

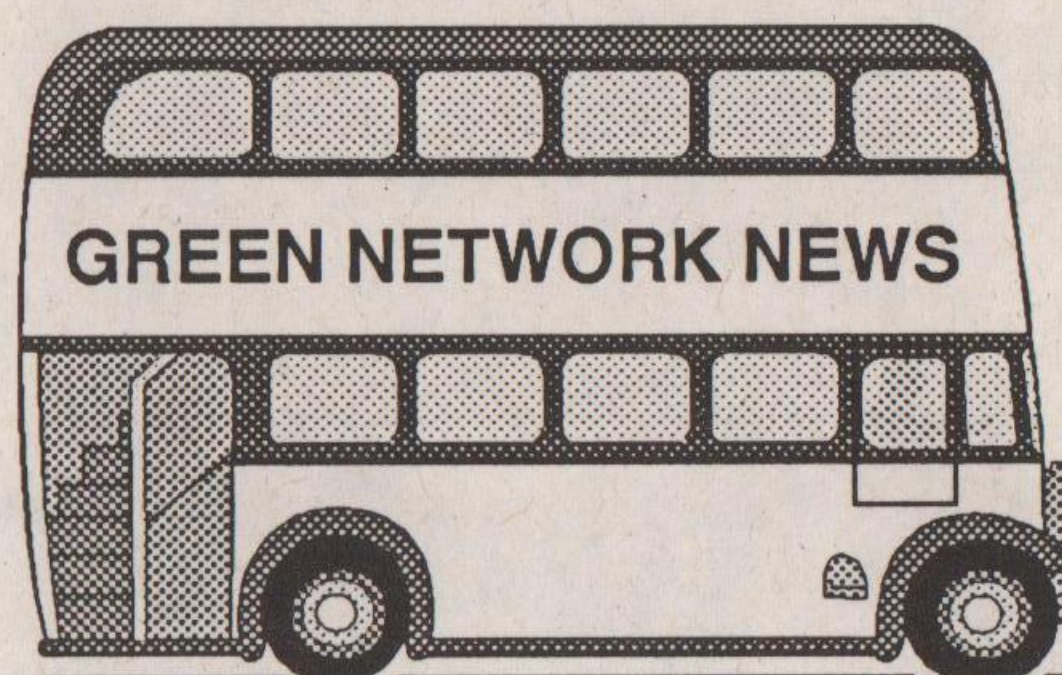
WOMEN, TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Studies have shown that women make the majority of their journeys by bus or on their own two feet. Yet these modes of transport, both of which have a minimal impact on the environment, are often neglected and marginalised.

Women are particularly disadvantaged in areas specifically designed for cars, since only one third of UK full driving licences are held by women. The expense of buying and running a car is prohibitive for many women, who still on average earn only 77% of the average male income.

Out of town supermarkets are one example of thoughtless transport planning; women are responsible for 87% of our shopping, but they are the very people least able to reach them!

Our children - who are down at car level much of the time - and women make up the majority of pedestrians, and often have to breathe a cocktail of car pollutants, including carbon monoxide



and lead.

Many public transport surveys have shown that women would like to see low fares, regular and reliable services, increased staff presence and more information.

People can help to support public transport by using it when possible, and joining in local action about planning - through local transport campaigns.

This article was compiled using extracts from the free Women's Environmental Network (WEN) leaflet 'Women, Transport and the Environment' - see the Contacts box below for the WEN address.

PREGNANCY, PARENTING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Opinion Polls show that new parents, especially mothers, are amongst the most environmentally concerned people in the country. This concern is directly linked to how parents feel about the legacy their children will inherit.

Pregnant women and small children are more susceptible and vulnerable to illness through environmental pollution - their health is often used as a measure of the health of the environment.

In order to ensure healthy children, parents can do much in terms of lowering their own personal pollution levels and creating a safe environment within their own home and community. The health and fitness of both parents is crucial, as environmental pollution and toxins can harm the health of the foetus, even before conception.

