounds.

To take part in one of these holidays, you only need energy and enthusiasm - no practical skills are needed, as BTCV's trained leaders will help you to gain experience. The holidays are also very cheap, starting from just £27.50 per week, inclusive of accommodation and food.

To order a free brochure, contact BTCV on 0491 824602 (24 hour number).



Chris Vincent of WEN (Women's Environment Network) explains 'Wrapping is a Rip Off' Campaign

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.

No. 20 August 1993

Inside...

- ☐ Pollution & Health Focus
- ☐ STOP! Campaign
- ☐ Greenpeace Success

OBJECTION TO CYCLE CHARGE

Nottingham Pedals are objecting to British Rails recent change in policy regarding the carrying of bicycles on trains. All passengers wishing to carry bicycles on trains must now pay a £3.00 charge. In addition, bicycles will not be allowed at all on many peak time services.

Pedals would like people to write to their MP to object to these changes, which make travelling on public transport very difficult for cyclists

A LAST CALL FOR HELP

As mentioned in the last issue volunteers are needed to help 'Green' the 6th National Festival of Asian Arts & Music at University Park on the weekend 14-15th August 1993.

As well as helping to recycle as much festival waste as possible, it will provide local groups with an opportunity to raise awareness of environmental issues and their activities amongst the Asian community. You'll hear some excellent music too!

If you or your organisation can help, please call Sukhy on 422479 or Graham on 774658 as soon as possible.

URBAN WILDLIFE GRANTS

Funding is now being provided by English Nature for community wildlife projects. Grants of between £250 and £5000 are obtainable.

Funds are available for projects which maintain or improve opportunities for wildlife to develop, as well as those which will enable more people to enjoy and gain understanding of their local wildlife. Grants are also available for projects which are particularly innovative in their approach.

For more information, phone 0476 68431.

GREENPEACE 'WALKS FOR THE WHALES' 1993

The 1993 Notts Greenpeace Whale Walks, held at Attenborough Nature Reserve and Sherwood Forest Country Park on Sunday 13th June, were a resounding success with nearly 300 taking part. Despite the changeable weather the walkers efforts raised pledges of nearly £8000.

Greenpeace is supporting the international boycott which aims to force Norway to make a U-turn on their recent decision to re-commence commercial whaling of Minke whales.

The annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission was held in Japan in May, and resolved to retain its moratorium on commercial whaling, and condemned Norway's decision to return to commercial whaling. It was also recognised that whale watching, a £200m tourist industry, is far more profitable than killing whales.

In addition to writing letters of protest to the Norwegian Prime Minister the public are being urged to boycott certain Norwegian goods, namely Co-op Norwegian Prawns, Tesco 'North Atlantic' Prawns, Young's Seafoods, Lyon's Seafoods, Jarlsberg and Primula Cheeses, Neutrogena handcare and soap products, and all brands of Norwegian salmon.

The groups would like to extend their warm thanks to all of the walkers who gave up their time to support the whaling campaign.

If you would like to support the campaign, contact Dave Meatcher on 257186.

Nottingham Greenpeace Support Group.



Greenpeace supporters taking part in sponsored walk

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES OPPOSED

The FIELDS (Fight It Especially the Land Development Scheme) campaign was set up to oppose 2 proposed developments in the West Bridgford area.

The group is objecting to a proposal by Notts County Council to develop farmland east of Lady Bay, West Bridgford. The plans include a 59 acre Business Park and an 111 acre Leisure Complex. The development is being opposed on the grounds that green space would be lost, and traffic flowing through the area would increase dramatically. The group has also stated that commercial demand is for sites to the west of Nottingham, making the development unnecessary.

FIELDS are also opposing plans for a Fourth Trent Crossing, which would traverse the same area. The group has commented that this scheme would provide little or no benefit in relieving traffic congestion, while causing serious noise and environmental problems, and destroying the peaceful open character of the riverside fields.

These proposals are still under consideration, and the FIELDS group would appreciate any help people can give in supporting their campaign.

For more information, contact Julie Scott on 822616.

GNN FEATURES

These are the subjects planned for feature articles in the next 4 issues of Green Network News:

- September - No Feature (due to summer holidays).
- October - Transport.
- November - Energy.
- December - Green Consumerism.

