

THE NOTTINGHAM GREEN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1996

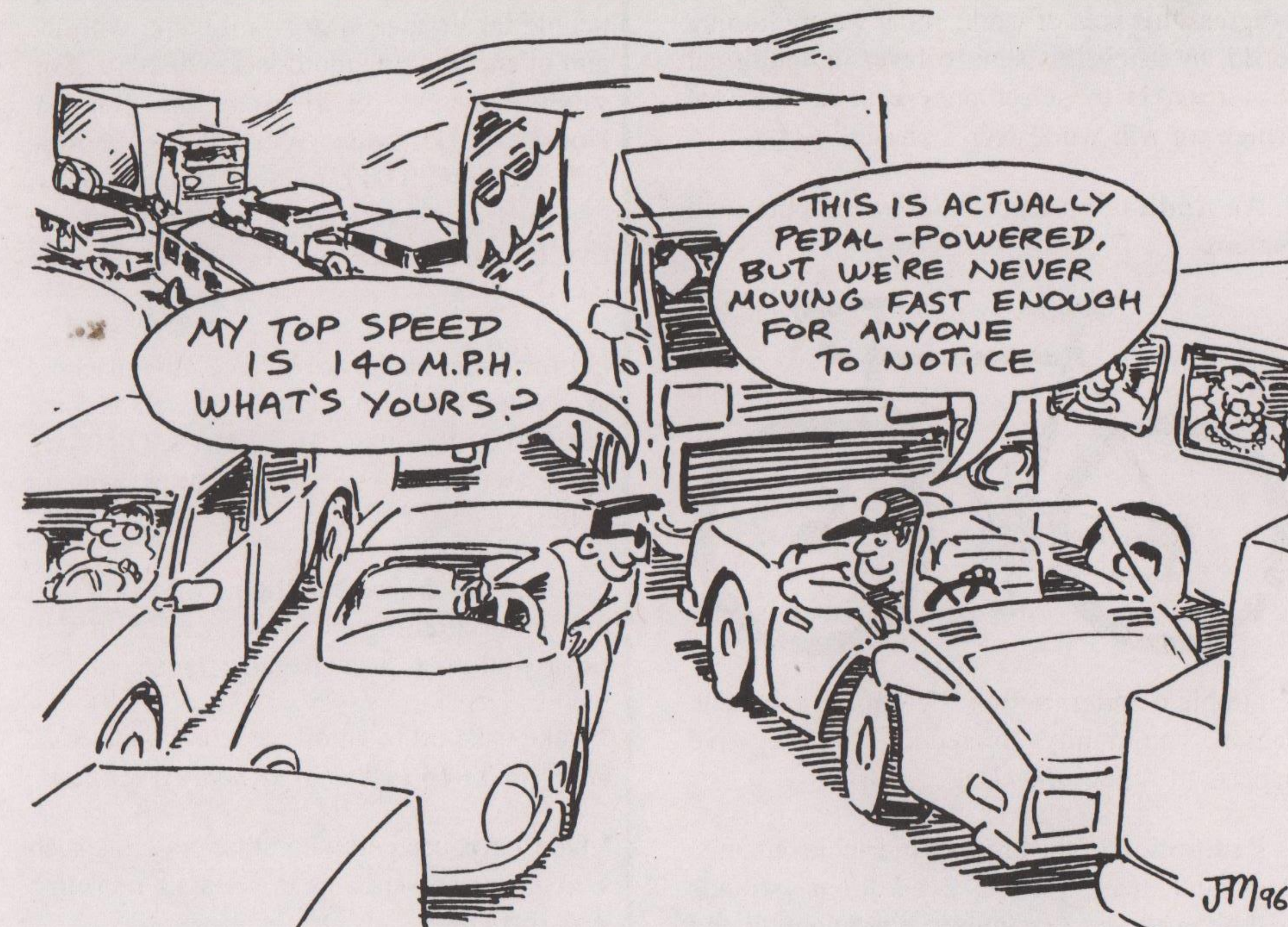
- Day Tasks *Tue, Wed, Thur, Sun's* **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)** activities: a variety of practical tasks. ☎ 931 3316.
- Day Tasks *Sun's (& other days)* **Notts Wildlife Trust** conservation activities at wildlife reserves around the county. ☎ NWT on 958 8242.
- Monthly **Nottingham EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency)**. 7.30pm. Nott'm Knight, W.Bridgford. ☎ Lesley Peasant, 01509 235885.
- Fri 2nd **Greenpeace Youth Group**. 7.30pm. Trent University library, Shakespeare St. ☎ Megan MacFarlane, 921 2246 to confirm venue.
- Sun 4th **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity. Calke Abbey. ☎ Tess Hammond, 01332 850413.
- Sun 4th **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. ☎ 975 6376 for details.
- Mon 5th **Greenpeace Support Group** meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. ☎ David Meatcher on 925 7186.
- Tue 6th **NOGS (Nottingham Organic Gardeners)** meeting. ☎ Mike Poyzer on 01636 814324 after 6.30pm.
- Tue 6th **Oxfam Campaigning Group** meeting. 7.30pm at Angel Row Library. ☎ David Eminson at the Oxfam Campaigns office on 942 3892.
- Thur 8th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Angel Row Library. ☎ Tim Gray on 922 3439.
- Sun 11th **'Bestwood for Beginners'** walk in Bestwood Country Park. 10am-12noon. Meet at Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. ☎ 967 0042.