Women can reduce this risk by eating a healthy well balanced diet and avoiding processed and refined foods and toxins. Research indicates that prenatal nutrition is the most important factor in influencing the outcome of pregnancy and the likelihood of complications.

There is an enormous sense of responsibility and a desire to do what is best for your baby and yourself. However, parents may also be conscious of the enormous pressure on them to consume a vast quantity of specialised food, toys, cleansers, clothes, equipment and similar products. This 'baby market' is worth millions of pounds each year and this has its own effect on our environment in terms of energy and resource use, pollution and disposal.

Parents can reduce the environmental impact of these products by trying reusable alternatives to throw-away items. For example, using a nappy laundering service can be cheaper than using disposables. Sugary treats cause tooth decay, and you pay extra for these over-packaged, expensive goods. Perhaps give fruit, vegetables and nuts (though not to under 5's) instead, or question the validity of treats at all.

This article was compiled using extracts from the free Women's Environmental Network (WEN) leaflet 'Pregnancy, Parenting and the Environment' - see the Contacts box for the WEN address.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILDS LEAD THE WAY...

The Notts Federation of Townswomen's Guilds is involved in campaigning on a range of national and local issues, including those that affect the environment.

The 'Rooting for the Future' campaign (which finished in 1992) raised nearly £200,000 for the planting of 6 native woodlands in the UK, in association with the Woodland Trust. Notts members contributed several thousand pounds to this campaign. Local members have also been involved in campaigning for improved play areas for children, and calling for the introduction of Bottle Banks in Nottingham.



For more information, write to the Townswomen's Guilds HQ, 75 Harborne Road, Birmingham, B15 3DA, or phone 021 456 3435.

For information about local nappy laundering services, contact Nature's Nappies on 288604 or Nappy Care on 0623 742486

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONTACTS

Women's Environmental Network (national)
Aberdeen Studios, 22 Highbury Grove,
London, N5 2EA, phone 071 354 8823.

Women's Environmental Network (local)
Chris Vincent, 7 Highfield Road, Nuthall,
Nottingham, phone 753603.

