

USING YOUR VOICE

Some people may not like the democratic system we have, but it still compares favourably to much of the world - so let's use it!

You can contact your elected representatives at three levels:

Your MEP (Member of the European Parliament).

For the big issues, the European Parliament increasingly holds the key - European law tends to set the pace for environmental standards in Britain.

Your MP (Member of Parliament).

There is clear evidence that representations made by MPs to ministers do make a significant impact on policy decisions. You can also suggest that your MP asks parliamentary questions, or ask him/her to seek further information on your behalf. When writing, do so as a concerned individual, and encourage others to write on the same issue. MPs and MEPs also hold regular surgeries where you can make an appointment to seek their help.

Your local Councils.

In Nottinghamshire, at least for the time being, you have a choice of contacting your County,

District and (if you live in a rural area), your Parish Council. At County and District level (District here includes the City and Borough Councils), elected members represent wards, and will be members of one or more committee - which make decisions about the policies of the Council.

Council members can be contacted by letter, or through attending surgeries.

Ideas that will gain your local Councillor support from the community which elected them are bound to be of interest. You can also monitor Council minutes and attend meetings.

Your local Council or library will be able to give you information about who represents you, and who does what in your local Council, as well as providing a guide to Council services and how they work.

If you need advice about where to start on a particular issue, contact the relevant Council officers.

If you would like to find out more about how local government works, 'Holding Your Ground' by Angela King and Sue Clifford (published by

CAMPAIGNING CONTACTS

THE RAINBOW CENTRE

Information on a wide range of green issues is available, as well as contact details for local environmental groups. Phone 958 5666, or contact the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW.

118 WORKSHOP

Affiliated groups can make use of low-priced photocopying and printing facilities. Phone 958 2369, or contact 118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

CODA COMMUNITY DATA

Computer facilities and training are available to affiliated groups. Phone 952 6146, or write to CODA, 7b Broad Street, Nottingham, NG1 3AJ.

Temple Smith), contains a useful section on this subject.

Phil Keynes,

Notts County Council Environment Officer.

WRITING PRESS RELEASES

If you want your press release to be taken seriously, keep it to one main point, and keep it short. If possible, type it double spaced on one side of paper only, and include a daytime phone number where you can be contacted.

One of the first things journalists are taught is that a news story must answer five key questions:

- Who did it?
- What did they do?
- Where?
- When? and
- Why?

A good journalist can answer all five questions in the first sentence. If your press release doesn't answer all of these questions, it can't be turned into a news story.

It also helps to look at the way stories are presented in the paper, radio or television station which you are contacting.

Journalists also learn to always put the most striking point first - to grip the readers attention.

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any further issues in dispute become the subjects of Public Enquiries. This is a chance for campaign groups to continue with opposition or support towards any particular policy.

If you would like to read a more detailed version of this article, contact Julie Scott, c/o FIELDS, Simkins Farm, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5AS.

You should do the same if you want to grab the journalist's interest.