- Mon 12th **Nottingham Permaculture Association** meeting. ☎ Phil Corbett on 947 4977 for details.
- Sun 18th **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity. Hardwick Hall. ☎ Andy Irving, 01709 558528.
- Mon 19th **Notts Wildlife Trust (City)**. AGM, and a talk (to be arranged). 7.30pm. Browne Jacobson Solicitors, 44 Castlegate. ☎ 958 8242.
- Mon 19th **Pedals** meeting. 7.30pm at the Trippe to Jerusalem (upstairs room), Brewhouse Yard/Castle Road. ☎ Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.
- Thur 22nd **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station. ☎ Ron Gillott on 920 1238.
- Fri 23rd **Critical Mass** Cycle Ride to protest against traffic congestion. Meet in the Market Square at 5.15pm. Contact Box CTM, Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW.
- W/E 23-25 **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity. Clumber Park. ☎ Andy Mountfort, 01283 740398.
- W/E 23-25 **BTCV Countryside Weekend**, Gedling House Woods, Nottingham - inc. fencing and other tasks. Cost £10. Pick-Up from Nottingham BR Station at 8pm. ☎ 01132 742335.
- Mon 26th **Nott'm World Development Movement**. 7.30pm. International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd. ☎ Nick Osmond, 960 7797.
- Wed 28th **Nottingham Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 8pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham. ☎ 960 5843.

