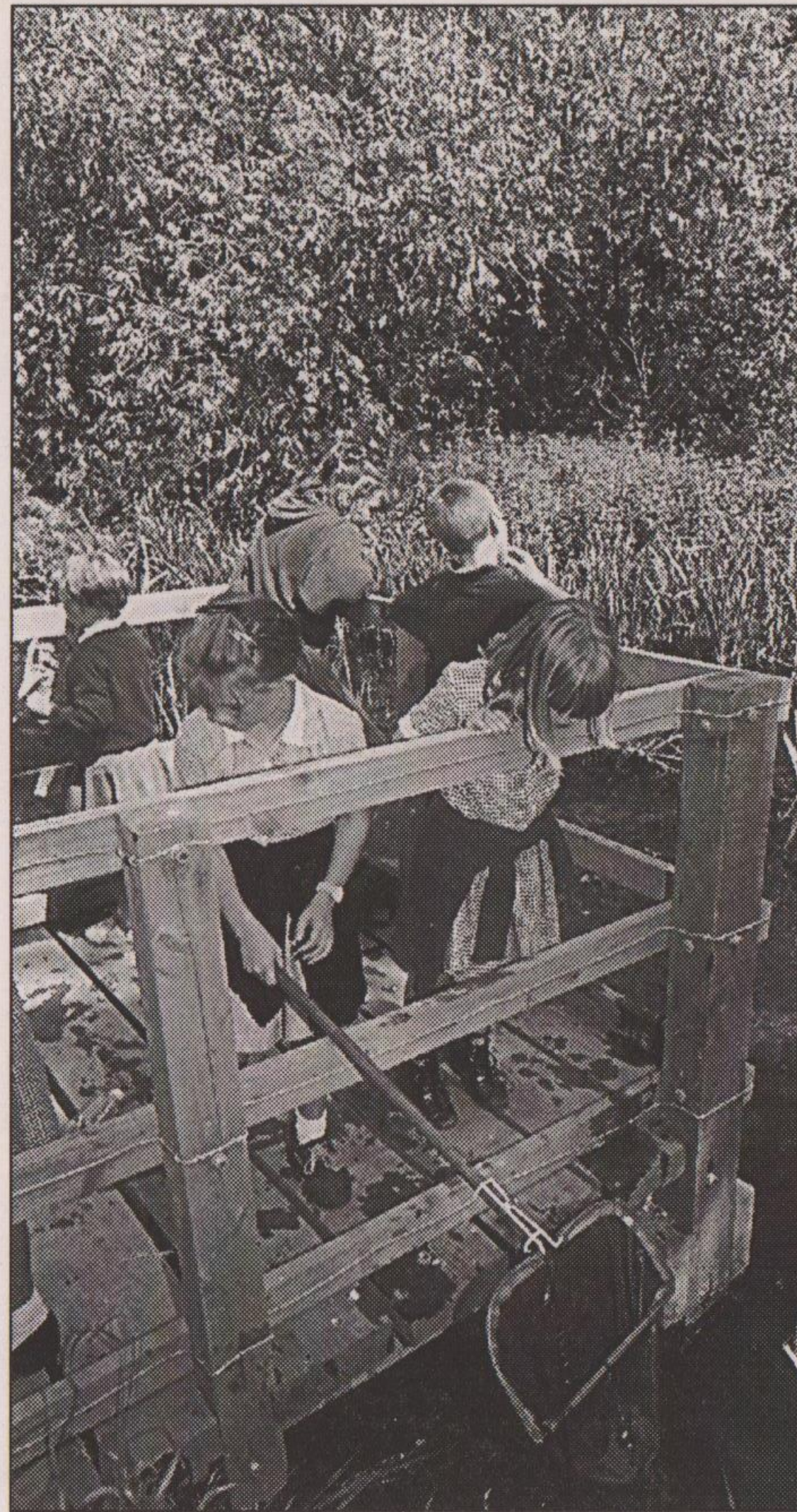


GREENWOOD COMMUNITY FOREST

The Greenwood Community Forest aims to protect and improve a major part of the Nottinghamshire countryside - covering 161 square miles (one fifth of the county). As well as a large amount of tree planting, restoring heathlands, wetlands and ponds, the aim of the project is to preserve countryside crafts and arts, and celebrate and protect historical features and cultures of the area. As more sites are being created and recognised as part of the Greenwood, the general public are able to gain greater access to the countryside.

Since its conception in 1991, 110km of Rights of Way have been restored or upgraded in the Greenwood area, 98.7 hectares of non-wooded sites and 2,994 hectares of woodland have been opened up for public recreation and access.

There have been numerous events to involve local people in the Greenwood through fun days, training opportunities for volunteers and consultation exercises around specific sites. For example, Springfield Corner has been created between Hucknall Lane and Moor Bridge. Here derelict land has been transformed into a wildlife area with a pond and public open space. The project was carried out by Nottingham City Council, Groundwork Greater Nottingham, BTCV and English Partnerships, working with schoolchildren from Springfield Lane School.



