

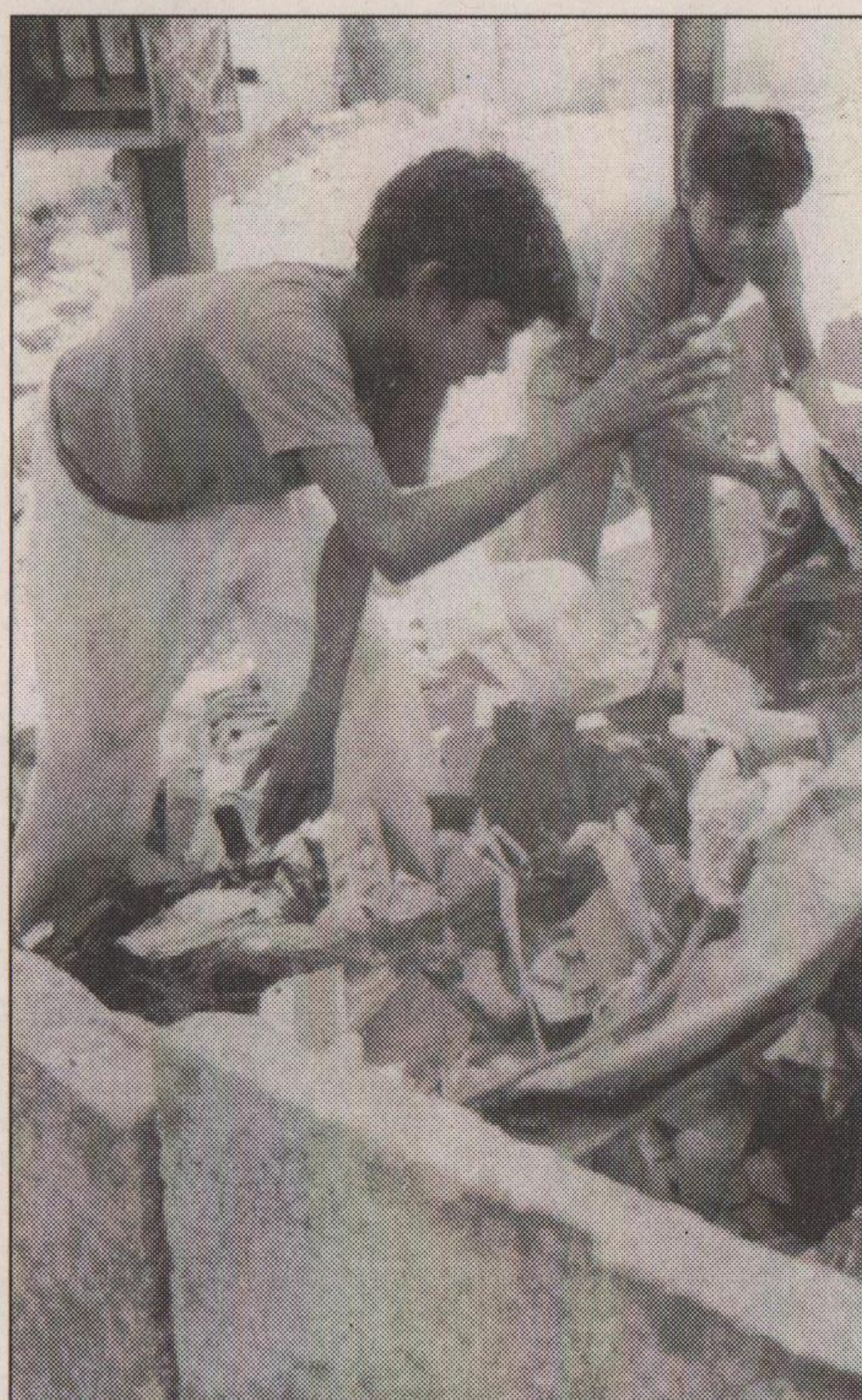
## RECYCLING FOR LIFE

In the Indian cities of Bombay and Bangalore more than 100,000 street children survive by working as 'rag-pickers', collecting rubbish from the streets to sort for the recycling industry.