MARCH 1996

- Day Tasks *Tue, Wed, Thur, Sun's* **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)** activities: a variety of practical tasks. ☎ 931 3316.
- Day Tasks *Sun's (& other days)* **Notts Wildlife Trust** conservation activities at wildlife reserves around the county. ☎ NWT on 958 8242.
- Monthly **Nottingham EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency)**. 7.30pm. Nott'm Knight, W.Bridgford. ☎ Lesley Peasant, 01509 235885.
- Fri 1st **Greenpeace Youth Group**. 7.30pm. Trent University library, Shakespeare St. ☎ Megan MacFarlane, 921 2246 to confirm venue.
- Sun 3rd **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity. Kedleston Hall. ☎ Phil Greensmith, 01782 341095.
- Sun 3rd **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. ☎ 975 6376 for details.
- Mon 4th **Greenpeace Support Group** meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. ☎ David Meatcher on 925 7186.
- Tue 5th **NOGS (Nottingham Organic Gardeners)** meeting. ☎ Mike Poyzer on 01636 814324 after 6.30pm.
- Tue 5th **Oxfam Campaigning Group** meeting. 7.30pm at Angel Row Library. ☎ David Eminson at the Oxfam Campaigns office on 942 3892.
- W/E 8-10 **BTCV Countryside Weekend**, Nottingham Canal - inc. planting and other tasks. Cost £10. Pick-Up from Nottingham BR Station at 8pm. ☎ 01132 742335.
- Sun 10th **'Beating the Bounds'** walk around the outlying areas of Bestwood Country Park. 10am-12noon. Meet at Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. ☎ 967 0042.
- Mon 11th **Nottingham Permaculture Association** meeting. ☎ Phil Corbett on 947 4977 for details.
- Thur 14th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Angel Row Library. ☎ Tim Gray on 922 3439.
- Sun 17th **National Trust** Volunteer Group activity. Hardwick Hall (**Open Day**). ☎ Tess Hammond, 01132 850413.
- Mon 18th **Notts Wildlife Trust (City)** talk - **Badgers**. 7.30pm. Browne Jacobson Solicitors, 44 Castlegate. ☎ 958 8242.
- Mon 18th **Pedals** meeting. 7.30pm at the Trippe to Jerusalem (upstairs room), Brewhouse Yard/Castle Road. ☎ Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.
- Thur 21st **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station. ☎ Ron Gillott on 920 1238.
- Fri 22nd **Critical Mass** Cycle Ride to protest against traffic congestion. Meet in the Market Square at 5.15pm. Contact Box CTM, Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3HW.
- Sun 24th **'Lessers, Greats & Greens'** woodpecker walk. Bestwood Country Park. 10am-12noon. Meet - Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. ☎ 967 0042.
- Mon 25th **Nott'm World Development Movement**. 7.30pm. International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd. ☎ Nick Osmond, 960 7797.
- Wed 27th **Nottingham Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 8pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham. ☎ 960 5843.
- Sun 31st **'A Woodland Wakes'** walk in Bestwood Country Park. 10am-12noon. Meet at Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. ☎ 967 0042.

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. 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. Printed by DESA Ltd, on 'Cameron' recycled paper made from 100% post-consumer waste.

GREEN NETWORK NEWS



CHRISTMAS RECYCLING SAVES TREES!

Thousands of Christmas Trees were recycled last month, turning them into mulch for gardens and public parks! 173 trees were recycled by the City Council at the Goose Fair site, and around 300 people took trees along to Groundwork Greater Nottingham's service at Castle Marina. Thousands of trees have also been collected through Notts County Council Household Waste and Recycling centres.

Hundreds of Thousands of Christmas cards have been collected through a range of schemes - including collections at County Council Household Waste and Recycling Centres, and schools around the County. Money raised through the recycling of these cards will be matched by the Countryside Commission - enabling thousands of

trees to be planted locally by community groups in the Greenwood Community Forest area. The recycling of trees and cards is also a much 'greener' option than tipping them into landfill sites.

If you still have your Christmas cards, you could consider an even 'greener' alternative to recycling - saving them for re-use next Christmas. The Rainbow Centre Shop sells 'Christmas Paper Savers' - seasonal stickers which can be attached to old cards to enable them to be used again - saving trees, the environment used to grow them, and the energy used to make new paper.

The Rainbow Centre is located at 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (phone 958 5666).

Green Network News is a monthly publication aiming to share information and build links between all individuals and organisations in the Nottingham and South Notts area with an interest in the environment.

FREE!

No. 47 February 1996

Inside ...

- School Travel Study
- Green Commuter Plans
- Wildlife Action Plan

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GRANTS

Grants of up to £2,000 are available from the Greenwood Community Forest, for small-scale projects organised by community groups or organisations such as schools, parish councils or Scout/Guide groups.

Projects must take place in the Greenwood area (mostly to the North of Nottingham), include some tree-planting and be completed by the end of May to be eligible.

Contact the Greenwood Community Forest Office at 198 Beardall Street, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7JU (phone 968 1006).

TREES AND US

In the British Isles we have less of our land covered with woodland than anywhere else in Europe. 'Trees and Us' is a free publication which could help you to redress the balance! The 24 page booklet was produced by the BBC Wildlife magazine last October, and is full of information and ideas about growing trees from seed, tree planting and other activities. A free poster is also available.