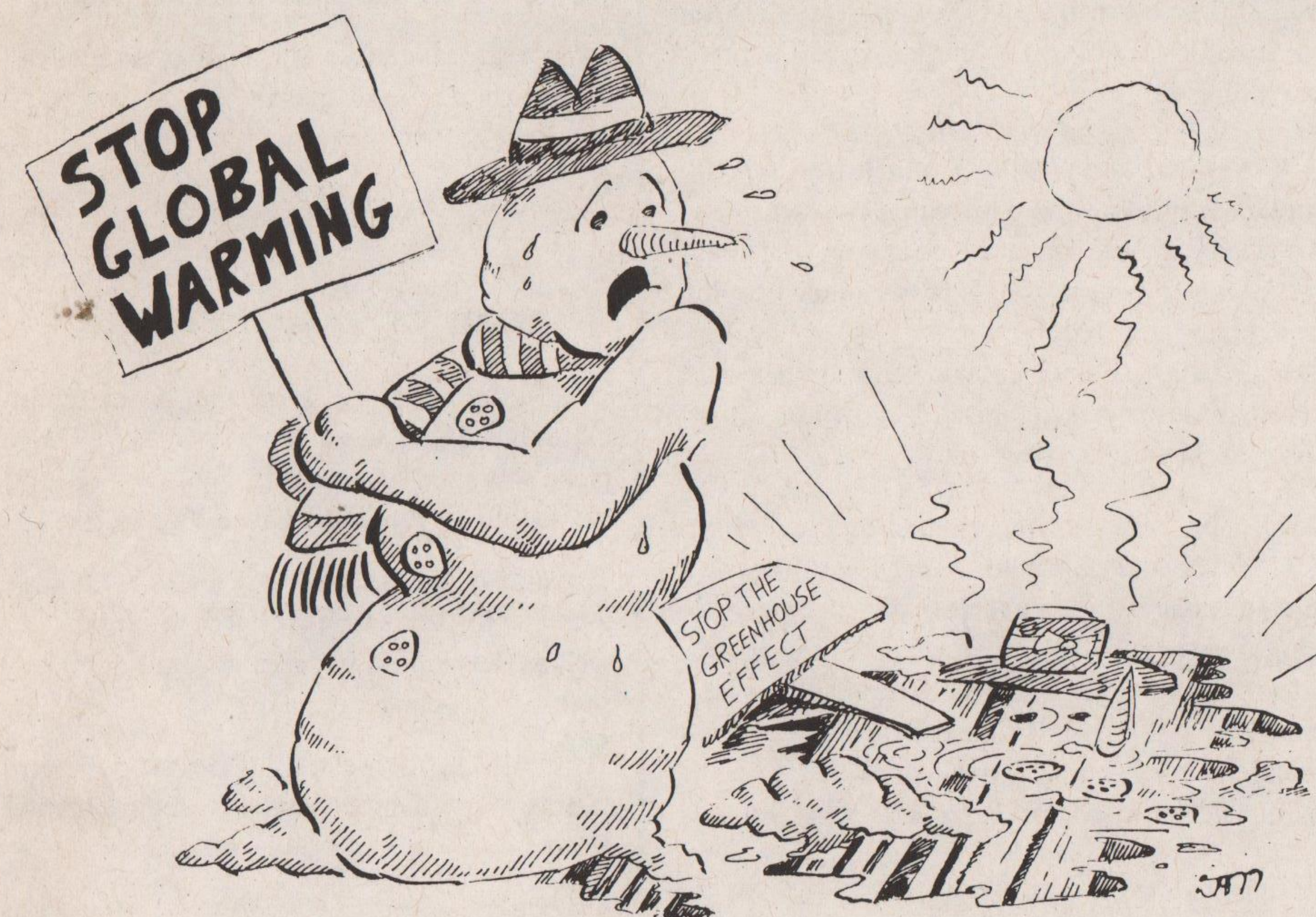
STRIDE (Safe Travel for Women) - Nottingham based group campaigning on issues of women's safety when travelling in the city.
Contact STRIDE, c/o Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham, NG1 5LP, or phone Pauline on 750215, or Kathy on 702879.

Notts Transport Campaign Group - several local groups working together to campaign on transport issues.
Contact Carol Collins on 0949 81798.

Nottingham Rainbow Centre - for information, and books for loan.
182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, phone 585666.

Playworks - providing a range of services for groups involved in children's play, including scrap materials for re-use.
Phone 588668 for details.

GREEN NETWORK NEWS



ROBIN HOOD SUCCESS!

The first stage of the Robin Hood Rail Line has proved a great success. The line opened in May last year, and has been very popular with local people; three car trains had to be introduced on the Saturday service, to prevent overcrowding. The line provides an hourly service from new stations at Newstead and Hucknall into Nottingham.

Passengers have been encouraged by good car parking facilities and special rail link bus services arranged by Notts County Council. In addition the new stations have been designed for easy use by people with disabilities. The service expanded in October last year, to include a half hourly Saturday service, and an extra train in the late evening.

The opening of the line, which had been closed to passenger trains since the 1960s, is a joint initiative between a consortium

of Local Authorities and British Rail. Plans have been made to open a station at Bulwell this year, to be followed by an extension of the line to Kirkby and the opening of services to Mansfield by 1995 and (if funds permit) to Worksop in 1996.

The Robin Hood Line is currently the largest rail restoration project being undertaken in the country, and will bring a densely populated area into the national rail network - helping to limit road congestion, and assist economic development and tourism in an area badly hit by colliery closures.

This article was compiled using extracts from an article by AW Cowie (of Notts County Council) in the Notts Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) newsletter.

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.

Inside ...

- ☐ Women & the Environment
- ☐ Toxic Waste Protest
- ☐ Eco-Tourism

IN BRIEF...

