



# Friends of the Earth

## ACTION FOR GREEN SPACES

There are currently many proposed developments in the centre of Bath. Bath FoE are proposing that the council should use these as an opportunity to increase the percentage of green space in the historic core of the city from 4% to 8%. Proposed sites are:

- ✍ the cattlemarket/Hilton site (scheduled for redevelopment)
- ✍ Saw Close car park (scheduled for closure)
- ✍ Broad St car park (scheduled for closure)
- ✍ Manvers St car park
- ✍ Avon St car park (scheduled for redevelopment).

Helen and Chris have been busy lobbying the council about this and Bath FoE have held two days of action to raise public awareness of the campaign.

Susan Traill and Richard took photos of the existing sites and Susan did 'artists impressions' of how they could look. On Saturday 28 May Chris, Sue, Steve, Helen & Dave staffed an event in the town centre to generate support for the campaign. A display showing the proposed green spaces as they had been in times gone by, as they are now (car parks) and as they could be, was exhibited at Saw Close and in front of the Hilton. Information sheets were distributed and people were invited to sign a petition to the council and to sketch their own ideas. Richard's wind band provided musical accompaniment,

attracting many passers-by. Most were supportive of our campaign and we collected almost 100 signatures.

A second event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> August, when more signatures were collected and again people had the chance to draw their own visions of what the new green spaces should/could look like. A few car park spaces were turfed over (temporarily, of course!) and Eak Art performed a dramatic picnic, which included home-made cookies and a game of chess. Rain put paid to badminton and sunbathing, but again, lots of attention was attracted and people liked our ideas.

Many thanks to Bath-based *Cycles Maximus* for the loan of their rickshaw on both occasions.

## NEW COORDINATOR

It has been my pleasure and great experience to have been group coordinator of Bath FoE over the past 18 months. It is with some sadness that I have just retired from this active post so that I can embark on a two-year University course in Oxford.

So I'd like to introduce our new coordinator, Scott Morrison, to whom I have recently handed the helm of our group. Some of you may have seen Scott pictured in the Chronicle a couple of weeks ago following our second "Green Spaces" event. And those of you on OUR email list will already have been receiving e-bulletins from him!



**Green space for the day – campaigners picnic on Saw Close car park**

The council's attitude to our proposals is favourable, so we are hopeful that we will see more green spaces in the future if we keep up the pressure.

### What can you do to support the campaign?

- ✍ Sign our petition to the council, and get friends/neighbours to sign it - copies available from [sueboard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sueboard@yahoo.co.uk) or call 335962.
- ✍ Contact your councillor - details at [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk).
- ✍ Write to Councillor Nicole O'Flaherty, Executive Member for Leisure and Tourism, and Cllr Gerry Curran, Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability, both c/o Guildhall, Bath BA1 5AW.
- ✍ Contact us if you would like to help.  
*Sue.*

I shall be around from time to time and if anyone needs to contact me, please send your communication to Scott and he'll forward on to me. Scott's contact details appear on the back page of this newsletter.  
*Chris.*

## RADIOACTIVE NEWS

Jeremy and I both got to the CORWM (Committee on Radioactive Waste Management) meeting in Thornbury last month, which was in a small room, so that about ten of the sixty people had to stand - the previous meeting in Bridgewater had attracted only 4 people. The first half was largely taken up with explaining the function of CORWM, which is to decide in principle what to do with the stuff, but without any definite locations in mind - so a lot of potential local sting was taken out of the equation.

When the audience eventually started to contribute, a well-meaning but naïve & ignorant lady from the pro-nuke camp launched into a long statement of how radiation is a natural phenomenon, all behaving in the same way and perfectly safe really. After about ten minutes of this I could restrain my exasperation no longer and interjected a loud "No!" followed by the fact that the poisonous stuff produced in nuclear power stations does not occur in dangerous quantities in the natural world. At this point the Chair called for a strategic tea-break, before the temperature reached melt-down and I had to leave for a Neways meeting nearby. The crunch will come when the decision has to be taken about whose backyard it will be buried in.