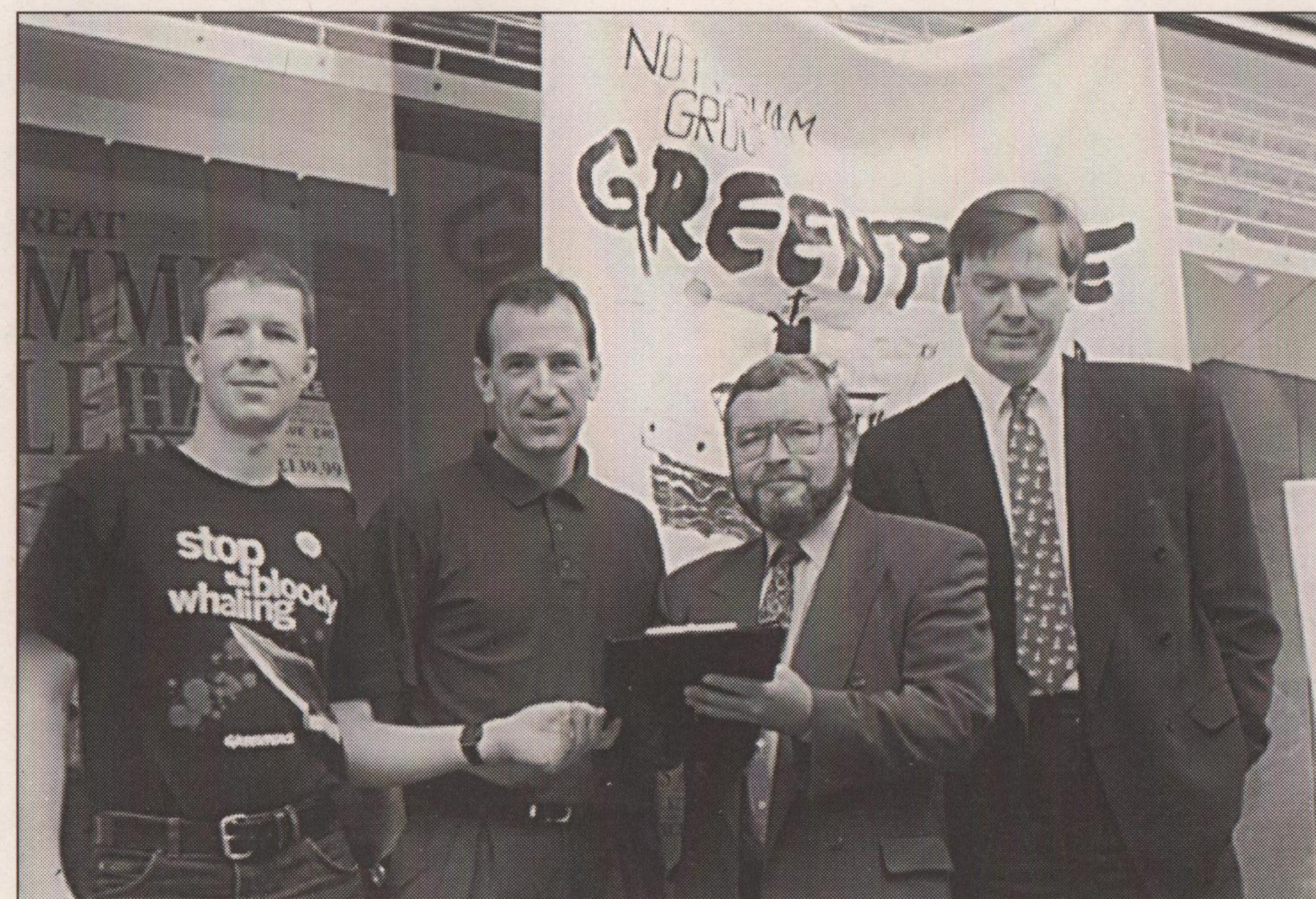
Don't worry if you can't get over your most interesting point and answer all five questions in one sentence. That is what the journalist is paid to do. But it is worth trying - if only to get an insight into how a journalist will try to get their head around your press release.

So, to write a release - First, write down the most

interesting point you have to make. Second, tick off which of the five questions this answers. Then add answers to the other questions as briefly as possible. It is also useful to include some quotes from someone. Finally, tear it up and do it again until you are happy with it.

If you are interviewed for radio stick to the main point in your press release.

Nigel Lee of Nottingham Friends of the Earth.



John Heppell MP signs the pledge, during the Greenpeace 'Day of Action' over Norway's resumption of whaling, last July. Photo courtesy of Phil Edmondson.

GREEN NETWORK NEWS



Morris Dancers protest against the proposed Fourth Trent Crossing last June. Events such as this can make a major difference to the success of an environmental campaign - the subject of this month's GNN feature. (Photo courtesy of Nottingham Evening Post).

'OUR GLOBAL FUTURE' FESTIVAL

The East Midlands' first major environmental festival will take place in Nottingham in May, as part of the United Nations 50th Anniversary programme.