• Audio tapes of Sara Parkin's talk on 'A better Europe - A better World' (October 1993) are available from Southwell Diocese. Call 585517.

• Over 500 Christmas Trees were recycled by Notts County Council at Sainsbury's Homebase in January; twice as many as last year!

• A range of free publications covering the Environment and Sustainable development is available from the Local Government Management Board on 0582 451166.

POND ADOPTED

Staff and pupils at Rufford Infant and Nursery school recently entered into a partnership with the Nottingham Urban Wildlife Scheme (NUWS), and became wardens of Moorbridge pond Reserve in Bulwell.

Moorbridge Pond is one of the most important wetlands in the city, providing breeding habitats for a wide range of plants, birds and other animals. The school will use the site for nature studies and will also carry out practical conservation work - such as litter clearance and path maintenance.

It is hoped that other schools will be interested in 'adopting' their local site.

Contact Erin McDaid of NUWS on 588242 for more information.

This article was compiled using extracts from an article by Erin McDaid in the newsletter of Notts Wildlife Trust.

ENVIRONMENTAL DECLARATION

Notts County Council has adopted the UK local government declaration on sustainable development.

This includes the need to -

- reduce consumption of natural resources,
- increase energy and resource efficiency,
- minimise the environmental impact of waste,
- maximise the support and involvement of citizens.

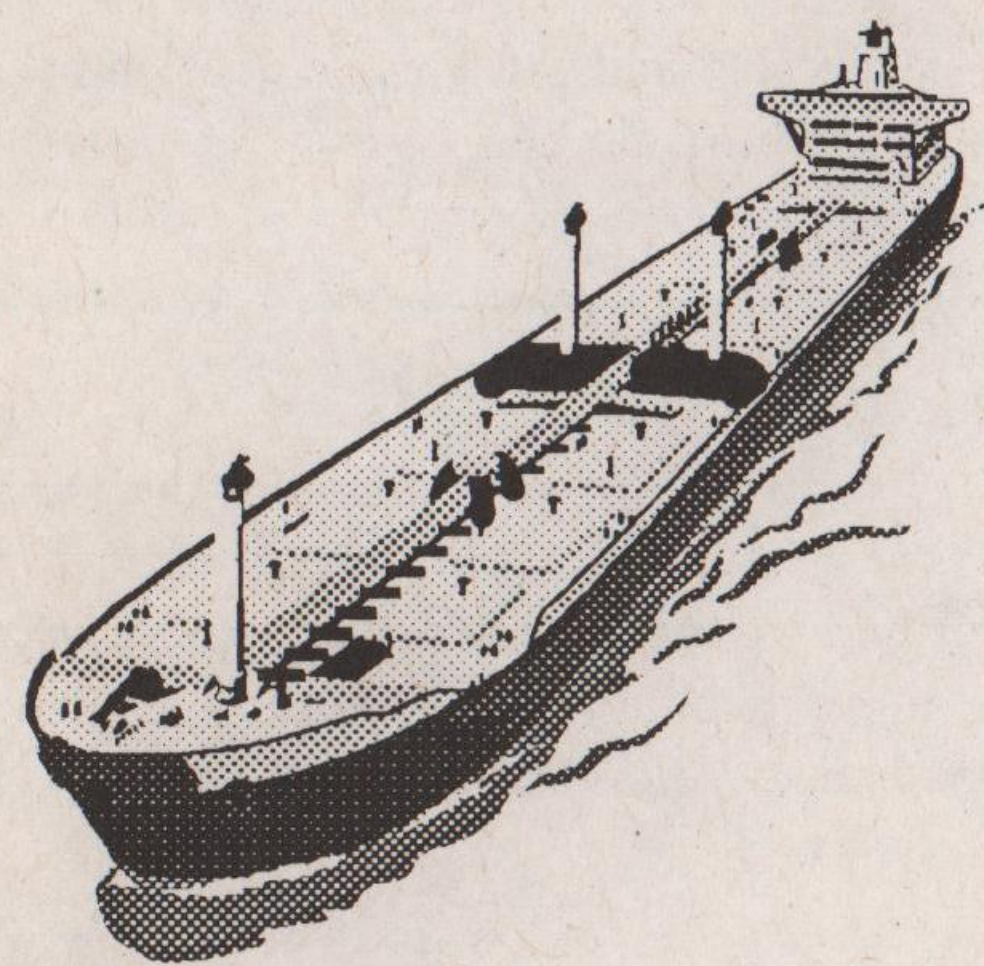
In a large organisation such as the County Council this is a positive first step towards integrating sustainable development with its policies and actions.