By co-incidence, a secret list of 537 possible burial sites has just been published thanks to the new Freedom of Information Act. Most of these are in remote uplands or on existing nuclear sites – which are not so remote.

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After a gap of 2 years, a new volume of *Radioactive Times* has been published, giving the uncensored account of what went on in CERRIE, The Government's *Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters*, which was set up by the excellent but ex-Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, before he was sacked by Tony Blair. CERRIE could not agree on a joint final report, so the Low Level Radiation Campaign have had to produce their own minority report, which is available to campaigners at the special price of £5, from LLRC, The Knoll, Montpelier Park, Llandindrod Wells, LD1 5LW.

LLRC is also asking people to contact MPs & MEPs about the EU proposal to dispose of nuclear waste by diluting it with non-radioactive material and using it to manufacture goods – e.g. kitchen utensils, childrens' toys etc.....!

*Richard Carder.*

## REAL FOOD FOR REAL PEOPLE

These days, it's difficult to ignore the toll on our landscape at the hands of supermarket culture: whatever the symptom – dead and buried communities, boarded up local shops, bland/generic food, declining health, agribusiness monopolies, GM contamination, monoculture farms, disappearing biodiversity, road expansion, increased car use... All these problems have thrived happily alongside the rise of the 'Big Four', and their associated bad habits: refrigeration, out-of-town shopping, and

cheap imports. It's a sad fact that around three quarters of all food trade in the UK is siphoned away by big business, and for what? Better value? Convenience? Let's just feign ignorance of all the hidden costs that such catchy phrases conceal, shall we? – environmental clean ups, tax subsidy crutches, loss of jobs and choice, spiralling health care ...

So what can we do to reclaim our right to real food and real life?

For starters, you can grow your own organic food – cut out the middle man! Or you could join a food co-operative: there are a couple of co-ops [not *The Co-op!*] in Bath, including the Southside Food Co-op in Twerton, and the London Road Food Co-op. At London Road, we club together with collective bargaining to get decent, healthy organic fruit and seasonal veg, at the prices we all can afford. Wherever possible, we source from local producers [JP, Funny Farm, Hobbs House], cutting down on food miles, and also stock Fairtrade, organic and veggie/vegan dried goods/foods at next to cost price, to boot. Some members trade in their own home-made and grown foods. Non-profit, non-hierarchical, volunteer-run co-operatives such as these allow us to grab back yet another chunk of control in our lives and diets, strengthening the community ties that capitalism is all too happy to shed.

## The London Road Food Co-op

Riverside Community Centre  
York Place  
London Road  
Bath  
07837 784715  
[www.organico-op.org](http://www.organico-op.org)

Always glad for new members, and gladder still for anyone that can help out!  
*Steve.*

## KEEP OUT GMOS AND LESSEN CLIMATE CHANGE

The sighting of the first superweed, a cheeky charlock, result of the UK field trials of Bayer's genetically modified oil seed rape, is no surprise to those of us who have campaigned hard against GM crops. This common weed, resistant to Bayer's herbicide thus needing a more powerful chemical if it is to be destroyed, was produced by a small scale field trial. Just think how much more damage commercial growing of GMs could do to our environment, natural plants and agriculture.

Oil seed rape is part of the "brassica" family, which includes turnips, cabbages, broccoli, brussels sprouts and many wild plants, such as charlock (wild mustard). The promoters of the field trials had assumed that there would be no cross-pollination between oil seed rape and charlock. I wonder why, but I am not a scientist and common sense is just hysteria, isn't it? The herbicide resistant weed is noted in the report on the final trials of winter oil seed rape this spring. The report did not reveal where it is.

Although the government ruled against the commercial growing of herbicide-resistant summer oil seed rape and sugar beet because of the negative results of the field trials, Environment Minister Elliott Morley voted at the end-June EU Environment Council that national bans on GM crops by other member states should be lifted. These included the French and Greek moratoria on GM oil seed rape because of the possibility of widespread environmental contamination. Germany, Austria and Luxembourg are the other responsible governments with bans.