The aim of the festival will be to give people ideas about how they can take action to protect the environment, by providing a 'shop window' of initiatives, products and services related to sustainable development.

Our Global Future will bring together exhibits from a wide range of companies, government and local authorities, and 'green' groups. These will focus on local initiatives aimed at helping to tackle global environmental issues. The Youth Environment Forum will provide a chance for young people to take part in the festival - with environmental workshops to discuss ideas, and a presentation by young people to festival visitors.

The event will take place from 18-21 May, at Harvey Hadden Sports Centre in Bilborough, and is being supported by Nottingham City Council and Notts County Council.



For more information about the Festival, or to book a stand, contact Alison Marshall on 01675 443066.

If you would like to take part in the Youth Environment Forum, contact Jo Ward at The Narrowboat Project, Fellows, Morton & Clayton Wharf, Canal Street, Nottingham, or phone 950 5792.

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. 36 January 1995

Inside ...

- Campaigning Focus
- Green Shoppers Helpline
- Organic Delivery Scheme

BROAD MARSH CYCLE LOCKERS

The new cycle lockers in the Broad Marsh multi-storey car park are now available for use, at 50p for up to 24 hours. These lockers provide an alternative site to those already established at Trinity Square car park. Both sets of lockers were funded by the Nottingham Green Partnership.

To reserve a locker up to 24 hours in advance, phone 953 6223 (Broad Marsh), or 953 6221 (Trinity Square). This item is based on an article in the Pedals newsletter.

DIOXINS CAMPAIGN

The Nottingham Womens' Environment Network will shortly be launching a letter writing campaign about dioxins, with the aim of reducing the proliferation of these lethal toxins - emitted into the environment by incineration and other industrial processes.

Campaigning need not be restricted to hyperactive die-hards, swinging from trees and waving placards. Those who are tied to the home can participate in letter writing campaigns such as this one, which can have as least as much impact as 'street-level' campaigning.

If you would like to help, contact Chris on 975 3603, or Margaret on 960 5843.

GOING GREEN II

This is a repeat of the successful 1993 event, which provided an introduction to Youth Work and the Environment for part time youth workers and other people working with young people. Going Green II takes place from 11-12 February at the Holme Pierrepont Lakeside Adventure Base.

To find out more or to book a place, contact Jo Ward on 950 5792.

GNN UPDATE

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

February Groups Focus (Friends of the Earth, and Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)

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

Adam Woodward (GNN Co-ordinator)

GREEN SHOPPERS HELPLINE

A new consumer helpline was recently launched by the Womens' Environmental Network (WEN), making it easier for shoppers to make informed choices about purchases.

Accurate environmental information on thousands of products is now stored on computer, and specific queries on products and their environmental impact can be answered within seconds.

Subjects covered include paper products, packaging, toiletries, food, soap powder, medicine, and many more. In addition, the service can offer people ideas for sustainable alternatives.

Contact WENDI (the Womens' Environment network Directory of Information) on 0171 704 6800, from Mon-Fri between 11am-2pm or 3pm-6pm. This item is based on an article in the national Womens' Environmental Network newsletter.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The recent Environmental Education Conference brought together a range of people from around the East Midlands, representing schools, local authorities and environmental organisations. The conference was organised by the Government Office for the East Midlands and the East Midlands Regional Environmental Education Forum, and took place at Kelham Hall near Newark on 29 November.

A variety of speakers took part in the event, including representatives from the RSPB, who spoke about the role of Non-Government Organisations in environmental education. Children from Scotter Primary School (in Lincolnshire) and Rushey Mead Secondary School (in Leicester) made presentations about the issue of community involvement.

Rosemary Griggs of the Department of the Environment explained the results of a 1993 survey of the attitudes of 8-15 year old children towards the environment, which showed a high level of interest in both local and global issues. The majority of children surveyed expressed a strong interest in taking part in local environmental action, such as clearing litter and planting trees.