Rag-pickers are crucial to the recycling process, yet their working conditions are appalling. Toxic waste contaminates most rubbish tips, and many children suffer from TB, bronchitis and - because of their low wages - malnutrition. Powerful 'slum agents' demand a cut of the rag-pickers earnings.

However, not all rag-pickers work in these conditions. In Bangalore, seven hostels provide shelter, meals and schooling for the children. One shelter - RED (Rag-pickers Educational Development) - has persuaded local companies to send their rubbish directly to the shelter.

MAYA (Movement for Awareness of Youth Alternatives), which is supported by the UK charity ActionAid, negotiates with local employers to secure permanent jobs for boys over the age of 14 (the legal working age) from the RED shelter.



Things are beginning to change in other cities too. In Madras, a local organisation has negotiated with city authorities to let rag-pickers clear the rubbish from the streets. They are paid 800 rupees a month which, in addition to their rag-picking income, is good money.

For more information about ActionAid, phone 071 281 4101.

If you would like to donate to ActionAid, send cheques to:

Room 1, ActionAid, Chataway House,  
Chard Business Park, Somerset TA20 1FA.

This article was compiled using extracts from an article written by Steve Brace and Rebecca Dodd of Action Aid.

The photo shows 'rag-pickers' working in Bangalore, India. (Courtesy of ActionAid).

## GREEN NETWORK NEWS



## BANKING ON DESTRUCTION?

Nottingham Friends of the Earth (FoE) were last month leafleting customers of the main high street banks, urging them to move their accounts as part of a national day of action on rain-forest destruction.

The 'Big 4' banks in the UK (Midland, Lloyds, Barclays and NatWest) between them hold billions of pounds of debt, which is crippling Third World countries and contributing - along with banks in other western countries - to rain-forest destruction. The banks can easily afford to cancel the debts, and have even set aside money for this purpose.

In order to pay these debts Third World countries are forced to damage their natural resources. Rain-forest destruction has almost doubled since the debt crisis began and is getting worse, as land is cleared for timber and to cultivate crops for

export. The destruction of natural assets has also led to many of the world's poorest people losing their homes and livelihoods.

FoE have been campaigning for the banks to cancel Third World debts for the last four years, and nearly 10,000 people have pledged to take further action unless the debts are cancelled. The banks have not yet eliminated the debts, and FoE are now asking people to move their accounts.

Nottingham FoE spokesperson Tim Gray said 'the rain-forests are being plundered to make vast profits for the banks. If the public don't want their money used in this way, they must change their bank before it changes the rain-forests'. If you do move your account, it is important to let your bank know why you are doing so.

For more information, contact Tim Gray on 431145, or Nigel Lee on 788059.

Nottingham Friends of the Earth.

**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. 28

April 1994

Inside...

- ☐ Third World Focus
- ☐ Joke of the Month
- ☐ Bus Shelter Mural

## IN BRIEF

- **Free draft proofing and loft insulation** are available for people receiving particular benefits - with grants from the Energy Efficiency Fund. Contact Save It Nottingham Ltd on 260785.
- **'Get a Grip on Litter'** week takes place from 15-24th April. For information about local activities phone 0636 610320.
- The **Veggie Bus** has recently been set up to provide information about environmental and other issues, as well as selling cruelty-free products, vegetarian and vegan food. To book the bus for your event, contact Paul on 585666.
- **Freewheelers** - The National Lift-share agency (with nearly 11,000 members and a security system to protect members) was re-launched last month. Contact Lindsay Gill on 091 222 0094.

## OPEN SPACES

The Open Spaces Society are hoping to develop a county-wide organisation in Nottinghamshire, and are looking for members of the public interested in getting involved.

The Society aims to monitor and protect open spaces such as village greens, common land and rights of way.

Contact Mr Chris Thompson, 21 Spindle View, Calverton, Nottingham, NG14 6HF.

## 'ADOPT A SITE'

Gedling Borough Council would like to hear from any groups interested in 'adopting' a local recycling site. Groups could help by regularly checking the site and distributing leaflets, or by collecting material for recycling from people unable to reach the site. Assistance with production of leaflets and other needs can be provided.

Local groups could also 'adopt' an area of local green space - for example by helping with planting.

For more information, contact Rob Crowder on 675258.