For your free booklet and poster, contact Ashley Baxter on 948 3500 ext 6123, or write to him - c/o Recycling Team, Nottingham City Council, Lawrence House, Talbot Street, Nottingham NG1 5NT.

FIGHTING ROAD SCHEMES

'Fighting Road Schemes' is a new publication by Friends of the Earth, with 48 pages of information, ideas and Case Studies about road scheme campaigns.

The book is priced at £5.50 (including £1 p&p), and is available from -

Publications Despatch, Friends of the Earth, 56-58 Alma Street, Luton LU1 2YZ (phone 01582 482297).

SCHOOL TRAVEL STUDY

This time last year, with the help of consultants Cleary Hughes Associates, Nottinghamshire County Council embarked on a study to look at the ways children travel to and from school, and to identify the scope for increasing the proportion of trips that are made by foot, bicycle and public transport.

All County schools received a questionnaire which resulted in figures being gathered for the journeys of 27,000 pupils, and the collection of views from 145 head teachers. In addition, 3 case study schools were selected for more in-depth work. These results show that well over one third of all Notts primary and junior school pupils travel to and from school by car. Many of these journeys are very short and could easily be walked or cycled.

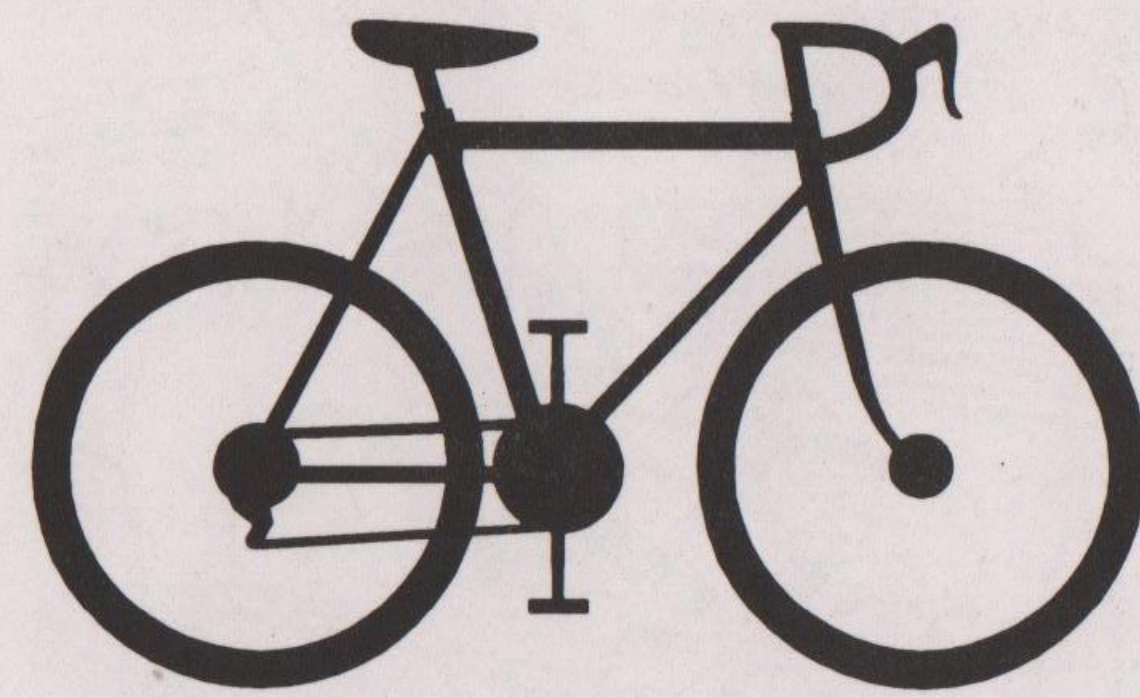
The majority of primary and junior school pupils would rather walk or cycle to school than be taken by car, and most parents who currently drive younger children to school would be prepared to let them walk if measures were taken to make the journey safer - such as safe crossings on busy roads.

Under current circumstances most parents and head teachers do not wish to encourage more cycling to school, particularly among younger pupils. Traffic danger and lack of storage facilities for bikes during the school day are the main deterrents.