Pupils from Springfield Primary School have a go at pond dipping at Springfield Corner.

RIGHTS OF WAY

There are over 5,000 claimed public rights of way in Nottinghamshire, equating to over 2,000 miles. They are protected by laws which the Ramblers' Association has fought to protect and extend.

A public right of way is a way over which the public have a legal right to pass and repass without hindrance. These include footpaths (for walkers only), bridleways (for walkers, horse riders and pedal cyclists), and unsurfaced byways, open to walkers, horse riders and motorised traffic. They are all highways in law, and subject to the same legal protection as metalled roads.

The key to protecting public rights of way is their recording on definitive maps, prepared by the local authority - in our case, Nottinghamshire County Council. These maps, held at Trent Bridge House, provide legal proof of your right to walk and ride in the countryside, and the Ordnance Survey uses them to show rights of way information on its maps.

All public rights of way should be clearly sign-posted where they meet metalled roads. They should also be waymarked where

necessary along their route, so that users do not get lost or stray onto private land. Ploughing up of rights of way can be a problem, but under legal definitions field edge paths may never be ploughed, and cross field paths may be ploughed but must be made good by the landowner or farmer within two weeks.

Local Authorities have a duty to see that all public paths are properly maintained and kept free from obstructions. Keeping styles in good order and ensuring that crops do not block a right of way are the landowners responsibility.

In 1987 the Countryside Commission (the governments official advisor on recreation in rural areas) set itself a target, which stated; 'The entire rights of way network to be legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised by the end of the century'. This objective was warmly greeted by the Ramblers Association, and has received wide public support. Commendable though this is, the fact remains that it is the local authorities that have been charged by the Countryside Commission to carry out its policy and, as we are all well aware, all local authorities have tight spending budgets at present. To compound matters, it

The area is part of the Corridors to the Countryside Project, encouraging city people to come out to rural areas.

The Linby Trail is another important access route out to the countryside and links Linby and Newstead villages and Freckland Wood. Nottinghamshire County Council's Leen Valley Countryside Management Service Volunteers have worked to improve this site with new paths, picnic sites and benches. With the help of BTCV they have cut out part of the rock face on the railway cutting to provide a new habitat for mosses and rare ferns. The Trail was also used for a Fun Day on Sunday 18 August.

Eventually there will be a network of trails and access routes throughout the Greenwood, leading to a variety of woodlands and public open spaces - each having been created through working partnerships with local people.

If you are interested in helping to create the Greenwood Community Forest or have ideas or suggestions for site developments or activities which could help its creation please contact Sue Lawler at -

Greenwood Community Forest, 1-3 Diamond Avenue, Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 7GN (phone 01623 758 231).

appears that funding will not be provided from government sources at present; the target of the end of the millennium looks unlikely to be met.

What can we do about this? As users and lovers of the countryside, we can contact our members of parliament and local councillors and urge them to use their good offices to see resources are available to meet the Countryside Commission's criteria. As individuals, we can help by simply using these rights of way; more feet (and hooves) on the ground ensure they can be kept open and free from obstruction. And the bonus is that you will discover the often underrated countryside of Nottinghamshire. There are some delightful places awaiting those who are prepared to seek them out.

Finally, it should be remembered that access to the countryside is a topic that is becoming a major issue; knowledge of, and using your local rights of way network will make an important contribution to this aim. Enjoy your countryside with its network of paths and bridleways, and please observe the Countryside Code.