For more information, contact Phil Keynes on 774658.

TOXIC WASTE PROTEST

Nottingham Greenpeace have organised 2 sponsored swims for this month, as part of the campaign against the export of toxic waste from the UK - details are in the Nottingham Green Calendar.

Many people will remember being outraged at the attempts to off-load waste from the 'Karin B'. Since then the continued import of waste into Britain has met with increasing public opposition, and the government has stated that 'industrialised countries should be self sufficient in waste disposal'.



However, toxic waste from the UK is being exported to developing countries in increasing quantities! Even though this trade is banned by over 100 countries, the UK exported 83,000 tonnes of toxic waste last year to over 60 poorer developing countries.

Thirty workers at a plant in South Africa, which handles imported toxic mercury wastes, are chronically ill with mercury poisoning and one worker has died as a result. Many other people have been affected by the damaging health effects of this trade, which also has an impact on the environment, as rivers and lakes are often poisoned with toxic residues.

Developing countries represented by the Group of 77 have called on industrialised countries to stop all toxic waste exports. This demand is being resisted by 7 industrialised countries, including the UK. In March representatives from these countries will meet in Geneva at the second meeting of the Basel Convention, and will consider banning all exports of toxic waste.

For more information on the campaign and sponsored swim, contact Janet Lowe on 233011. For more information on the Nottingham Greenpeace Support Group contact Dave Meatcher on 257186.

IT'S OUR ENVIRONMENT TOO!

'It's Our Environment Too!' was launched in November 1993 in response to the lack of opportunities for people from Black communities in Nottingham to become involved in environmental issues. It began with a discussion and networking day on environmental issues, for people working with Black youth and community groups in Nottingham.

This enabled people to highlight issues that were important to them, and how these were related to the environment. Issues raised included social justice, equality and the influence the media has on the image of Black groups. It immediately became clear that these issues could not be separated from the 'traditional' environmental ones, such as nature conservation.

A major problem was the perception that people from Black communities were excluded from the natural environment, especially the countryside. This was due to the strong image of the countryside being the domain of the white middle and upper classes, and the expense involved in getting there. This strong white middle class image certainly pervades the environmental movement as well, and this was cited as a major disincentive for the Black community to get involved.

The Black community has a great deal to offer the environmental movement, from a local to global level. There are traditionally strong cultural links with the natural environment, based on sustainable ways of living. Many Indian families still grow a lot of their own herbs and vegetables in back gardens or allotments. People also have widespread connections around the world - which is highly relevant to the global nature of our environmental problems. There is clearly a largely untapped resource of environmental knowledge and 'people power' for making changes on the ground.

Several groups are already working on environmentally related projects in Nottingham. They range from environmental arts to countryside visits, nature walks and developing allotments. It was felt that the best way to support this work and expand on it was to set up a network for interested groups to spread good practice, contacts and information. The network is called 'It's our Environment Too!' and it is based around a quarterly bulletin, the first issue of which was published last month.

For more information please contact Andy Rothery (Notts County Council) on 774658 or Deepak Rawal (Greater Nottingham Groundwork Trust) on 799227.

GREEN GRANTS

Notts County Council Green Grants of up to £2000 are available for projects which help to reduce our impact on the environment, and promote more sustainable alternatives.