The conference was very well received by delegates, and it is hoped that a follow-up conference will be held this year.

For more information contact Glenda Simpson at the Government Office for the East Midlands, on 935 2283.

Save £££s on your electricity bills

by reducing your fridge/freezer running costs by up to 20% Special offer for GNN Readers

Did you know that freezers and fridge freezers are probably the most expensive single electrical appliance in your household, costing an average £55 per year on your electricity bill? This is because freezers and fridge-freezers continue to draw power even when it is not required.

SAVAPLUG

The SAVApug is an award-winning device which reduces refrigerator running costs by regulating the electricity supply to a fridge-freezer or freezer with typical savings of 20%.

Fridge-freezers are not only under load when beginning to circulate the refrigerant, but they continue to draw too much power for the decreasing load. SAVApug matches the supply to the demand required.



The SAVApug was developed in conjunction with the Department of Energy, from technology widely used in commerce, industry and health authorities. It works by simply replacing the existing 13 amp plug. The SAVApug conforms to British Standards, has a three-year guarantee, is kind to the environment and pays for itself year after year.

YOU CAN SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY

Over 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide are produced every year from generating the electricity to run domestic refrigeration in the UK. Scientists believe that this is a

contributing factor to global warming. If 80% of fridge-freezers in the UK were fitted with SAVApugs, the electricity saving would represent half the output of a typical power station!

Don't waste a moment, send for a SAVApug NOW at the special price of £18.00 plus £1.99 p&p (currently retailing at up to £24.95).

Send your order to

Savawatt (UK) Ltd, Freepost (BM 4524), Bidford-on-Avon, Alcester, Warwickshire, B50 4BR. Alternatively phone our order Hot Line (quoting reference GNN), on 01789 490340.

Please send me SAVApugs at the special price of £18.00 plus £1.99 each to:

Name:

Address:

.....

Post Code:

Tel No:

I enclose my cheque made payable to Savawatt (UK) Ltd or please debit my Access/Visa card no. amount of £

Card No.

Expiry Date

Signature
'GNN'

ORGANIC BOX DELIVERY SCHEME

Would you like to buy fresh organic vegetables at an affordable price? You may soon be able to, as Eden Farms in Lincolnshire are hoping to set up a vegetable box delivery scheme in Nottingham this Spring. This would provide a convenient service, and enable customers to support an environmentally friendly form of farming.

When you shop in a supermarket, buying clean, brightly packaged vegetables, you may not be aware of the huge price being paid in environmental damage and EU subsidies.

If you can afford to buy the odd organic pack, it may have been grown on our 70 acre farm, but to reach Nottinghamshire, we estimate our lettuce have travelled a total of 600 miles!

A box scheme would cut out the middleman, and provide fresh vegetables straight to you.

Eden Farms already operates a successful box round in Lincoln, and we would like to extend it to Nottingham. We provide a selection of in-season vegetables in two box sizes - a £6.50 family box, and a smaller £4.50 box.

Our vegetables are delivered in returnable crates, which we exchange every week, and we also provide organic bread, fruit and free-range eggs as optional extras.

A standard family box in winter might contain potatoes, carrots, onions, leeks, brown mushrooms, cauliflower, cabbage and lettuce.