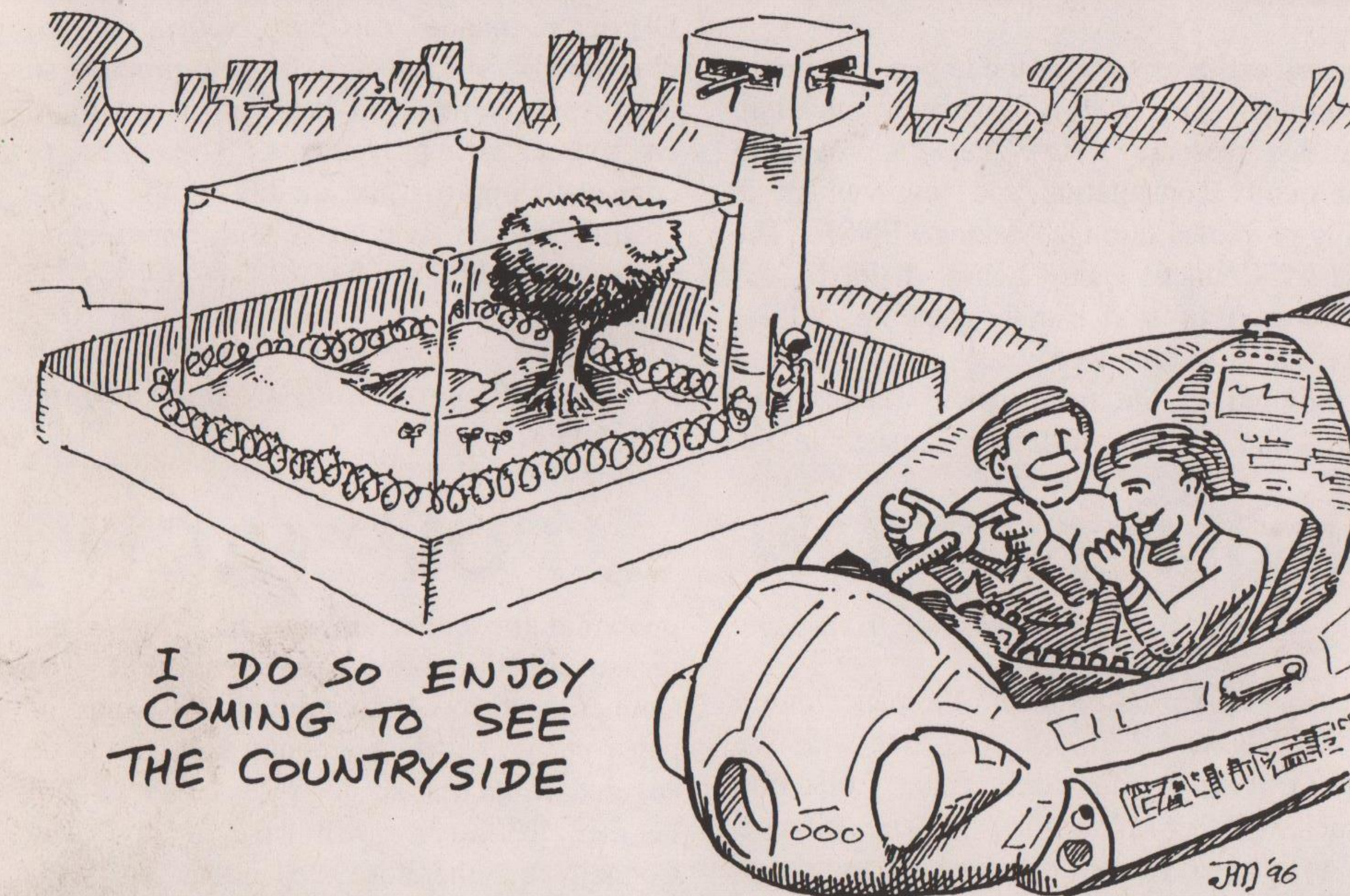
Alex Staniforth (Hon Area Secretary, Nottinghamshire Ramblers Association)

Green NETWORK News

GREATER NOTTINGHAM AND SOUTH NOTTS GREEN NETWORK

NUMBER 54 September 1996 FREE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE • GREEN PURCHASING



FAITH IN THE COMMUNITY

Representatives of 18 local religious communities and faiths shared their visions for Nottingham in the 21st Century on Saturday 20th July, at Clarendon College. The meeting was convened by the Nottingham branch of the United Nations Association, at the request of the Nottingham Green Partnership.

The group began by identifying aspects of life today which they would like to see change. Fear of crime, unemployment, drug pushing, homelessness and air pollution came high on the list. They went on to envisage a harmonious community which people of all faiths agreed on as desirable, and finally identified the elements that they considered were most important to work for. These included vibrant communities with sound educational opportunities, secure employment and a safe, clean environment. It

was felt that a lack of spiritual values was at the root of much of the disintegration of families and communities.

A full report will be taken to the Nottingham Green Partnership, and it was agreed that the group would meet again to hear the response, and consider further action. Representatives will also be consulting with their communities, as it was accepted that everyone has a voice and a part to play.

This meeting was part of Nottingham's Agenda 21 deliberations, and was facilitated by Andy Rothery, the Sustainable Development Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council.

For more information contact Noel Harrower, 11, The Crescent, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, NG5 4FX (phone 960 6012).

PULP FICTION? ... PULP FACT!

Newark and Sherwood District Council's trial Newspaper and Magazine Recycling Collection Service was launched on 29th July. Collecting from 18,000 households, the Council believe this is the first large-scale kerbside recycling collection scheme to be operated in Nottinghamshire.

The newspapers and magazines are collected fortnightly on the same day as the normal refuse collection. Householders in the trial areas have been sent calendars explaining which weeks to put the papers out.

Continued inside.

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.

IN BRIEF

- Shares are now available in the Baywind Co-operative - money raised will be used to build a small wind farm near Ulverston in Cumbria. Call 01229 821028.

- The free Autumn/Winter list of Guided Walks in Nottinghamshire is now available. Contact Notts County Council Leisure Services on 982 3823.