Grants are available for raising awareness, research and monitoring, and practical projects.

Contact Andy Rothery on 774658.

CHURCH NETWORK

The launch meeting of the Nottingham Churches Environmental Network will take place this month - on 15th February - details are in the Nottingham Green Calendar.

The aim of the network will be to encourage green activities among church members, as well as developing wider community projects, such as recycling.

This will be achieved by developing and maintaining links between city environmental groups and local Christian groups.

Anyone interested in helping to develop these links will be welcome at the meeting.

Contact Kevin Scott at the Nottingham City Council Recycling office on 483500.

MINIBUS SAFETY

Following the tragic minibus accident which killed 11 children on the M40 in November, serious questions are being asked in Parliament about the safety of 'volunteer-driven' minibuses.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) take serious precautions to ensure that drivers are able to operate vehicles safely - and operate a training programme which is externally examined. However, the minibuses currently used by BTCV have long bench seats with nowhere to anchor seat-belts - legislation to ensure all minibuses have seat-belts fitted could cause serious problems. An alternative would be to place this restriction on new vehicles only.

This article was compiled using extracts from an article in the newsletter of the Environmental Transport Association. For more information, contact BTCV on 313316.

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.

FEBRUARY 1993

Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) activities - including a variety of practical tasks.

Contact Alan on 313316.

Tues-Thur 1st-3rd
Tuesday 1st

BTCV Residential Task - Path Restoration at Maplebeck. Contact Alan on 313316.

NOGS (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. 7.30pm at Stonebridge City Farm, Stonebridge Road, St Ann's. Contact Mike and Penney Poyzer on 587006.

Oxfam Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.

Tuesday 1st

Sunday 6th

Greenpeace Sponsored Swim (see 'Toxic Waste Protest' article for details of campaign). 1pm at the Portland Leisure Centre, The Meadows, Nottingham. Contact Janet Lowe on 233011.

Sunday 6th

Monday 7th

Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. Phone 756376 for details.

Nottingham Sustainable Development Network open meeting. 7.30-9.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham. Contact Tim Gray on 431145.

Monday 7th

Monday 7th

Greenpeace Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. Contact David Meatcher on 257186.

Green Network News editorial meeting. 2pm at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. All Welcome. Phone 417849 for details.

Thursday 10th

Friends of the Earth Meeting, Campaigns Strategy. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. Contact Tim Gray on 431145.

Friday 11th

Greenpeace Youth Group meeting. 7.30pm Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St. Contact Neil Shaw on 259417 to confirm date and venue.

Sunday 13th

Greenpeace Sponsored Swim (see 'Toxic Waste Protest' article for details of campaign). 5pm at Hucknall Leisure Centre. Contact Janet Lowe on 233011.

Monday 14th

Tuesday 15th

Nottingham Permaculture Group meeting. Phone Phil Corbett on 474977 for details.

Nottingham Churches Environmental Network Launch meeting (see 'Green Church Network' article for details).

Child-care facilities available on request. 7.30-9pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row.

Contact Kevin Scott at the Nottingham City Council Recycling office on 483500.

Wednesday 16th

'Minerals Policy and Planning' Seminar. 10am-4.30pm at the University of Nottingham. Cost £75 per person / £35 for voluntary group representatives. Contact the CPD Secretary on 514883.

Thursday 17th

'In High Places' audio visual show - of treks and exhibitions around the world. Proceeds to the Rio Mazan Cloudforest Conservation Project. 7.45pm at Off Broadway Cinema, 24-32 Carlton St, Nottingham. Cost £1.50.

Contact Niki Griffiths on 0742 757500.

Thursday 17th

'Boxing for Birds' - learn how to make a bird box. 7.30pm at Erewash Museum, of East Street, Ilkeston.

Phone Groundwork Erewash on 490235.

Thursday 17th

Monday 21st

Tuesday 22nd

Wednesday 23rd

Weekend 25th-27th

Notts Transport 2000 meeting. Phone Ron Gillott on 201238.