## GREEN ISSUES IN SUDAN

Sudan is a large country with a diverse ecological system - including desert, savanna, mountain scrub and swamp, as well as a diverse ethnic and cultural set-up.

This diversity increases the difficulty of solving the environmental problems facing the country.

Like most poor countries, Sudan depends almost entirely on agriculture as the basis of its economy.

However, soil degradation and grassland depletion can lead to desertification (areas of land turning into desert) - a phenomenon increasingly affecting western regions of Sudan.

Whether as a result of desertification or man-made factors such as the civil war in the South, large numbers of people are moving into already overcrowded towns and cities.

This increase in population pressure has led to a decline in public health and sanitary standards.

The lack of maintenance to public services has caused frequent outbreaks of diseases such as Malaria and Dysentery.

Despite all the problems, steps are being taken to cut down on environmental degradation, and to preserve resources.

One example is the Kennana sugar plantation, where cane husks are saved for burning, as a source of power for processing the sugar.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR TRIBAL PEOPLES

1994 is the 25th anniversary of Survival International - the only international organisation dedicated to campaigning solely for tribal peoples.

Robin Hanbury-Tenison - Survival's president - travelled through the Borneo interior with Nyapun, a nomadic hunter-gatherer, before the local rain-forests were almost all cut down. Nyapun was completely in tune with his environment - if it started to rain, he would build a dry shelter before they became wet, and could find all his food in the forest. Today Nyapun and most of his fellow Penan in Sarawak live in wooden shacks built for them by the state. There is little game left to hunt, and the polluted rivers have few fish.

For over thirty years, international law on tribal populations has stated that they have full legal right to their land. However, tribal people are often seen merely as an obstacle to the bulldozers and chainsaws used to remove minerals, oil and wood from remote areas.

Survival have had numerous successes - for example persuading Scott paper to pull out of

a project in Indonesia, preserving the forest homes of 15,000 people. But there is still much to do, as atrocities continue on an alarming scale. The massacre of more than 100 Jummas in Bangladesh last November is just one example.

For a free information pack on tribal people and how you can join Survival please contact Survival International, 310 Edgware Road, London W2 1DY, or phone 071 723 5535.

## THIRD WORLD CONTACTS

**TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE**  
Collecting and repairing tools for use by self-help groups in the Third World  
Contact Ron Kenning on 505912 ext 416

**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Selling Third World food and crafts at fair prices  
Contact Mo Gillingwater on 226243

**WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT**  
Contact Michael Brueck on 320057

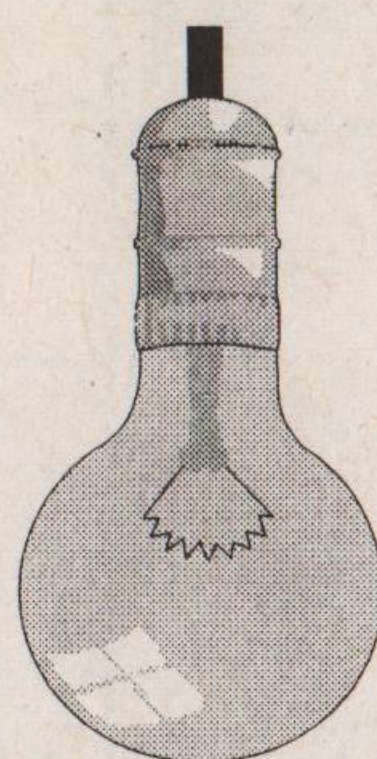
**OXFAM CAMPAIGNS**  
Phone 423892  
**CHRISTIAN AID**  
Phone 509195

This article was written by Sara El-Nager, a student at Nottingham Trent University, who visited Sudan last summer and collected information from the head of the Institute of Environmental Studies at the University of Khartoum.



## ENERGY BILL UPDATE

The Energy Conservation Bill (mentioned in last December's GNN) now has the backing of nearly 400 MPs, as well as many Local Authorities. However, the government hopes to change the Bill by having the 'duty' to draw up energy conservation plans reduced to 'discretionary powers' - enabling local Councils to do exactly what they are already able to do!



I would like to urge readers to write to their MP, asking them to support the original Bill during its final reading on April 22nd. Readers could also contact Stephen Dorrell MP (Financial Secretary to the Treasury), requesting Treasury support for the Bill.