- Quaker International Social Projects (QISP) offer teams of 7-20 international volunteers to work on community-based projects during Easter and Summer. Contact QISP on 0171 387 3601.

- Nottingham City Transport and Trent/Barton are now running their fleets entirely on the new 'cleaner' diesel fuel mentioned in the May issue. (Based on an article in the Transport 2,000 newsletter).

MEDIA TRAINING

A media training day for community groups will take place at the University of Nottingham on 11th September, from 9am-4pm. Workshops led by reporters, broadcasters and journalists will look at how and when to contact local papers, radio stations and television companies.

The cost of the day is £11.75. Limited places are available.

Contact Resource Base on 01703 236806.



Green Network would like to thank GPT for sponsoring this issue.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION GRANTS

Potential applicants for Nottinghamshire County Council's Landscape Conservation Grant Scheme are advised to apply early this year. Last winter's scheme was the most popular in the programme's history, with applications being closed early due to over-subscription. Projects included the planting of over 3,000 trees, and the laying of nearly 2 kilometres of hedge.

The scheme covers the whole of the Greenwood Community Forest area and is part funded by the Countryside Commission. Grant aid can extend to 80% of the total cost of the scheme, including any materials and labour. The County Council's Countryside Management Service also offer free advice on designing and implementing schemes and can arrange for contractors to undertake the work, if appropriate.

Contact the Greenwood Community Forest on 01623 758231.

BEESTON LOCK MAKE-OVER

Situated at the junction of Nottingham Canal, the Beeston Cut and the River Trent, Beeston Lock's landscaping works are almost complete. Designed by Groundwork Greater Nottingham, the improvements tackle the issues of public access and the safety of the towpath, enhancing the site with the introduction of street furniture, lighting and planting along with new surfacing along the path.

The scheme was funded by Broxtowe Borough Council, the Countryside Commission and British Waterways.

For more information contact Groundwork Greater Nottingham on 979 9227.

OUT AND ABOUT

'Out and About in the Greenwood Community Forest' is a new leaflet which highlights a selection of 'things to do' within the Greenwood - including visits to Patchings Farm Art Centre, Newstead Abbey, White Post Modern Farm and Brierley Forest Park.

The booklet was produced by Groundwork Greater Nottingham, with support from Nottinghamshire County Council, Ashfield District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, and the Countryside Commission.

'Out and About in the Greenwood Community Forest' is available at local libraries & tourist information offices, or by contacting Groundwork Greater Nottingham on 979 9227.

MAKING SENSE

With the appointment of a new environmental co-ordinator Newark and Sherwood District Council have launched the Making SENSE initiative. Sustainable Enterprise for Newark and Sherwood's Environment is part of the Council's response to the challenges of the Rio conference.

Newark and Sherwood is the largest District in Nottinghamshire, with a dispersed population. For this reason, a two stage approach to community consultation and involvement is being promoted through Making SENSE. The Parish Councils are being helped and encouraged to start parish mapping, village appraisal or visioning projects - actions that can be tailored to the needs and circumstances across the 85 very different parishes in the

District. Such projects have already been successful in Newark and Sherwood and have helped people decide what kind of future they want.

In addition, an event for businesses, NGOs and individuals with interests relevant to the whole District is planned for early November. The objective of Making SENSE is to produce an action plan which will help target and focus environmental improvements. The aim is, of course, to improve the quality of life in the District, and to help make our communities more sustainable.

For more information contact Robert Benington (Environmental Co-ordinator) on 01636 605111 ext 562.

PULP FICTION? ... PULP FACT!

Continued from front page.

They have been asked to put the paper into a carrier bag and leave the bag out with the wheelie bin. A dedicated paper collection vehicle will then collect the paper and deliver it to Aylesford Newsprint's transfer station at Leadenham. There the paper will be baled and sent in bulk to Aylesford's multi-million pound paper recycling mill in Kent.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the scheme is that Newark and Sherwood aim to operate it at no cost. The intention is that the income gained from selling the paper to Aylesford Newsprint will cover the costs of

operating the collection service. This is the reason for the initial six month trial. The Council need to collect around 900 tonnes of paper per year if the collection costs are to be covered. If the trial suggests this target will not be met, the service will have to stop. The Council are therefore depending on local residents to participate in the scheme by putting their papers out for recycling. If the trial is a success then the plan is to extend the collection further to allow paper collections for the majority of the District.

For further information contact Alasdair Brown, Recycling Officer at Newark and Sherwood District Council on 01636 708460.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT LOCAL AGENDA 21 CO-ORDINATOR

(Ref: CX/1302)

12 Month temporary contract within Grade PO1 £20,766 - £22,692

The City Council is committed to the principles of sustainable development as enshrined in Agenda 21.

We now wish to appoint a Co-ordinator to work with all interested communities in Nottingham on an Action Plan as a local response to Agenda 21.