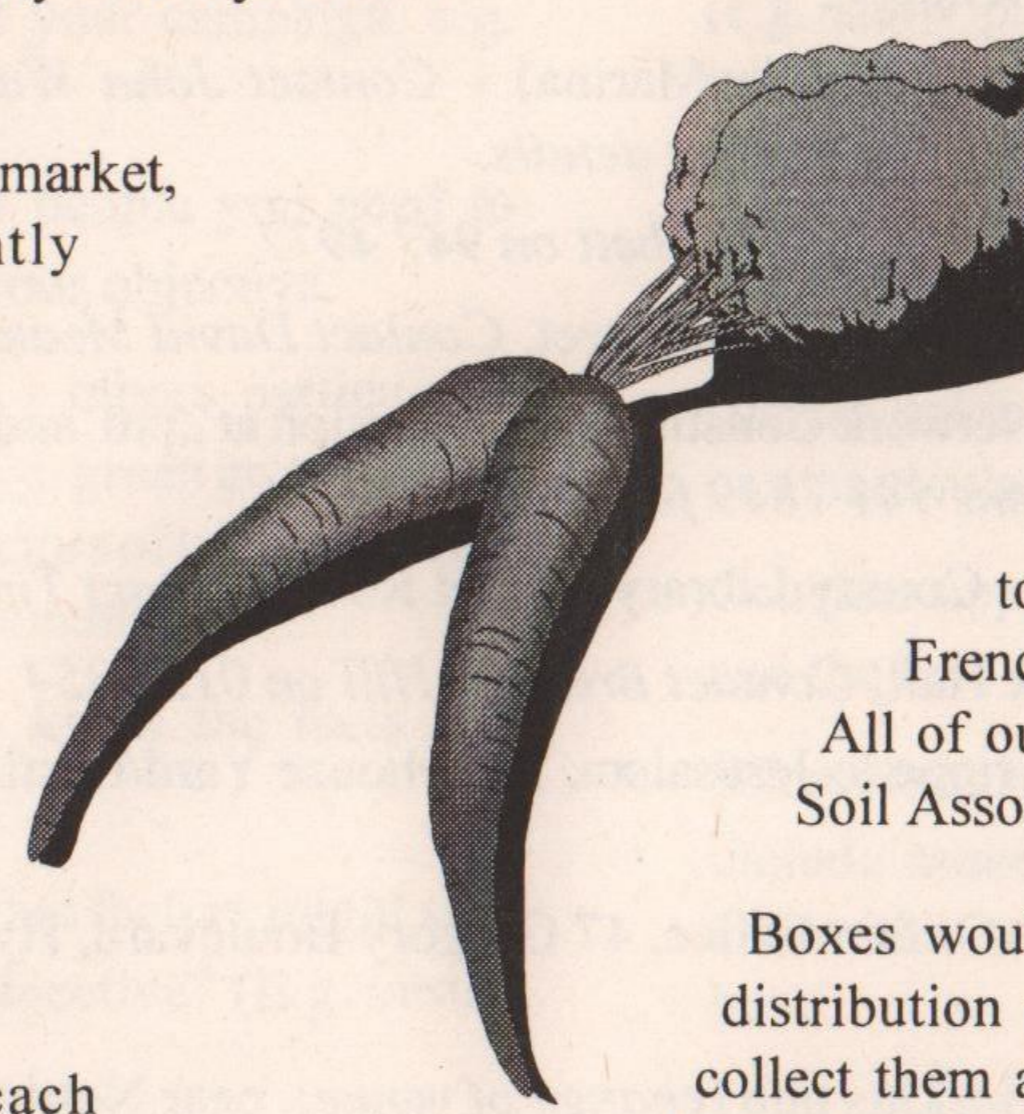
In summer it might include potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, cucumber, courgettes, French beans and other vegetables.

All of our vegetables are grown to full Soil Association standards.

Boxes would be delivered to convenient distribution points, where customers can collect them and make payment. We would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in operating a 'drop' point, in exchange for a percentage of sales.

Please write, phone or fax if you are interested in taking part in the box scheme, as a customer or by operating a 'drop' point.

Contact David Lucas and Marjorie Stein, Eden Farms, Old Bolingbroke, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, PE23 4EY, phone/fax 01790 763582.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you made a new years resolution yet?

Why not have a go at volunteering with a local 'green' project?

A survey of the need for volunteers in Greater Nottingham was recently carried out by Beeston Volunteer Bureau, which revealed opportunities for volunteering in three local environmental organisations:

The National Trust volunteer group is involved in a range of practical conservation tasks - such as tree planting and dry stone wall building - these usually take place on Sundays, with occasional weekend tasks (see the Nottingham Green Calendar). You do not need to be a member of the National Trust to take part, and transport can usually be arranged.