Public transport has a limited role to play in reducing the volume of school car traffic - the vast majority of pupils for whom this mode is appropriate already use it.

The County Council's Environment Committee have approved the commitment of £5,000 to progress this area of work. What we are hoping to do, by using this sum to lever in additional resources, is to select one secondary school where we will work over 3 phases -

1. An **Audit** of present school travel routes and patterns.



2. Implementing **action** determined by the school community to reduce the negative aspects of school travel.

3. **Evaluation** of the process and achievements. Alongside these phases, 2 additional strands will be pursued - Community Participation and Curriculum Integration.

The project will have strong links to both the development of commuter plans and the Local Agenda 21 participation process.

If anyone is interested in further details, or would like a copy of the consultant's report please contact Phil Keynes, Environment Officer, Notts County Council on 977 4658.

WASTE PREVENTION BILL

The Women's Environmental Network (WEN) has initiated the Waste Prevention Bill to enable local Waste Collection Authorities to promote waste prevention, in the same way as they can already promote recycling.

Local Waste Collection Authorities (who empty our dustbins) are empowered to deal with waste - once it has arisen - by recycling and other means. But, while everyone agrees that it is more important to prevent waste before it is produced, the collection authorities have no powers to do this. The Waste Prevention Bill will remedy this gap, enabling local authorities to encourage a variety of local initiatives to prevent and reduce waste - such as unwanted trade directories, used disposable nappies and throwaway cups, which are currently sent to landfill sites or incineration with all the attendant pollution problems.

The bill was launched as a Presentation Bill by Elliot Morley MP in the last session of Parliament, in early November, with

cross-party support from a range of MPs. WEN is planning to re-launch the bill in the current session of Parliament, possibly as a Ten Minute Rule Bill.

Elliot Morley MP has tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM) in support of the bill, which has already been signed by over 80 MPs. An Early Day Motion is a resolution which appears on MPs' order papers with names of those who have signed.

If you would like to support the bill, contact your MP, asking her/him to sign EDM no 48, or ask your local council to write to WEN in support of the Waste Prevention Bill.

For more information contact Ann Link or Helen Eldridge at the Women's Environmental Network, Aberdeen Studios, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EA (phone 0171 354 8823).

Send an A4 SAE for WEN's new briefing on waste prevention (available soon).

OIL BANK LINE

A new phone line has been set up by the National Rivers Authority (NRA) to help people locate their nearest oil bank, with the aim of encouraging motorists to dispose of oil safely. A new report from the National Household Hazardous Waste Forum showed that around 20,000 tonnes of used oil is disposed of improperly each year - and just five litres of oil is enough to cover a small lake!

Oil recycling banks are located at Household Waste and Recycling centres, as well as some garages in the area. The NRA's **Oil Care Code** gives three key points on preventing oil pollution -

* When you drain your engine oil - don't oil the drain! Pouring oil down the drain will cause pollution. It is also an offence.

* Take used oil to an oil recycling bank. **Call 0800 66 33 66 to find your nearest oil bank.**

* Don't mix used oil with other material, such as paint or solvents, as this makes recycling very difficult.

Nottingham City Council are looking for garage or forecourt managers interested in providing space for Oil Banks. The council would manage the site - garages simply provide the space.

To find out more, contact Pete Saunders (Recycling Assistant) on 948 3500 ext 6123.

GNN UPDATE

The feature section on '**Being Green on a Low Income**' will now be included in the March issue - to fit in with our plans for a special May Green Network News (this will be the 50th issue!). If anyone has ideas about possible subjects for GNN to cover in the future, any suggestions would be welcome.

If you would like to write a feature article, or you have a photo that could be used, please let me know. Articles are usually needed around one month in advance of publication, and can be sent on paper or 3.5 inch disk (pc format). We will also be looking for stories about any current events or issues each month; please write or phone if you would like to contribute.

Contact me on 941 7849, or write to me at -

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

Adam Woodward.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

You may remember this new feature, first included in the December issue, with the aim of publishing your questions about 'green' issues, and asking other readers to send in solutions.