If you would like to write an article about one of these issues, 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. 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 417849, or write to me at:

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

Adam Woodward (GNN Co-ordinator)

NOTTINGHAM GREEN PARTNERSHIP

The Nottingham Green Partnership involves groups from the private, public and voluntary sectors, and aims to 'establish, through co-operative effort, a comprehensive and practical approach to solving environmental problems in Nottingham'.

The Partnership works through a range of Project Groups, covering issues such as Energy, Transport, and the Natural Environment. These groups work through providing funding and support to a variety of initiatives in the local area.

A free leaflet and video is available, describing the range of initiatives supported by the Green Partnership.

For more information, contact Steve Waller of Nottingham City Council on 483500

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS

If your group or business would like to advertise in Green Network News, contact Adam Woodward on 417849. Reduced rates are available for voluntary groups and small businesses.

REGULAR DATES - EVERY MONTH

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays, & Sundays
4th Wednesday

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) activities - including a variety of practical tasks.
Contact Jenni on 313316.
Rainbow Centre Video Evening. 7pm. *Call 585666 with requests, or for details.*

AUGUST 1993

ALL MONTH
Monday 2nd
Tuesday 3rd
Friday 6th
Saturday 7th

Cambodia Exhibition at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Monday-Saturday. 10am - 5pm.
Greenpeace Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meatcher on 257186.*
Green Festival Planning meeting at 6pm. *Contact John Truscott on 582369.*
Greenpeace Youth Group meeting. Date and venue to be confirmed. *Contact Neil Shaw on 259417.*
Wild Flower Garden open day (raising funds for the FIELDS campaign and the Henry Doubleday Research Association) at Simkins Farm, Adbolton lane, West Bridgford. *Contact Julie Scott on 822616.*
Wild Flower Garden open day (as above).

Sunday 8th
Sunday 8th

Rainbow Centre trip to West Beacon Farm Power in Loughborough, to look at Wind Power project, and Leicester Eco-house. Places Limited. *For more information, contact Tracy on 585666.*

Sunday 8th
Monday 9th
Wednesday 11th
Thursday 12th

Ecoworks Barbecue, at Hungerhill Allotments, St Ann's, Nottingham. *Contact Brian Davey on 484111.*
Nottingham Permaculture Group meeting. *Phone Phil Corbett on 474977 for details.*
Green Network News Editorial Meeting. 12pm at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road. All Welcome.
Oxfam Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. *Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.*

Thursday 12th

Friends of the Earth Meeting: Designing and making displays for the Green Festival. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row.

Weekend 14th-15th
Monday 16th

APNA National Festival of Asian Arts & Music. See 'A Last Call For Help' article for details.
Notts Wildlife Trust Guided Walk - Bulwell Hall Park. Meet at Cricket Ground Car Park, Norwich Gardens. *Phone Pete Shepherd on 588242.*

Tuesday 17th
Thursday 19th
Thursday 19th

Green Festival Planning meeting at 6pm. *Contact John Truscott on 582369.*
Notts Transport 2000 meeting. *Phone Ron Gillot on 201238.*
Nottingham Women's Environmental Network meeting. 7.30pm at 7, Highfield Road, Nuthall. *Phone 753603 for details.*

Sunday 22nd
Tuesday 24th
Monday 25th
Weekend 27th-29th

BTCV Local Training Event; 'Organising a Practical Work Event'. *Phone 313316 for details.*
Bulwell Environment Group meeting. Crabtree Farm estate Community Centre. *Contact Diana Langley on 273813.*
Pedals mini cycle ride at 6.45pm, and monthly meeting at 8.30pm. *Contact Hugh McIntock on 816206.*
BTCV Countryside Weekend. Reed Clearance at Nottingham Canal, Cossal. Cost £10.00.
Pick-up from Nottingham Train Station at 8pm. *To book a place, phone 0532 742335.*

SEPTEMBER 1993

ALL MONTH

Environmental exhibition at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Monday-Saturday. 10am - 5pm. *Phone 585666 for details.*

Sunday 5th
Monday 6th

Nottingham Green Festival at Victoria Embankment, Nottingham. *Contact John Truscott on 582369.*
Greater Nottingham Green Network meeting. 7pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. *Contact Adam Woodward on 417849.*

Monday 6th
Week 6th-10th
Wednesday 8th

Greenpeace Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meacher on 257186.*
Velo-City Conference. *Contact Sue Jaques on 774368.*
Oxfam Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. *Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.*

Thursday 9th

Friends of the Earth meeting: Clean Up The Erewash Campaign focus. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row.