Contact Bill Wood, the National Trust Volunteer Group, The Lock House, Sawley Lock, Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts, NG10 3AD, phone 973 5234.

Grantham Canal Restoration Society volunteers are working to clear and develop sections of the canal, with the aim of making it navigable. Opportunities to help out on the Nottingham section of the canal may be available. Contact Colin Bryan on 989 2248.

The Rainbow Centre in Nottingham provides information to the public on environmental and other issues, as well as operating a shop which sells 'ethical' products. The centre needs a leaflet co-ordinator and a libraries co-ordinator (each for around 6 hours per week), as well as shop volunteers (for half a day each week). Contact Tracy Lean, The Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW, phone 958 5666.

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS

If your group or business would like to advertise in Green Network News, contact Adam Woodward on 941 7849. Reduced rates are available for voluntary groups and small businesses.

CHRISTMAS RECYCLING

Several organisations are working to recycle Christmas cards and trees this year, helping to support tree planting projects, and providing mulch for gardens, parks and community projects.

Greenwood Community Forest and Notts County Council are working with the Royal Mail and Smurfit Wastepaper to raise money for tree planting through Christmas card recycling.

Cards can be taken to your local County Council Household Waste and Recycling Centre before the end of January.

A range of schools in Nottinghamshire will also be acting as collection points.

Contact Sue Lawler or Bob Crane on 968 1006.

Christmas trees will also be collected at Household Waste centres, to be recycled for use on paths in local parks. Trees will be accepted for a few days before and after twelfth night (during week beginning 2nd January).

Contact the County Council Waste Disposal Authority on 982 3823.

Another site for the recycling of Christmas trees will be Sainsbury's Homebase (Castle Marina) - Groundwork Greater Nottingham will be recycling trees during the weekend of 7th-8th January.

The resulting mulch can be taken away for use in your garden, or will be used in community projects in the city.

Contact John Watts or Ellen Poliakoff on 979 9227.

CYCLE TRACK DELAYS

Plans to extend the Ring Road cycle tracks north from Derby Road towards Basford, Arnold and other areas over three years have been accepted in principle by the Highways Agency, but delays to work on detailed costings for the scheme have held up progress.

Pedals (the local cycle campaigning group) are aiming to persuade the Highways Agency to ensure that the paths are developed without further delays.

If you would like to express your support for the new cycle paths, contact Mr Malcolm Cook, Highways Agency, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham, NG1 1EY. For more information contact Hugh McClintock on 981 6206. This item is based on an article in the Pedals newsletter.