- The **question** asked in December was - 'Is there any way of recycling hard-hats that are no longer safe to use?' (from Rachel Tassel at Broxtowe Borough Council). This is the **Answer** received -

- The hard-hats can't be recycled (as they are the wrong type of plastic), but they can be used as Hanging-Baskets, to brighten up the office! (from Jenni French).

Please send your Questions or Answers to Green Network, c/o Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW, or call 941 7849.

GREEN COMMUTER PLANS

We are all becoming increasingly concerned about the over-use of cars in our cities. Nottingham is no exception, where the volume of car commuting has increased by a third during the last ten years. Nottingham City Council believes that major employers have a role to play in reducing car usage and is attempting to show by example how things could change.

The authority has announced plans to reduce staff dependence on the use of their cars by launching the Council's own **Green Commuter Plan**. The plan is being developed over the next three years, and will offer staff alternatives to using their own cars - including public transport, pool cars, taxis, car sharing, cycling and walking.

The Council is also hoping that its Green Commuter Plan will act as a model for other employers in Nottingham. A seminar for local employers has already been held in July 1995 to help share ideas and now the Council has launched a new employers guide entitled '**Green Commuter Plans - a Resource Pack for Nottingham's Employers**'. The guide has been published jointly by Nottingham City Council, Nottingham Green partnership, Nottinghamshire County Council and Transport 2000.

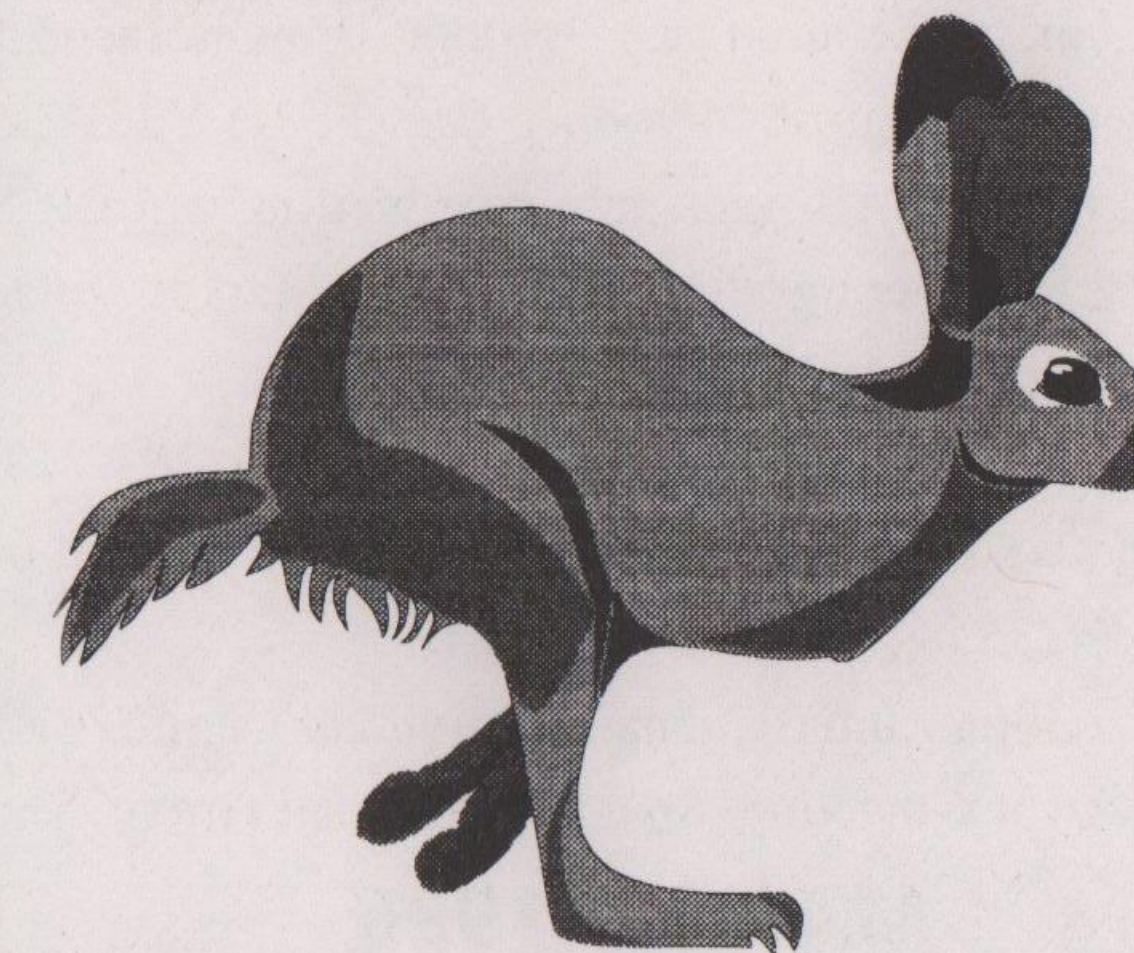
The Council is following up publication of the guide by appointing a Green Commuter Plan adviser who will work with local employers.