Rob Preston

## FOURTH CROSSING ENQUIRY

A public enquiry into the Rushcliffe Local Plan was held last month, with the Lady Bay Community Association (of which FIELDS is a sub-committee) forming the main force of objection to the proposed Fourth Trent Crossing at Adbolton. Rushcliffe Borough Council's current plan safeguards the route of the crossing, proposed by Notts County Council.

first draft of the local plan - which only showed the bridge as a 'mention' - complied with the law, but that the latest document virtually accepts the bridge as a definite future development. Yet only the County Council are of the opinion that the bridge is needed, and no consultation has occurred.

Members of the FIELDS campaign believe that the crossing would inevitably lead to proposals for the development of farmland east of Lady Bay being put into practice - with a consequent loss of green space.

We await the Inspector's decision.

Sue Blount, LBCA Secretary.

For more information about the FIELDS campaign contact Lawrence Geary at 96 Pierrepont Road, West Bridgford, NG2 5DW, or phone Sue Blount on 820883.

## If you're a Cyclist You'll Need Us

- \* regular information meetings
- \* 3 newsletters a year
- \* promotion of cycle routes and cyclists' needs in traffic planning
- \* evening and weekend guided rides
- \* advice
- \* discounts at cycle shops

## JOIN US!

For more information contact:

Hugh McLintock  
162 Musters Road  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 7AA

Telephone 816206



## JOKE OF THE MONTH

'We're operating an organic box delivery scheme'  
'Do you have kiwis?'  
'No, we're vegetarians'.

*If this made you laugh then why not send in a 'green' joke of your own - to the address shown in GNN Update. One joke will be chosen for publication next month.*

Adam Woodward

## FURNITURE NEEDED

Eastwood Volunteer Bureau are looking for unwanted furniture for distribution to people on low incomes. Any furniture in reasonable condition (except items containing foam) - including cookers, fridges, beds etc - can be collected.

Phone 0773 710238 for more information.

## GNN UPDATE

These are the subjects planned for feature articles in the next 2 issues of Green Network News:

- May Environment Week
- June Countryside

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 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)

## 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.

## APRIL 1994

- Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)** activities - including a variety of practical tasks. Contact Alan on 313316.
- Sunday 3rd 'A Country Camera in Spring', 2-4pm in Bestwood Country Park (a 'taster' for the Spring Nature Photography course being run this month). Meet at Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. Phone 670042 for details.
- Sunday 3rd **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. Phone 756376 for details.
- Tuesday 5th **NOGS** (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. 7.30pm upstairs at the Gladstone Hotel, 35 Loscoe Road, Carrington. Contact Mike Poyzer on 587006 after 6.30pm.
- Friday 8th **Green Network News** editorial meeting - all welcome. 2pm at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road. Phone 417849 for details.
- Monday 11th **Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. Contact David Meatcher on 257186.
- Monday 11th **Nottingham Permaculture Group** meeting. Phone Phil Corbett on 474977 for details.
- Thursday 14th **Oxfam** Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.
- Thursday 14th **Friends of the Earth** Meeting, with a talk by Norman Lewis of Notts Wildlife Trust. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. Contact Tim Gray on 431145.
- Friday 15th **Greenpeace Youth Group** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St. Contact Neil Shaw on 259417 to confirm date and venue.
- Monday 18th **Pedals** meeting and mini-ride. Meet 7pm opposite Nottingham BR station. Contact Hugh McClintock on 816206.
- Thursday 21st **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Salutation Inn, Nottingham. Phone Ron Gillott on 201238.
- Weekend 23rd-24th **Spring Garens** open days in Lady Bay, raising funds for **FIELDS** (campaigning against Fourth Trent Crossing at Adbolton). Price £1.00 inclusive of all 8 gardens. 2-6pm starting from Simkins Farm, Adbolton Lane (on the 85 bus route).
- Tuesday 26th **Bulwell Environment Group** meeting. Crabtree Farm Estate Community Centre. Contact Diana Langley on 273813.
- Wednesday 27th Rainbow Centre **Video Evening**. 7pm. Call 585666 with requests, or for details.
- Weekend 29th-1st **BTCV Coppice Crafts Training Event** at Burton Joyce. Pick up from Nottingham BR Station at 7pm. Cost from £24. To book a place, phone 0532 742335.