Pedals meeting. Newmarket Inn, Upper Parliament St, Nottingham. Contact Hugh McClintock on 816206.

Bulwell Environment Group meeting. Crabtree Farm Estate Community Centre. Contact Diana Langley on 273813.

Rainbow Centre Video Evening. 7pm. Call 585666 with requests, or for details.

BTCV Conservation Weekend - Hedge Laying at Hill Top Farm, Notts. Pick up from Nottingham BR Station at 8pm. Cost £10. To book a place, call 0532 742335.

MARCH 1993

Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's BTCV activities - see February.

Tuesday 1st

NOGS (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. 7.30pm at Stone Bridge City Farm, Stone Bridge Road, St Ann's. Contact Mike and Penney Poyzer on 587006.

Saturday 5th

'Bird-watching in the Trent Valley' - a one day conference at Toothill Comprehensive, Bingham. Price £10.

Contact David Jackson on 664088.

Sunday 6th

Monday 7th

Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. Phone 756376 for details.

Oxfam Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green.

Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.

Monday 7th

Thursday 10th

Greenpeace Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. Contact David Meatcher on 257186.

Friends of the Earth meeting. Talk by Dr Doug Parr of FoE UK on 'Air Pollution and Health'. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. Contact Tim Gray on 431145.

Weekend 11th-13th

BTCV Countryside Weekend - Woodland Management at Gedling House Woods. Pick up from Nottingham BR Station at 8pm. Cost £10. To book a place, phone 0532 742335.

Wednesday 16th

STOP (Stop The Orbital Proposal) fund raiser - Slide-show by Ian Grimwood (STOP Campaign Co-ordinator) of his walk along the 600 mile South West Way. 7.45pm at Westdale Lane Community Centre. Tickets are £1.20 for Adults and 50p for Children. Contact Ian Grimwood on 874406.

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

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.

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ECO-TOURISM

Tourism is the world's largest industry, generating great wealth for both developing and industrial countries. However, the travel industry also has the potential to damage the resources on which it depends. Eco-tourism attempts to address this problem by providing holidays with limited impact on the environment, while providing employment for local people.

The World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) have developed holidays in countries such as Tanzania. Based in the foothills of Kilimanjaro, visitors are surrounded by an abundance of big game and other wildlife. Tourists are able to stay in self catering bungalows within a genuine African community, who benefit directly from the income generated.

Closer to home, tourists can take part in a Minke Whale research project run by the WWF in the Inner Hebrides - a place of spectacular scenery where porpoises and common dolphins can also be found.

As well as holidays set up with environmental groups, high street travel agents are now beginning to offer opportunities for the eco-tourist. For example, Co-op Travelcare branches offer holidays through Cox and Kings, whose

Environmental Journeys have been established with the help of conservationists.

This article was compiled using extracts from an article by Ray Elgie in the Co-op Members magazine.

For Information on WWF and other environmental holidays, contact 'Discover the World' on 0697 748361.

Tourism concern are involved in campaigning for the 'greening' of tourism, and can be contacted at Froebel College, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5JP, or by calling 081 878 9053.

JOKE OF THE MONTH...

Do you have any 'green' jokes you would like published in GNN? We are also looking for letters to print - for example giving tips on how to help save energy or resources. We can't guarantee that contributions will be published, but any offers will be considered.

Contact me at the address shown in 'GNN Update'

Adam Woodward

GNN UPDATE

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

- March Recycling
- April Legislation
- May Environment Week
- June Development (Third World issues)

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 (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 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)

WEN IN NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham Women's Environmental Network (NWEN) met for the first time on Women's Day, March 1993, and is moving along at a pace that proves that our members mean business.

A weekend in May spent working on original designs for our 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' campaign was time well spent. The results have been seen at many venues since then and several local groups have now taken this message on board. Members of NWEN have also collaborated with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and Nottingham City Council in working on a practical conservation project in the Lace Market.