Thursday 9th
Friday 10th
Monday 13th
Thursday 16th
Thursday 16th

Green Network News Editorial Meeting. 1pm at Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road. All Welcome.
Greenpeace Youth Group meeting. Date and venue to be confirmed. *Contact Neil Shaw on 259417.*
Nottingham Permaculture Group meeting. *Contact Phil Corbett on 474977.*
Notts Transport 2000 meeting. *Phone Ron Gillot on 201238.*
Nottingham Women's Environmental Network meeting. 7.30pm at 7, Highfield Road, Nuthall. *Phone 753603 for details.*

Monday 20th
Tuesday 28th

Pedals monthly meeting. 7.30pm at Newmarket Inn, Broad St, Nottingham. *Contact Hugh McIntock on 816206.*
Bulwell Environment Group meeting. Crabtree Farm estate Community Centre. *Contact Diana Langley on 273813.*

Call on 417849 before setting dates to avoid clashes, and to have dates added to this calendar.

Note : Phone numbers Nottingham unless stated otherwise.

Green Contact Details are also available from The Rainbow Centre, on 585666.

GREEN NETWORK MEETING

Would you like to help set the agenda for the Greater Nottingham Green Network? Their will be an opportunity for you to do so at the next meeting of the Network, on September 6th at 7pm, in Nottingham County Library.

The meeting will focus on methods of developing local environmental action, using your ideas. As well as considering the progress of Green Network News, the meeting will aim to discuss methods of linking different groups through networking.

This could include linking groups with areas of common interest, and passing on ideas of how these groups could work together. Networking activities could also enable us to discover 'gaps' in local environmental activity, and explore ways of filling these gaps.

If you have any ideas or comments about the network, or about 'Green Network News', but can't attend the meeting, then please send your comments to me at Green Network News, c/o the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW, or phone 417849.

Adam Woodward (GNN Co-ordinator)

NOTTINGHAM GREEN FESTIVAL

Any readers of Green Network News not on Victoria Embankment on Sunday 5th September will be conspicuous by their absence! That's the date of the 2nd Nottingham Green Festival and the best shop window this year for environmental groups to show off their wares, eat smashing vegetarian food and listen to the musical entertainment provided throughout the day. Attractions for children will also be provided, including circus-skills acts and face-painting.

It's not too late for groups to book stall and exhibition space, as a few places are left.

The event is being sponsored by local councils, businesses and unions, so we have to show that we are worth supporting! So let's make the second Green Festival the festival of the year, even bigger and better than the first.

For exhibition space ring Karen at Oxfam on 423892; for stalls Peggy or Doreen at NCND on 588586. For other enquiries or offers of help contact John Truscott at 118 Workshop on 582369.

Department of Planning and Economic Development Environmental Assistant

£12,438-£13,659 p.a.
(Pay award pending)
(Ref. PG.152)

A well informed, enthusiastic and forward looking person is required at Trent Bridge House, West Bridgford, Nottingham to undertake interesting and varied work. You will be expected to keep abreast of developments in this rapidly changing field, as well as contributing your own original thoughts. The County Council has just commenced the preparation of a corporate Green Strategy and is embarking on a series of initiatives relating to local Agenda 21.

You will be expected to have a key role in both these important areas of work as well as contributing to public awareness raising, community support and internal initiatives and policy formulation. If you have at least one years related experience and a relevant degree (or equivalent) and feel you have a real contribution to make, please apply.

You will qualify for the Council's Car Lease Scheme or receipt of a Casual Car User Allowance. Flexi-time and job share schemes are in operation.

Suitably qualified/skilled/experienced applicants with a disability will be guaranteed an interview.

For an application form and further information please tel: Nottm. (0602) 772047 or write to the Personnel Section, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Centenary House, 1 Wilford Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QZ. Closing date 13 August. (Interviews will be held on 26 August).

The County Council welcomes applications from all, irrespective of gender, marital status, disability, race, age or sexual orientation.



Nottinghamshire
County Council
County Hall West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7QP

STOP!

This is the name of the recently launched campaign against the proposed Nottingham orbital road. STOP! (Stop the Orbital Proposal) are hoping to collect 10,000 names for a petition against the proposed road



(petition forms are available). The group is also hoping to help local groups to coordinate their plans for opposing the scheme in particular parts of the city, as well as providing a forum for information exchange about the orbital road proposal.

The group is planning to help organise local public meetings later in the summer.