Thanks to all of you who emailed Mr Morley asking him to truly represent the British people. The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) replied to national FoE and not to the senders of the online emails, stating that: "The UK Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment agreed with the European Food Safety Authority that no such evidence [of scientific data to support the bans] had been provided." Since both the Committee and the Authority are populated by those in favour of the biotech companies, this is not surprising. The "scientific" reasons for political decisions are purely commercial. The politicians' duty of care to the electorate is out the window.

## Same old GM panto

Because the big biotech companies are determined to control the multi-billion dollar food and health market, whenever we have a success, we need to heed the pantomime audience's classic cry: "Look out! It's behind you."

No thanks to Mr Morley the Council decided to keep the national bans. The EU Commission followed up with a moratorium on growing GM crops, but there is no time limit set on this. It is likely that the "moratorium" will last until there is an EU law on the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops.

But in any case, the "moratorium" does not cover Spain. The Commission allowed Spain to grow GM maize in 1998, despite the Council voting against any GM crops.

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Spain has now approved new varieties of GM maize unilaterally. This summer the Commission approved two types of insect-resistant GM maize for cultivation. Insect-resistant crops contain pesticide.

- Don't buy Spanish maize! If it's GM, it should be labelled according to EU law, but who can trust a government that will not disclose any of the commercial GM crop sites, as EU law requires? Bona fide Spanish maize farmers may be selling GM maize without knowing it.
- Buy little or no food from Spain. The country is facing desertification because of its intensive agriculture. Spaniards have first claim on their own food and we should support our farmers here.

### Food miles and climate change

We want to cut down food miles. It is heartening to know that Gordon Brown shares our view. I hope his concern adds up to a row of beans.

In July DEFRA issued a report stating that the annual cost of food miles in the UK was a staggering £9 billion, with impacts on road congestion, accidents, climate change, noise and air pollution.

- Time to buy local.

GM allows a very few, very large global companies to control world food (and health) through patents. Our food will come from anywhere these companies find it most profitable to produce, increasingly in the poorest countries, so the poor will be feeding the rich even more than they are now. The companies that stand to gain most are American firms Monsanto, Dow and Dupont, German's Bayer, and Switzerland's Syngenta. It's interesting that Switzerland has a moratorium on GM crops. Those Nimby gnomes!

- When you buy exotic food, buy Fairtrade, which ensures the farmers get a living, sustainable wage.

Think of this: US agriculture depends on exports, not on its home market, for its prosperity. It uses water taken from Canadian rivers, and this is not sustainable in the long term at the current rate of use. Because there is no consumer demand for GM and there has been consumer rejection of GM in Europe and the Far East, the US government had to increase farm subsidies. Yet the media frequently implies that the US has no farm subsidies and the EU should eliminate its subsidies to make things fair.

GM tomatoes containing fish genes were designed for freezing, long shelf life in the

warehouse, on a freezer lorry and then unfrozen in the supermarket. I met the man who was inserting a virus into a potato to make it absorb less fat when deep fried. Vital work to maintain the unhealthy western diet, resulting obesity and health problems, which provide pharmaceutical companies with billions in profits. Now researchers at the University of Bath are designing GM cassava (manioc), an African root and staple crop, for long shelf life, therefore not for local consumption. This philanthropic project funded by Bill Gates is apparently struggling over how to get round patent rights to allow African farmers to keep seed for free, as they do with traditional seed. Why didn't Bill Gates fund research into traditional food crops in Africa, rather than patented GM crops in Bath? Also he is not the first financier of this research in Bath. Did Monsanto or some other aggressor pull out?

### Supermarket action

The supermarkets have been tough on the EU Commission to date, demanding if it is possible to guarantee zero GM content from non-GM crops if GM crops are also grown. Early on, the Commission stated it was not possible. In the current debate on coexistence the Commission is using the 0.9% "acceptable" level of GM contamination adopted in the EU labelling directive as the benchmark level for field contamination. But organic food is not allowed to have any GM content. Monsanto's bullying of US farmers who did not want to buy GM seed, using claims of theft of patented seed when non-GM crops are contaminated, should be a warning to all European farmers. The new EU Environmental Liability law, which sets out producer liability for pollution, specifically excludes GM.