THE NOTTINGHAM GREEN CALENDAR

JANUARY 1995

Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) activities - including a variety of practical tasks. <i>Contact Karen on 931 3316.</i>
Sunday 1st	Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. <i>Phone 975 6376 for details.</i>
Tuesday 3rd	NOGS (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. <i>Contact Mike Poyzer on 958 7006 after 6.30pm.</i>
Wednesday 4th	Nottingham EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency) meeting. 7.30pm at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road. <i>Contact Rachel Jones on 939 5830.</i>
Friday 6th	Greenpeace Youth Group meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St. <i>Contact Alex Penn on 925 5196 to confirm date and venue.</i>
Weekend 7th-8th	Christmas Tree Recycling , at Sainsbury's Homebase (Castle Marina) - <i>Contact John Watts or Ellen Poliakoff at Groundwork Greater Nottingham on 799227. See article for further details.</i>
Monday 9th	Nottingham Permaculture Association meeting. <i>Contact Phil Corbett on 947 4977.</i>
Monday 9th	Greenpeace Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. <i>Contact David Meatcher on 925 7186.</i>
Wednesday 11th	Green Network News meetings - all welcome. Green Network Constitution discussion at 2pm, and Editorial Meeting at 3pm. Both meetings at Lawrence House, Talbot Street. <i>Phone 941 7849 for details.</i>
Thursday 12th	Friends of the Earth meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. <i>Contact Tim Gray on 922 3439.</i>
Sunday 15th	National Trust volunteer group activity, at Hardwick Hall. <i>Contact Brenden Hill on 0121 354 1370.</i>
Monday 20th	Pedals meeting. 7.30pm in the upstairs room of the Trippe to Jerusalem, Brewhouse Yard/Castle Road. <i>Contact Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.</i>
Wednesday 18th	Oxfam Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm at the Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. <i>Contact Graham Gardener on 978 7319.</i>
Thursday 19th	Notts Transport 2000 meeting. 7.30pm at the Tom Hoskins pub (<i>change of venue</i>), near Nottingham BR Station. <i>Phone Ron Gillott on 920 1238.</i>
Saturday 21st	Notts Cyclists' Touring Club Beginners Section ride to Costock - all welcome. Meet at 11am, at Wilford Toll Bridge. <i>Contact Graham Lansdell on 986 0299 for details.</i>
Tuesday 24th	Bulwell Environmental Group meeting. Crabtree Farm Estate Community Centre. <i>Contact Diana Langley on 927 3813.</i>
Wednesday 25th	Nottingham Women's Environmental Network meeting. 7.30pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham. <i>Call 960 5843 for details.</i>
Wednesday 25th	Rainbow Centre Video Evening at 7pm. <i>Call 958 5666 with requests, or for details.</i>
Sunday 29th	National Trust volunteer group activity. Footpath work at Kedleston Hall. <i>Contact Kath Oakley on 937 4296.</i>

FEBRUARY 1995

Tues, Wed, Thur, & Sun's	BTCV activities - <i>see January.</i>
Wednesday 1st	Nottingham EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency) meeting. 7.30pm at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road. <i>Contact Rachel Jones on 939 5830.</i>
Friday 3rd	Greenpeace Youth Group meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St. <i>Contact Alex Penn on 925 5196 to confirm date and venue.</i>
Sunday 5th	Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. <i>Phone 975 6376 for details.</i>
Monday 6th	Greenpeace Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. <i>Contact David Meatcher on 925 7186.</i>
Tuesday 7th	Green Network News editorial meeting - all welcome. 3pm at Lawrence House, Talbot Street. <i>Phone 941 7849 for details.</i>
Tuesday 7th	NOGS (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. <i>Contact Mike Poyzer on 958 7006 after 6.30pm.</i>
Thursday 9th	Friends of the Earth meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row. <i>Contact Tim Gray on 922 3439.</i>
Weekend 11th-12th	Going Green II at the Holme Pierrepont Lakeside Adventure Base. An introduction to Youth Work and the Environment for part time youth workers and others working with young people. <i>To find out more or to book a place, contact Jo Ward on 950 5792.</i>
Saturday 11th	Notts Cyclists' Touring Club Beginners Section ride to Southwell - all welcome. Meet at 11am, outside the Grove Hotel, Daybrook Square, Arnold. <i>Contact Graham Lansdell on 986 0299 for details.</i>
Sunday 12th	National Trust volunteer group activity, at Belton House. <i>Contact Jon Swift on 01246 861343.</i>
Monday 13th	Oxfam Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. <i>Contact Graham Gardener on 978 7319.</i>
Wednesday 22nd	Rainbow Centre Video Evening at 7pm. <i>Call 958 5666 with requests, or for details.</i>

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

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

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

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNING

PLANNING A CAMPAIGN

A campaign that's thought out in advance is more likely to succeed, and it can be useful to have a list of planning ideas to make sure nothing important is forgotten. Friends of the Earth has such a guide to help local groups. Your campaign plan might include some of these points:

- State the **objective** of your campaign, e.g. 'protect all peat bogs'.
- Identify **targets** - the people you need to influence to achieve your objective.
- Identify **key players** - others particularly involved in the issue, e.g. green groups, local councils, particular sectors of industry. They could be allies or opponents.
- **Research** the issue - know the facts and prepare for questions.
- Identify **obstacles** - what factors might stop you achieving your objective? (E.g. vested interests.)