Applicants must have a clear understanding of the concept of sustainable development and its relevance and application at the local level, and must be sensitive to the environmental concerns and interests of a wide variety of local groups.

The post calls for good analytical, negotiating and communication skills, and experience of working with people in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors on environmental or related topics. Applicants must also be well-organised, motivated and able to work on their own initiative.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Manager, Chief Executive's Department, The Guildhall, South Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4BT. Telephone (0115) 935 0700. Minicom service during office hours only. Answerphone after office hours.

Closing Date: Noon Friday 20 September.

GEDLING 'RECYCLOMIBILE'

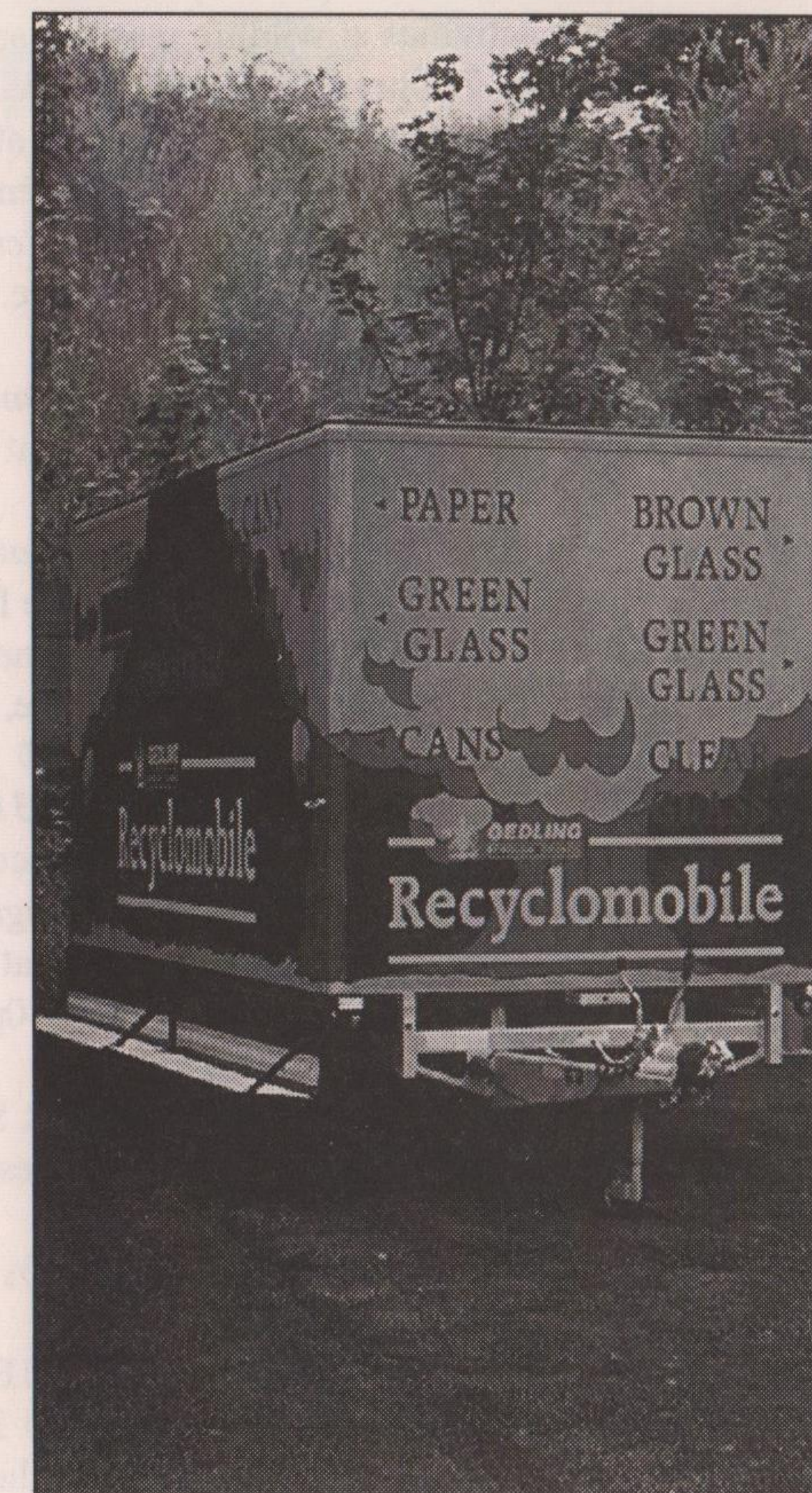
Two pubs in the North of Gedling Borough have become the first hosts of the Council's new 'recyclomobile'. Councillor John Clarke, Chair of the Council's Environment Committee, said 'I am delighted that people living in outlying villages can now recycle without having to use their cars. This is the first scheme of its kind in Nottinghamshire.'