## MAY 1994

- Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's **BTCV** activities - see April.
- Sunday 1st 'Morning Birdsong', 10-12am in Bestwood Country Park (a 'taster' for the Spring Bird-watching course being run this month). Meet at Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. Phone 670042 for details.
- Sunday 1st **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. Phone 756376 for details.
- Monday 2nd **Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. Contact David Meatcher on 257186.
- Tuesday 3rd **NOGS** (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. 7.30pm upstairs at the Gladstone Hotel, 35 Loscoe Road, Carrington. Contact Mike Poyzer on 587006 after 6.30pm.
- Friday 6th **Greenpeace Youth Group** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St. Contact Neil Shaw on 259417 to confirm date and venue.
- Monday 9th **Nottingham Permaculture Group** meeting. Contact Phil Corbett on 474977.
- Wednesday 11th **Oxfam** Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm at the Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.
- Thursday 12th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. Contact Tim Gray on 431145.
- Monday 16th **Pedals** meeting and mini-ride. Meet 7pm opposite Nottingham BR station. Contact Hugh McClintock on 816206.
- Thursday 19th Public Meeting - 'A Green Vision for Europe - Beyond Environmentalism'. 8pm at the International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Road.
- Thursday 19th **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Salutation Inn, Nottingham. Phone Ron Gillott on 201238.
- Tuesday 24th **Bulwell Environment Group** meeting. Crabtree Farm Estate Community Centre. Contact Diana Langley on 273813.
- Wednesday 25th Rainbow Centre **Video Evening** at 7pm. Call 585666 with requests, or for details.

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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## DEFORESTATION IN CAMBODIA

The forests of Cambodia, once described as the largest and most ecologically diverse in all of Asia, are under threat.

Within the space of less than three decades nearly half of it's forests have been destroyed, and there may be very little timber left by the end of the century.

Much of the logging is carried out without any regard to replanting, as contractors rush to extract trees in the shortest possible time. Rural poverty is now on the increase as desertification takes hold.

A moratorium on logging and a quota on sawn timber exports have now been in operation for more than a year, but violations of the ban continue to be reported. Most of the timber is exported illegally to neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.

If you would like to help then please write to the Thai Embassy at 30, Queensgate, London, SW7 5JB, asking what is being done to restrict the flouting of the logging moratorium by their nationals.

For more information about Friends of Cambodia, contact:

Neil Stone, 27 Drummond Drive, Nuthall, Nottingham, NG16 1BJ, or phone 278003.

## EARTH SHELTERED DWELLINGS

Plans are being made to construct five 'earth sheltered dwellings' in Southwell.

The project will aim to have affordable construction costs, use minimal amounts of energy for heating and blend with the rural nature of the setting.

The five homes will be built into a hillside, using the natural insulation of the hill for the back walls and roofs of the dwellings, which will face south to collect heat and light from the sun.

Overall, the project aims to demonstrate that affordable and environmentally sound dwellings could be a practical housing option for large numbers of people.

The project organisers are hoping to start work on the five homes this summer.

For further information, contact Penney Poyzer on 587006.

This article was compiled using extracts from the Nottingham Friends of the Earth newsletter.

## BUS SHELTER MURAL

Last year a local resident suggested to the Lady Bay Community Association (LBCA) that a bus shelter on Trent Boulevard should be removed, as it was covered in graffiti. As a regular bus user, I knew that this would lead to passengers getting wet, and suggested that a mural be painted on the shelter by local children.



The Bus Shelter Mural painted by Lady Bay children, with (from rear left) Sue Blount, Anne Grierson (Headteacher of Lady Bay Primary School), and five of the artists. (Photo courtesy of Sue Blount).

The bus shelter is owned by Notts County Council, who provided new panels. However, these are designed to be 'vandal proof', and gloss paint didn't adhere to the surface - although marker pen and spray paint did!

The Shell Better Britain campaign provided the £22 needed for an 'adhesion promoter', to which gloss paint would adhere.

There were 64 entries in the competition for designs to be used, from junior pupils at Lady Bay School.

Members of the LBCA chose 7 winners, including 'elderly lady' and 'youth with green hair'!