- Identify **opportunities** - what factors might help you? (e.g. public concern about the environment).
- Think about **tactics** - general plans to overcome obstacles and make use of opportunities, and specific campaign tools (e.g. show public concern by setting up a petition). Referring back to targets and key players should help generate ideas.
- **Timing** - how long do you want to work on the campaign? Is there a best time to do it, such as linking up with a forthcoming event or a particular time of year?
- Consider opportunities for **media** coverage, and the best way to approach them.
- What **resources** will you need? This may include money, time and expertise. Think about how to get those you don't already have.

CAMPAIGNING FOCUS

This month's focus is on environmental campaigning. Articles cover the planning of campaigns, as well as dealing with the media, lobbying decision makers, and working within the local government planning process. Two personal perspectives are also included, from people involved in local green groups.

- Now **prioritise** - out of the possibilities you've identified, pick perhaps three or four tactics to start work on.
- **Evaluation** is important. Decide at the beginning when you're going to step back and look at the progress of the campaign (e.g. *after six months, when the Government makes the final decision*). How will you judge it? If it's not working, you may want to turn your energies to something else instead - after all, you can only do so much.

Tim Gray, Nottingham Friends of the Earth.

IN AT THE DEEP END! - THE PLANNING PROCESS

This article was written by Julie Scott of FIELDS - who are campaigning for plans for a Fourth Trent Crossing to be dropped.

The Planning process is regulated by a set of guidelines produced by the national government. Beneath this overall guidance there is a two-tier system: the County Council covering the whole of Nottinghamshire, and District level councils - also known as Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) - such as Rushcliffe Borough Council and the City Council.

The government Department of the Environment publishes documents called PPG's (Planning Policy Guidelines) - for example PPG-2 is on

Green Belt issues. Notts County Council has a strategic role, devising a five year Structure Plan, designating which areas of the county need more housing, industry, tourism, etc. Shifts in planning policy contained within the latest PPG's should be reflected in Structure Plans.

District Councils are responsible for making more detailed proposals - Local Plans - which must fit into the general outlines of the Structure Plan.

The Structure Plan will say that a District needs this amount of new housing, or that amount of land devoted to industry - the Local Plan determines where that housing or industry should

be located. The District Councils are the Local Planning Authorities to whom planning applications are submitted, and their decisions are made in accordance with the details of their Local Plans.

Both Structure Plans and Local Plans are produced in Draft Versions, available for public consultation, and this is where it can be important for local campaign groups to get involved. When public comments have been received, revised versions of these documents are produced, and

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THE PRACTICALITIES OF CAMPAIGN WORK

Once your group has defined its objectives, targets and methods, it's time to organise the practical issues of 'street level' campaigning. Whatever strategy you decide is appropriate for the issue you are tackling - such as a petition, event or stall - giving yourself plenty of time and paying attention to detail is worthwhile.

For example if you are setting up a stall in town to publicise your cause, write a checklist of all the things you need to consider, however obvious or trivial they may seem. Before the actual day of the event, you will need to ensure that any displays and printed material will be ready on time. It is also worth checking that the place you've picked for the stall is available for the whole time you need it, and that you have permission to use the site.

On the day of the event, you will need to be able to take your chairs, table, and resources to and from the site, and have enough volunteers to staff the stall (at least two at once, with crossover

periods). Resources for the stall might include extra literature and contacts in case people ask



for further information, as well as pens and paper, and even covers for rain or snow!

These ideas should provide a useful starting point, but there are several publications available which give clear ideas and guidance on community action, including:

- 'Organise!', by Mark Smith (NAYC publications), price £5.95.
- 'Organising Local Events', by Sarah Passingham (Directory of Social Change), price £7.95.
- 'Community Groups Handbook' (Community Development Foundation), price £5.95.
- These and many other publications are available on loan to community groups from the City Council Community Services Information Office - phone 942 5838.

Liz James, Community Services Information Office.