The Griffin's Head at Papplewick and the Horse and Groom at Linby will each host the mobile facility for recycling glass, paper, textiles, cans and tins, for one day of the week from 11am - the Griffin's Head on Wednesdays and the Horse and Groom on Thursdays.

Kate Smith, the Landlady of the Horse and Groom is delighted with the scheme. 'We have wanted to have recycling facilities here for some time, but for a small village it wasn't thought practical. The mobile scheme enables villagers and all of our other customers to do their bit for the environment'.

The scheme will soon be extended to other villages.

For more information contact Ashley Baxter (Environmental Technician) on 967 5419 or Robert Crowder, Environmental Protection Officer on 967 5258.



The Gedling 'Recyclomobile'.

'GREEN' PURCHASING

A report recently published by the National Consumer Council (NCC) concludes that 'green' claims on many household products, such as 'recyclable' and 'environmentally friendly' are misleading, meaningless or false, leaving consumers cynical and confused. As a result, many people are giving up trying to buy green. Co-op supermarkets are scrapping their Environment Care range, and Sainsbury's has dropped its Green Care laundry range.

The NCC report recommended a code of practice for environmental claims on products and packaging with legislative backing under the Fair Trading Act. Unfortunately the government has only accepted the need for a code of practice, without the means for it to be enforced.

The EU Ecolabelling Scheme was set up to try and provide an identifiable mark to products meeting environmental standards. Awards of the UK Eco-label have been made so far to Hoover washing machines and Co-op and Nouvelle toilet paper and kitchen rolls, and they are currently working on energy labelling schemes. However, at the moment only 3% of the public recognise the UK Eco-label logo (which looks a bit like a multi-coloured daisy).

The good news is that the 'Buy Green Guide' and the 'Nottingham Fair Trade Guide' are still

available free of charge, published by the Nottingham Green Partnership. They provide user-friendly information about steps that you can take towards 'greener' and more ethical shopping.

The Consumers' Environment Forum has recently been set up by the Department of the Environment, as a 'partnership of national consumer groups which will provide a voice of the consumer in the environmental debate, and ensure that the wider social impact of environmental issues is taken into consideration'.

For more information about the Consumer's Environment Forum, or to order 'Green Claims - a consumer investigation into marketing claims about the environment' (at £14.50) contact The National Consumer Council, 20 Grovesnor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH (phone 0171 730 3469). For more information about the Eco-label, contact the UK Ecolabelling Board on 0171 820 1199.

To order a copy of the 'Buy Green Guide' or 'Nottingham Fair Trade Guide', contact Steve Waller at Nottingham City Council on 948 3500 ext 4601.

Based on an article in 'Ethical Consumer'.

NOTTINGHAM GREEN FESTIVAL

Nottingham's Green Festival will take place for the fifth successive year on September 1st, with the support of Nottingham City Council and Nottingham Green Partnership, who are providing funding of £2,900.

The Green Festival has attracted thousands of visitors since it was first held in 1992 - to promote awareness of the environment through education and entertainment. Among the attractions lined up for this year's event are more than 100 stalls, live music, entertainers and demonstrations.

For more information about the Green Festival contact John Truscott on 958 2369.

GNN UPDATE

Apologies for the incorrect date and number on the front of the last issue - caused by a printing error.

The next feature section will be in December - as I will be on holiday in October, there will not be a November issue. The subject for the December feature will be included in next months GNN Update.

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 welcome stories about any current events or issues each month, as well as information about events to go in the Green Calendar, 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 (GN Co-ordinator)

INSTANT INFORMATION

Do you need information about Recycling or Pollution, or are you looking for 'green' volunteering opportunities? Green Network has a variety of free and up to date information about organisations involved in the environment in Greater Nottingham and South Notts.

The database (of over 160 organisations) can also be purchased on Computer Disc for £5.

Contact Adam Woodward on 941 7849.