The designs were then painted using donated left-over paint. We are all very pleased with the result!

For more information, contact Sue Blount (Secretary of the LBCA) on 820883.

Hewthorn Herbs & Wild Flowers  
Julie Scott  
Simkins Farm  
Adbolton Lane West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 5AS  
Tel 0602-812861

GARDENS OPEN 10.30AM TO 3PM ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERM TIME.

OPEN DAYS FOR 1994 2-6PM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES

APRIL : Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th  
MAY : Saturday 7th  
JUNE : Sunday 26th  
JULY : Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th  
AUGUST : Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th

THE GARDENS ARE OPEN OUTSIDE THESE HOURS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, PLEASE TELEPHONE FIRST TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

## A WORLD OF CHOICE

Rain-forests under threat, desertification, famine - it sometimes seems as if the problems facing the earth are insurmountable. It seems easier and safer to read a book and hope they will go away. Easier yes, but safer?

If we want to make a difference we must learn how our activities in Nottinghamshire effect the lives of people all over the world. What is the use of lobbying for the reduction of pesticide use by farms in the European Union (EU), if these pesticides are exported for use in the rest of the world - so that any harmful effects hit workers less likely to have access to protective clothing, or where crop spraying is carried out by children?

We are all pleased when we buy something at a low price, but somewhere along the line somebody has to pay for these savings. If countries which traditionally export coffee, tea, chocolate

and tropical fruits received a fair price for their produce, they would be in a better position to take measures to protect their environment, rather than pillaging it.

It is clearly important to think about how we can use our consumer power constructively. One way is through buying Café Direct - a fairly traded filter coffee which has recently become available in many supermarkets. If enough people buy Café Direct, supermarkets will then be encouraged to expand the range of fairly traded goods available.

You can also help by writing to your local supermarket manager, stating that you would like to buy goods whose producers have not been exploited, and explaining that they can find out more by contacting Christian Aid or Oxfam. You could also contact your local Traidcraft

## THIRD WORLD FOCUS

This month GNN focuses on the Third World, looking at environmental problems and how they can be tackled - both by people here and by people in the Third World. A list of contacts for more information is also included.

stockist - and try their range of fairly traded foods, crafts, paper goods and clothes.

For more information, contact Lis Martin of MUNDI (Mobile Unit for Development Issues) on 514485.

A list of 22 packs for schools - on environmental issues in the wider world - is available from MUNDI. The packs are available for loan, or can be ordered for purchase.

## A PRACTICAL APPROACH

A number of agencies are now promoting the idea of Primary Environmental Care (PEC), which has three key elements - empowering communities, meeting basic needs, and caring for the environment.

Empowerment involves giving communities the chance to break out of poverty and environmental damage through their own efforts.