Following the recent news about the Oxleas Wood and Hereford Bypass proposals, campaigners in Nottingham are hoping to achieve similar success - but your support is needed! Please help the STOP! group by signing the petition, or becoming involved in your local area.

For more information, contact Kevin Turner of STOP! on 636509.

COMMENTS ON GREENWOOD WANTED

If you still haven't seen a display or other information about the Greenwood Community Forest, there are still a few months left for you to find out more and make your comments about the plans - which suggest the creation of a new forest in 170 square miles of Nottinghamshire countryside, over the next 20 years. These plans have been put together after nearly two years of planning and negotiation, and the Greenwood team are now asking for comments from the public.

Proposals have also been made to increase access to the countryside via circular routes for cycles, horse-riders and pedestrians, and a 'Greenwood Way' running from the south to the northern end of the forest. The Greenwood will aim to help conserve wildlife, as well as increasing public enjoyment and understanding of the countryside.

The Draft Plan and Summary will be available in local libraries and civic centres until the end of September, which is the deadline for receiving comments about the plans.

For more information, please contact Sue Lawler on 681006.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

There are 14 million women menstruating in Britain yet the topic is still taboo. By ignoring this issue we ignore the silent stream of waste; 2 million towels, tampons and panty liners each year!

This waste doesn't just disappear. Some of it ends up littering our beaches, polluting our seas and endangering wildlife. Campaign groups have calls from anxious mothers saying that their kids have been making flags for sandcastles from sucker sticks and panty liners! Severn Trent recommend that Sanitary Protection (SanPro) is not flushed as 95% of blocked drains are caused by it.

Tampon related Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) has killed at least 12 women in Britain since 1978, and nearly 200 are known to have survived the disease (often with permanent health effects), which is related to tampon absorbency. Following pressure from consumers and the Women's Environmental Network, tampon manufacturers agreed last year to provide on-pack warnings about TSS, starting from March 1993.

Even though many SanPro products are individually wrapped this is not a guarantee that they are sterile or free from pesticide residue; in Britain there are no legal safeguards governing the manufacture or labelling of SanPro.

What you can do;

- Dispose of your towels or tampons carefully, and never flush or incinerate them.
- Try reusable sanitary towels.
- Contact WEN to find out more about TSS and how to minimise risks.

For more information, contact Nottingham WEN at 7, Highfield Road, Nottingham, NG16 1BQ, or phone National WEN on 071 354 8823.

RIVER QUALITY IN THE GREATER NOTTINGHAM AREA

Nationally we saw substantial improvements in river quality in the 1960s and 1970s. However, river quality in this country got worse from 1985 to 1990. The government did promise to guarantee further improvements in river quality, but they have been steadily backtracking on this commitment over the last couple of years.

The worst quality river in our area is probably the Erewash, which runs from Kirkby-in-Ashfield in the north to the Attenborough Nature Reserve in the South. The local Clean Up The Erewash (CUTE) campaign is supported by a number of other groups including Nottingham Friends of The Earth (FoE) and Notts Wildlife Trust.

National Rivers Authority (NRA) samples over the last couple of years show that there is a serious problem of ammonia pollution caused mainly by Severn-Trent's sewage treatment works, and heavy pollution by 'suspended solids' caused partly by Severn-Trent. There is also a problem of reduced oxygen levels in the lower part of the river below the Milnhay sewage treatment works at Langley Mill.

So Nottingham FoE went out to take biological samples above and below the Milnhay works. Above the works they found an abundance of life on the river bottom, but below there is hardly any life apart from things which can live in very polluted rivers. Nottingham FoE concluded that 'Severn Trent is killing the Erewash'. FoE are continuing to pursue this with Severn Trent and other agencies.

Nigel Lee, Nottingham Friends of the Earth.

For more information contact the Clean Rivers Trust on 0636 892627, Notts Wildlife Trust on 588242, or Nottingham FoE on 788059.



F.O.E. members collecting samples from the Erewash

POLLUTION AND HEALTH FOCUS

This month's feature covers two related issues - Pollution and Health. These are very broad areas, but these articles concentrate on a few key issues - Air and River Pollution, and Women's Health and the Environment. The two articles on the issue of Air Pollution are written from two different perspectives - of Nottingham City Council and Nottingham Friends of the Earth.

ACTION TIPS

Want to reduce pollution? Here are some ideas.