THE NOTTINGHAM GREEN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 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.
- Sun 1st **Nottingham Green Festival**. Stalls, Exhibitions, Food and Entertainment. 11am-6pm at Victoria Embankment. ☎ 958 2369
- Sun 1st **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. ☎ 975 5169 for details.
- Mon 2nd **Greenpeace Support Group** meeting at the Peacock, Mansfield Road. ☎ David Meatcher on 925 7186.
- Tue 3rd **Oxfam Campaigning Group** meeting. 7.30pm, upstairs at the Bell Inn, Market Square. ☎ David Eminson at the Oxfam Campaigns office on 942 3892.
- Fri 6th **Greenpeace Youth Group**. 7.30pm. Trent University library, Shakespeare St. ☎ Megan MacFarlane, 921 2246 to confirm venue.
- Sat 7th **Notts Cyclists Touring Club Beginners' Section** ride to Shipley Park. Meet 10.30am at Wollaton Park car park off Wollaton Road. ☎ Graham Lansdell on 986 0299.
- Mon 9th **Nottingham Permaculture Association** meeting. ☎ Phil Corbett on 947 4977 for details.
- Tue 10th **'Organic Farming on the Urban Plots of Cuba'** talk & slides by Dr Phil Harris of the HDRA (organic gardening association). 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street. Organised by Nottingham Organic Gardeners and Nottingham Cuba Solidarity.
- Tue 10th **Nottingham Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 1.15pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham. ☎ 960 5843.
- Tue 10th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street. ☎ Tim Gray on 922 3439.
- W/E 14-15 **BTCV Training Event - Charcoal Burning** - learn to make your own. £40. ☎ 931 3316 for details.
- Mon 16th **Notts Wildlife Trust (City)**. 'Breck's Plantation - a Video Diary'. 7.30pm, Browne Jacobson Solicitors, 44 Castle Gate. ☎ 958 8242.
- Mon 16th **Pedals** meeting. 7.30pm, at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station. ☎ Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.
- Wed 18th **Wollaton Natural History Society** meeting - 'Farming and Conservation', from 7.30 at Wollaton Church Hall. £1 entry. All Welcome.
- Wed 18th **Notts Wildlife Trust (Newark)**. 'Beyond the Rockies' presentation. £1 admission. 7.30pm, Jubilee Rooms, Hawton lane, Balderton. ☎ 958 8242.
- Thur 19th **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station. ☎ Ron Gillott on 920 1238.
- Sat 21st **Notts Cyclists Touring Club Beginners' Section** ride to Kingston Brook (Rushcliffe Festival event). Meet 10.30am at Wilford Toll Bridge. ☎ Graham Lansdell on 986 0299.
- Sun 22nd **Create Your Own Nature Reserve** - ideas for your garden or window box during a 1½ mile walk in Bestwood Country Park, from 2-4pm. Meet at Bestwood lodge Drive Car Park. ☎ 967 0042.
- Mon 23rd **Nott'm World Development Movement**. 7.30pm. International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd. ☎ Nick Osmond, 960 7797.
- Tue 24th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street. ☎ Tim Gray on 922 3439.
- Tue 24th **Nottingham Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 8pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham. ☎ 960 5843.
- Fri 27th **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 28-29 **BTCV Training Event - Bowls on a Pole Lathe**. £40. ☎ 931 3316 for details.

OCTOBER 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.
- Tue 1st **Oxfam Campaigning Group** meeting. 7.30pm, upstairs at the Bell Inn, Market Square. ☎ David Eminson at the Oxfam Campaigns office on 942 3892.
- Fri 4th **Greenpeace Youth Group**. 7.30pm. Trent University library, Shakespeare St. ☎ Megan MacFarlane, 921 2246 to confirm venue.
- Sat 5th **Notts Cyclists Touring Club Beginners' Section** ride to Kinoulton. Meet 10.30am at Rushcliffe Borough Council Offices, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford. ☎ Graham Lansdell on 986 0299.
- Sun 6th **Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. ☎ 975 5169 for details.
- Mon 7th **Greenpeace Support Group** meeting at the Peacock, Mansfield Road. ☎ David Meatcher on 925 7186.
- Tue 8th **Nottingham Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 1.15pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham. ☎ 960 5843.
- Tue 8th **NOGS (Nottingham Organic Gardeners)** meeting. ☎ Rob Williams on 922 8617.
- Tue 8th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street. ☎ Tim Gray on 922 3439.
- W/E 12-13 **BTCV Training Event - Tree Felling**. Free. ☎ 931 3316 for details.
- Mon 14th **Nottingham Permaculture Association** meeting. ☎ Phil Corbett on 947 4977 for details.
- Wed 16th **Wollaton Natural History Society** AGM, from 7.30 at Wollaton Church Hall. £1 entry. All Welcome.
- Thur 17th **Notts Transport 2000** meeting. 7.30pm at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station. ☎ Ron Gillott on 920 1238.
- Mon 21st **Pedals** meeting. 7.30pm, at the Tom Hoskins pub, near Nottingham BR Station. ☎ Hugh McClintock on 981 6206.
- Tue 22nd **Nottingham Women's Environmental Network** meeting. 8pm at 5 Meynall Grove, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham. ☎ 960 5843.
- Fri 25th **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.
- Sat 26th **'One World Week' 'All Age Day'**, with Drama, Discussions, Arts, Crafts and Music. 10am-4pm, The Becket School, Nottingham. ☎ Wendy Pearce on 958 5517.
- W/E 26-27 **BTCV Training Event - Hurdle Making**. £40. ☎ 931 3316 for details.
- Mon 28th **Nott'm World Development Movement**. 7.30pm. International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd. ☎ Nick Osmond, 960 7797.
- Tue 29th **Friends of the Earth** meeting. 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street. ☎ Tim Gray on 922 3439.