The highlight of the year had to be the November Seminar held at Trent University, with Bernadette Valley (founder member of the National WEN



People working on the development of St Mary's Rest Garden in the Lace Market last December. From far left - Tina Young, Dorothy May, Margaret & Ben Vince (all of Nottingham WEN), Jenni French (of BTCV), Fiona Heron (Nottingham City Council Landscape Architect).

movement) as guest speaker. During the summer, visits were made to the BTCV garden at Burton Joyce, and the Wild Flower Farm at Langar.

So what's planned for '94? Interest has been shown in Air Quality, Energy, Sanitary Protection, Chocolate and Transport issues. If you want to be part of a force that is being taken seriously, why not add your voice to ours?

For more details contact:

*Chris Vincent,
7 Highfield Road,
Nuthall, Nottingham,
phone 753603.*

Jo Tucker (NWEN member).

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A PERSONAL VIEW

There is still much to be done in campaigning for environmental changes, and it is important for everyone to be involved, including women and children - but it is not always possible for women to be as actively involved as they would like.

Unless provision for children is available, regular attendance at meetings can be difficult. Lack of transport can also be a problem, and some women simply don't feel safe enough to travel at night any more, by whatever means. Infrequent bus services and dark, unpatrolled car parks do

not help. Possible solutions might include sharing transport and campaigning for better bus services.

There is still much we can do on a day to day basis, such as opting for 'greener' products when we do buy, with advice from books such as the Green Consumer Supermarket Guide. Unfortunately this is still particularly relevant to women, despite the advent of 'new' men.

Helping our children to become more aware of 'green' issues is a very important contribution. I have had an organic allotment since before my son was born, and he is now old enough to grow

his own produce, which is very rewarding as well as being educational.

In short, women already make a major contribution towards living 'greener' lifestyles, but child-care provision and transport-share schemes would allow many more women to become involved.

Claire Quigley

The Green Consumer Supermarket Guide is available for loan from the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham - phone 585666 for details.

WEN REPORT COMES CLEAN

Ever felt bemused by the range of wild eco-friendly claims made by detergent manufacturers? Many people, especially women - who continue to be the target for domestic-product marketing campaigns - are becoming increasingly bewildered by these claims.

A new report from the Women's Environmental Network (WEN) Trust tells the truth about the impact detergents have on the environment. 'Clean Clothes, Dirty Water' discusses how ingredients are selected, tested and affect natural resources. It also looks at what information is provided on where dirty water and detergent ends up.

Bleach is one example of a damaging detergent ingredient. Sodium Perborate is the most

commonly used type, releasing boron as it breaks down and causing potential damage to agricultural and aquatic plants. Alternatives to bleach can be used, such as drying clothes in sunlight, or using lemon juice.

People can also help to cut down on the polluting effects of detergents by washing clothes less frequently - very often clothes can be brushed clean. This will also help to prolong the life of clothes.

The 'Clean Clothes, Dirty Water' report is available at £5.50 from the Women's Environmental Network (WEN) - see the Contacts box for the WEN address. A free 'Clean Clothes and the Environment' leaflet is also available.

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT FOCUS

This months focus looks at a range of environmental issues which particularly relate to women.

Articles from relevant groups are also included, and the contacts box contains details which may be useful.

CRUELTY FREE PERFUMES!

A DOLMA/GREEN NETWORK NEWS PROMOTION

P1 CUSHIE B

(spicy citrus)

— Jasmin, sweet pea, pimento and ylang ylang with oakmoss and essential citrus oils.

9ml £7.00

P2 OPUS IN PASTELS

(musky & woody)

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P3 PRELUDE

(deep rich oriental)

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9ml £7.00

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(green and oriental)

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P7 SONATA

(light floral with peach overtones)

— Peach, honeysuckle, lily of the valley, rose, jasmin and sandalwood.

9ml £7.00

P8 AMETHYST MIST

(deep rich floral)

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