- If you have a car, try to use it less. Walking and cycling are better for you!
- If you are using a car, check your tyre pressure. It's estimated that up to half the cars on the road have under-inflated tyres, which means they wear out faster and you use more energy.
- Save electricity to cut pollution from power stations. There's lots of advice around for saving energy. Have you thought of filling the kettle with only as much water as you need?
- Avoid products containing CFC's or other substances that damage the ozone layer.
- Buy organic food when you can afford it, and garden organically - then you won't be responsible for chemical pesticides and fertilisers finding their way into rivers and drinking water.
- To check air pollution levels, the Department of the Environment operates a free telephone information service on 0800 556677.

Many of these ideas are taken from the Global Action Plan Workbook. GAP is a scheme where people get together in teams to undertake programmes of household environmental improvement. By working in a group and measuring the results of changes they make, participants feel they really can make a difference.

In Greater Nottingham GAP is supported by Nottinghamshire County Council's Green Grants Initiative. Perhaps your project could be too! For further details call Graham Smith or Dave Barber on 774658.

For more information, call Tim Gray at Change Works on 431145.

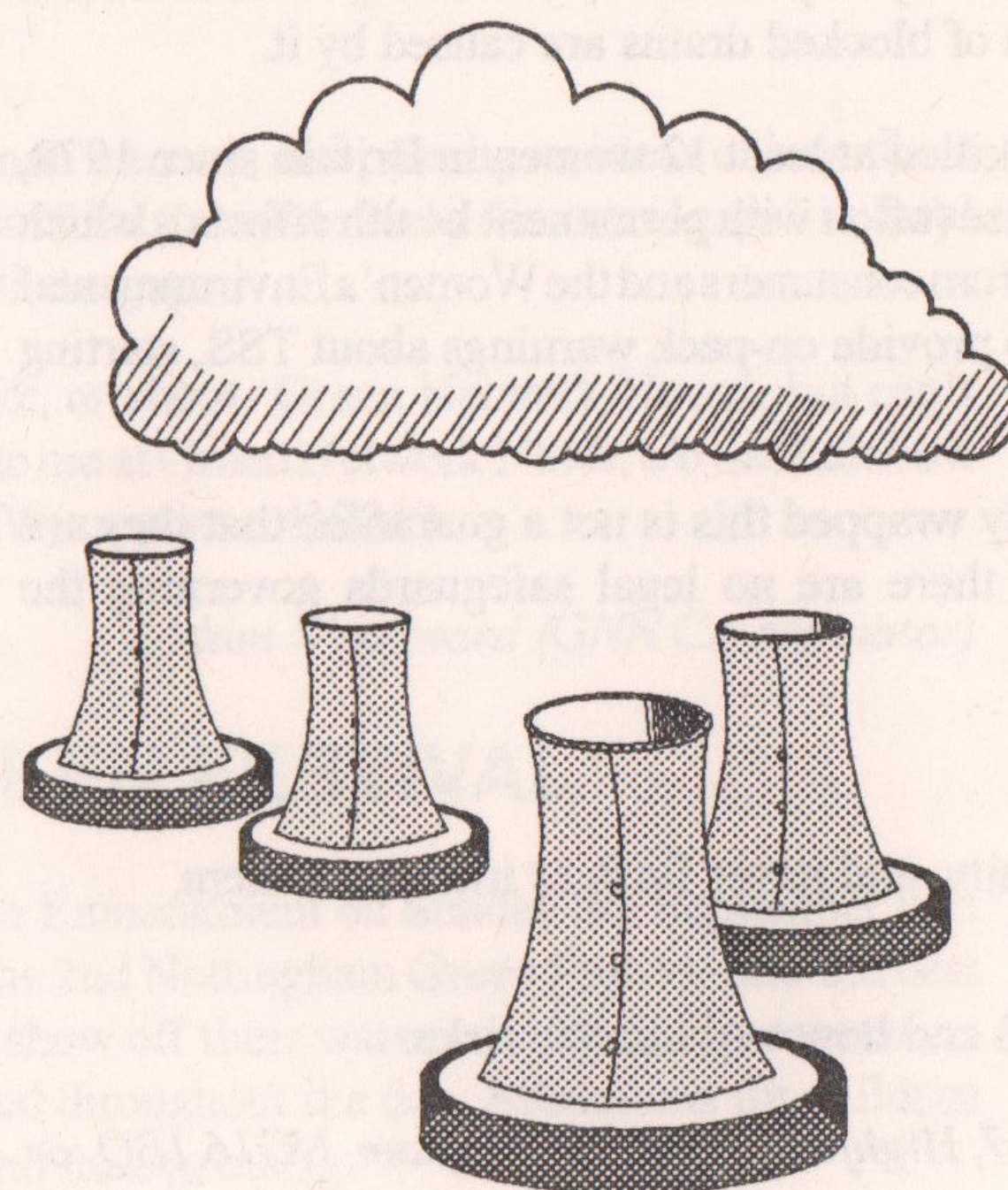
AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH

by Tim Gray of Nottingham Friends of the Earth

Clean air is a basic human right. But in the polluted streets of Tokyo fresh mountain air is sold in bottles. In Germany and Scandinavia forests and lakes are damaged by acid rain. And here in Nottingham, we've got air pollution problems of our very own. Some of them are industrial emissions, including those from nearby Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station (e.g. sulphur dioxide, which can cause restriction of air passages). But many are caused by vehicle emissions.

In 1991 the Government did a national survey of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), which can aggravate breathing difficulties (e.g. bronchitis and asthma) and contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone. Nationally, NO₂ concentrations had increased by 35% since a similar survey in 1986, a figure that correlates closely with the increase in emissions from motor vehicles. The survey found that average levels at two of the six monitoring sites in Nottingham were likely to exceed EC guidelines.

Ozone is valuable 'up there' where it screens out harmful ultra-violet radiation from the sun. Unfortunately there's ever less of it, leading to scare stories in the media about skin cancer. In



fact, if you act sensibly in the sun, taking precautions as you would to avoid sunburn, you're probably not in danger at the moment. But by all means be scared, because things will get worse if we don't act quickly enough. This, at least, is an issue where public pressure has created action, with CFC's almost entirely gone from aerosols, and moves to phase out halons in fire extinguishers.

At ground level, though, ozone is dangerous. It irritates the throat and lungs, and at high levels can cause serious lung damage and harm the immune system. Ozone forms when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides react together in sunlight, making a 'photochemical smog'. In summer, levels often rise above World Health Organisation guidelines.

The Government has forecast that road traffic will approximately double over the next 35 years. Its strategy is to try to meet this demand through building new roads and 'improving' existing ones. But we've got massive problems from the levels of traffic NOW. We must take the other alternative - find ways to reduce road traffic as quickly as possible. Our health, and that of the planet, depends on it.

AIR QUALITY IN NOTTINGHAM

by John Bonham of Nottingham City Council

National and International Air Pollution incidents are often covered by the media, but what of air pollution levels in Nottingham and what implications do they have for our health?

Situated in the Trent Valley, Nottingham is susceptible to temperature inversions which keep air pollution at low level. The resultant smogs caused mainly by smoke from domestic chimneys in damp foggy weather have long since gone now that the whole of the City is subject to Smoke Control Areas. The success of the programme - beginning in 1960 and completed in 1991 - has led to a substantial reduction in respiratory complaints such as bronchitis.

Although the problem of smoke from domestic sources has been reduced, the sulphur content of flue gases (from industrial sources) irritates the mucous lining of the nose and throat. Asthma sufferers in particular are susceptible to increases in pollution levels.

Lead in the air as a result of pollution from leaded petrol was recognised as a national threat. The monitoring carried out by the City Pollution Control Team has demonstrated that this air pollution levels following the programmed introduction of unleaded petrol are now well below prescribed limits.

Traffic pollution causes approximately 40% of total polluting emissions to the atmosphere, and the trend for this type of pollution is upwards - an increase of 35% for nitrogen dioxide levels between 1986 and 1991 in Nottingham. Action such as the introduction of catalytic converters on all cars from 1st January 1993 should have an impact, but more locally, the efforts to implement the Nottingham Rapid Transport System, the Robin Hood Line, the park and ride scheme and a car park pricing policy are all aimed at minimising pollution from road traffic in the city centre.

Recent changes to environmental legislation have provided greater control over the most polluting industrial processes. Many of these processes create toxic substances which could constitute a serious health hazard (if in sufficient concentration) and cause damage to skin, eyes and lungs.

There is still much to be done to combat pollution. As one problem is resolved another has arisen and efforts to monitor, control and wherever possible remove sources of pollution will continue to be made by the City Pollution Control Team.

(John Bonham is Pollution Control Service Manager at Nottingham City Council Environmental Services Department).

If you would like 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.

Nottingham Green Network thank 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.