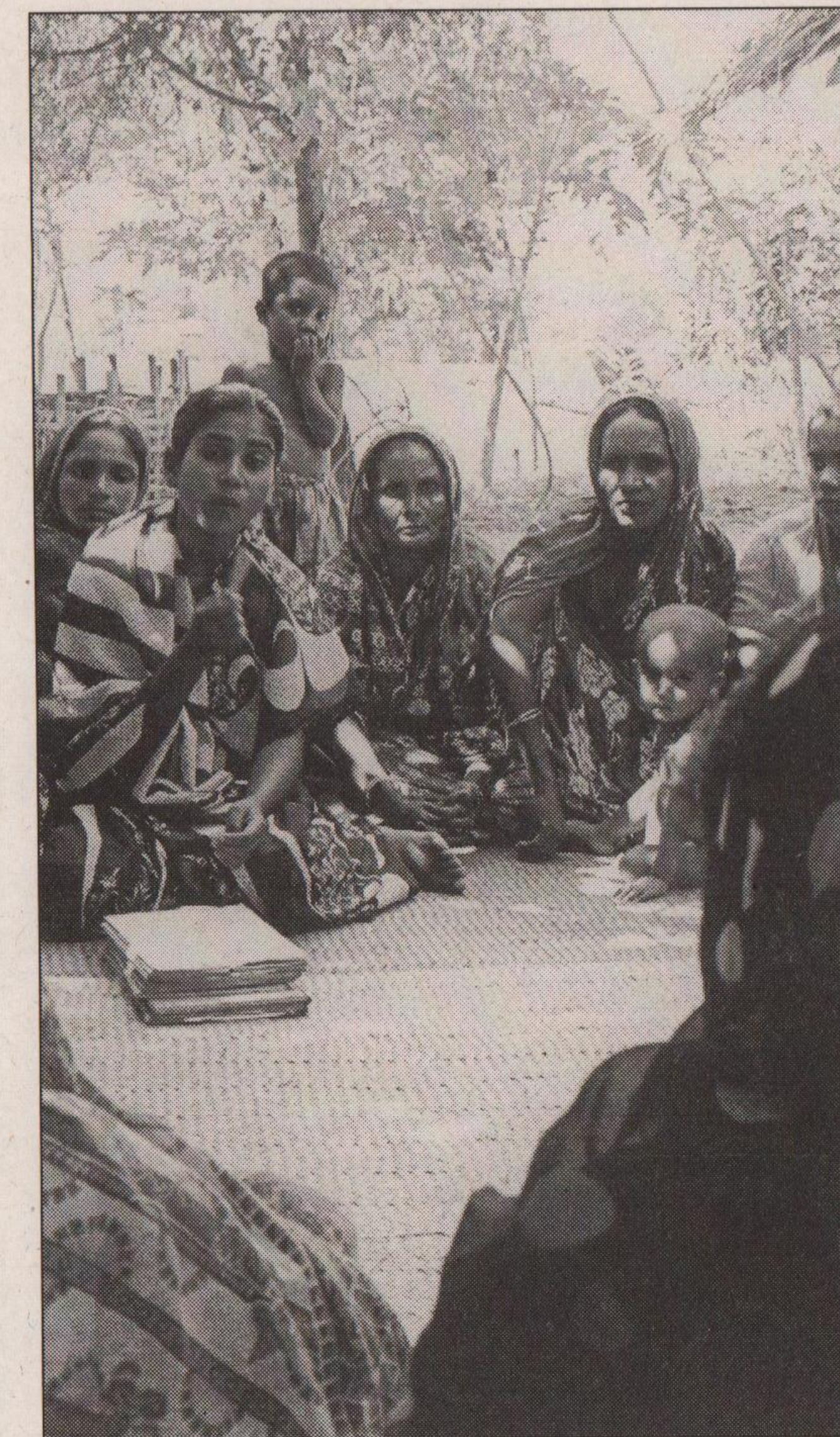
Women therefore have a central role in Primary Environmental Care - as they are the poorest and most disadvantaged group in many societies, and frequently play a major role in environmental management - for example as the main farmers in Africa.

Meeting basic needs includes elements such as improving shelter, education and secure livelihoods - all related to tackling poverty. Basic needs are an essential element of the Primary Environmental Care approach, as poverty often forces people to damage their environment in order to survive.

Caring for the environment takes many forms, including the rehabilitation of degraded land, and the protection of natural resources - such as soil.

In Pakistan, the Orangi Project is based in one of Karachi's squatter settlements, working with local people to improve sanitation, health and education. Other initiatives include low-cost housing, women's welfare and kitchen gardens. Local people design and run the projects, and some are generating an income from the trees they have planted.

As well as being relevant in the South (also known as the Third World), Primary Environmental Care is appropriate in the relatively rich Northern countries, such as the UK.



Village women's meeting in Bangladesh.

Involving women is a key part of the Primary Environmental Care approach.

(photo courtesy of Oxfam).

There are many examples of Primary Environmental Care approaches in some of the poorer city districts of Europe and North America.

Primary Environmental Care places a new emphasis on the local scale. Tackling the international obstacles to sustainable development in the South - such as debt, unfair trade, a lack of democracy and conflict - is urgently needed. But there is also a need for action at the local level, and the results are often more immediate.

The experience of successful Primary Environmental Care projects needs to be used on a much larger scale, with more support for new projects to start up.

This article was compiled using extracts from the 'Primary Environmental Care' leaflet sponsored by:

- ◆ Oxfam  
(phone 0865 311311)
- ◆ Action Aid  
(phone 071 281 4101)
- ◆ The International Institute for Environment and Development  
(phone 071 388 2117),
- ◆ The Groundwork Foundation  
(phone 021 236 8565).