Copies of the free employers guide are available from Sue Flack, Development Department, Nottingham City Council, on 948 3500 ext 5462.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), is calling on the government to give its full backing to the most comprehensive plans ever produced to protect wildlife and habitats.

'Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group Report' was published in December, with targets for the conservation of 116 species and 14 key habitats. Plans concentrate initially on species most threatened with extinction like the bittern (a bird), or with rapidly declining numbers such as the skylark. Other species to receive priority treatment include brown hare, grey partridge and grey crested newt.



Action plans have been prepared for threatened and scarce habitats such as lowland raised mire

and reedbeds. Only four per cent of lowland raised mire remains and since the second world war reedbeds and associated habitats have declined by 60% in the UK.

The Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group, set up by the government in 1994, comprises a wide range of interests, with government departments, farmers, industry, local government, research institutes and conservation organisations represented.

The RSPB strongly believes that the key to success of the plans, in implementing the report's proposals, lies in co-ordinated action across all Government departments (from Education and the Environment, to Transport and the Treasury) over the next three years.

Tim de Winton, RSPB Conservation Officer for Nottinghamshire and South & West Yorkshire, said 'This report gives us a golden opportunity to halt the destruction of wildlife and to reverse some of the most serious declines. The Government must now grasp the challenge of converting these words into effective action.'

For more information contact the RSPB North-West England Office on 01484 861148.

LOCAL AGENDA 21

Last issue we looked at the background to Local Agenda 21. This time we take a whistle-stop tour of what councils in Greater Nottingham are doing about it.

Different councils have worked in different ways and at different speeds. **Rushcliffe Borough Council** was the first to get going on LA21. Groups representing the council itself, the voluntary sector and the parish councils have been meeting for some months to draft their own strategies. In November 1995 they met together for the first time, and are now working to combine their ideas into a single strategy for Rushcliffe.

Broxtowe Borough Council has just appointed two new officers to work full-time on LA21. The Borough is reviewing its own activities, and a program of consultation to find out residents' priorities for a sustainable Broxtowe is in the planning stages.

Nottingham City Council has agreed an outline LA21 process, and is starting to put it into practice in conjunction with Nottingham Green Partnership. Last Autumn the Council established a Sustainable Development Sub-committee to co-ordinate its own work in this field.

The Green Partnership will provide specialist input through its sub-groups on Energy, Recycling, etc. - this process has just started.

Gedling Borough Council is investigating ways to build on its existing environmental work. It has just held a seminar to brief councillors on LA21, and a conference to bring in the wider community is planned for the Spring.

Nottinghamshire County Council has identified Sustainable Development as one of its top priorities, and is organising a variety of projects in different departments - such as an Energy Efficiency initiative with local schools. Four 'task groups' have been set up with the aim of improving the council's impact on the environment, covering Waste, Energy and Water, Transport and Purchasing.

The County Council is also planning to host an Agenda 21 Conference in the Spring, in co-operation with local District Councils.

If you want to get involved in any of these processes, contact the Environmental Officer at your local council.

Tim Gray, Change Works