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.

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ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

CORRIDORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

Nottingham is fortunate in having several major linear wildlife habitats - or corridors - which link the City to the surrounding countryside, including the Greenwood Community Forest. Nottingham's most important corridors include the River Leen, River Trent, Nottingham Beeston Canal and Fairham Brook. These corridors also form valuable routes for people to walk, cycle, learn about wildlife or just admire the surroundings.

In April 1994 a number of organisations formed a partnership called 'Corridors to the Countryside' to improve these corridors for both wildlife and people. The project is run by Nottingham City Council's Department of Leisure and Community Services.

The organisations which form Corridors to the Countryside and to whom it owes much of its success are - Nottingham City Council, Gedling Borough Council, Ashfield District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Countryside Commission, Environment Agency, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Groundwork Greater Nottingham, Groundwork Ashfield & Mansfield, and British Waterways.

The Project aims to create a continuous network of routes alongside the River Leen, River Trent, Fairham Brook, Nottingham Beeston Canal and associated corridors including disused railway lines. The Project has worked hard to provide access routes, improve the wildlife habitats and landscape of the corridors and involve local communities. Examples of the Project's achievements to date include -

- A path and bridge to link Wigwam Lane to Mill Lakes Country Park.
- A leaflet on the River Leen Greenway - Basford to Bulwell Marketplace.
- A mural created by Top Valley School to



Top Valley students with the wildlife mural they have created on Hucknall Road Walkway.

interpret the wildlife of the Hucknall Road Walkway.

- Shrub planting on Silverdale Playing Fields by Nottingham City Rotoract.

Corridors to the Countryside depends heavily on local residents, community groups, access organisations, landowners and business to make the project happen. If you would like to find out more about the project please contact -

Jenny Southwell, Project Officer, Corridors to the Countryside Project, Parks and Open Spaces (Development), Department of Leisure and Community Services, Nottingham City Council, Woodthorpe Grange, Nottingham NG5 4HA (phone 969 1666 ext 3120).

CYCLING IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

City County Forest is a new guide to leisurely cycling in Nottinghamshire, from the Nottingham cycle campaign group Pedals and Nottinghamshire members of the national Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC).

There are forty routes in the book, ranging from 4 to 45 miles, on and off-road, plus another dozen links so that you can join routes up. All of them have been specially selected, surveyed and described by expert cyclists from Pedals and the CTC, with beginners and the not-so-fit in mind. Each route has an introduction to the ride, with an easy-to-follow route description and a sketch map. If you need help or to buy a

bike, there's a list of bike shops - and since cyclists get hungry, an essential list of tea-shops.

Even the oldest and simplest of bikes can take you the few miles to follow most of the routes in City County Forest. They follow either quiet minor roads which carry few cars, or easily rideable sections of bridleway, forest track, cycle track and canal towpath. All have also been designed as far as possible to make car travel unnecessary. Most start from major towns, while some make use of trains.

Nottinghamshire is one of England's finest

BESTWOOD COUNTRY PARK

Situated immediately to the north of Nottingham, 4 miles from the city centre, Bestwood Country Park contains a wide range of beautiful and valuable habitats in an accessible site which is open to all. In fact, the 'best kept secret in Nottinghamshire' contains within its 650 acres just about every type of countryside to be found in the county.

A network of 20 miles of footpaths and horse trails wind through woodland, heath, grassland, formal gardens, ponds, lakes and water meadows. Wildlife includes plants, fungi, invertebrates, mammals, and especially birds, for which this is one of the best sites in the Midlands.

The site contains a number of features of historical and archaeological importance; formerly part of Sherwood Forest and a Royal hunting preserve, the area is mentioned in the Domesday book. The Park also encompasses much of the reclaimed site of Bestwood Colliery, which closed in 1967. The colliery Winding Engine House, with its steam engine and winding gear, is being restored by volunteers, many of whom worked at the colliery.

Bestwood Country Park has been a remarkable success story, with about 500,000 visitors per year and 60 school children per term day using the environmental education centre. The task of balancing this with conservation of the countryside is handled by the Rangers Service, which manages the Park. As well as covering public safety and education the Rangers lead an extensive programme of guided walks, events and conservation tasks throughout the year. They are helped in their conservation work by a large number of volunteers.

For more information, or to order a list of events and activities in the Park, contact the Countryside Administration Office, Bestwood Country Park on 967 0042.

counties to begin cycling in. There's a surprising range of scenery - superb forests and woodlands, a great river, historic market towns, villages and secret, hidden hamlets, linked by 3000 miles of minor roads - ideal for cycling.

'City County Forest' will be published in the autumn and will cost £5.95. It will be available from bookshops and some bikeshops. To order a copy in advance, please send a cheque payable to 'Pedals Publications', c/o 22 The Copse, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7RS (phone 964 1869).