Last year the Commission approved imports of two types of GM animal feed (both maize) since the new labelling law took effect in April 2004. The maize was not approved by the USDA because it contains an antibiotic marker gene of the penicillin family capable of producing antibiotic resistance in humans.

- National FoE has an online campaign to email the largest four supermarkets, ASDA, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Morrison to make them hold to their commitment to phasing out meat and dairy products from animals fed on GMs. Go to

[http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real\\_food/press\\_for\\_change/gm\\_labelling/index.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/press_for_change/gm_labelling/index.html)

- National FoE is also urging us to demand all our supermarkets to only stock milk and dairy products from animals not fed on GMs. Marks and

Spencer is the only one to make this guarantee so far, which shows it can be done. Dairy products are used in bakery, ready meals, sauces, chocolate and many other foods.

### Bite Back

The Bite Back campaign continues regarding the World Trade Organisation dispute between The USA, Argentina and Canada vs the EU over GMs. The WTO Panel's interim report on the case is due out this month, with the final report due in October, after which there is an appeal phase.

If you haven't yet signed the petition, go to [www.bite-back.org](http://www.bite-back.org)

*Susan*

## IMPRESSIONS ON A TALK BY JOANNA MACY

Joanna Macy spoke at Bath University in May about the Great Turning: the change required to move from an industrial growth society to a life sustaining one. Her talk was inspiring and was followed by an unprecedented standing ovation. One facet of her talk was particularly well described.

There are two worlds that co-exist today. The first being the one people are most familiar with. It is a world littered with mortgages, jobs, takeovers, shareholders, car tax, insurance, new 4x4s, ipods, elections; it is a world of politics and corporate profit. The driving force of this world is profitability and through some sleight-of-hand in the 1980s many of us were convinced that there is some overseeing principle that means great profitability brings the greatest good to the greatest number.

The other world has always been there, and if we take a deep breath and unscramble our busy lives it will resurface. It is a world of mountains and wetlands, backyards and birdsong, music and poetry. It is a world of vast wealth: minerals, gold, oil, coal, fruit, trees and topsoil, water and sunlight. And there are increasing numbers of people inhabiting this world; those combating the destructive nature of the first world; those inventing and discovering ways to live compatibly with this natural world, and those whose motivation in life has turned from what is most profitable to what is needed.

The overwhelming power of the first world with its insistence on growth as the measure of success threatens to annihilate this 2<sup>nd</sup> world. In so doing the corporate world is committing suicide, as all life ultimately rests in the health of the planet. Our only hope is in the migration of

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people from one world to the other: when my solicitor quits his job 2 years ago to retrain as a social worker, when the local council spends more on the arts than it does on a health spa for the tourists, when we buy from a green grocer selling local produce instead of Asda. When the bottom line is no longer about profit or low price.

The recently completed election campaign resounded with silence about the politics of sustainable life and climate change.

This process of change, the Great Turning, that we are a part of, though unheralded in the media, is too slow for the governments who can only deal with 4 more years. Tony Blair, George Bush and Gordon Brown don't feel they have to face up to the aftermath of our current path, it will be someone else's problem. And they won't, because it requires a kind of courage and insight that perhaps only surfaces when imprisoned in a cell in South Africa or when forced to flee your homeland from the advancing Chinese Army. Perhaps we can awaken that courage with the realisation that life on earth is under siege.

The Great Turning to a life-sustaining world has a long way to go; there is no guarantee that we (human beings) will survive.

But rather than be overwhelmed by the power and seductive influence of the first world, we can be invigorated by the challenge. Our place in history, as the beginning of a collective force for change is far more significant than recent election results in Washington and Tony Blair's "historic 3<sup>rd</sup> term".

The first world is on an unsupportable climb: continuing in its current direction it will self-destruct. We need to protect the real world from being destroyed in the process. If there is still something left after the fall, life will continue.

The arguments between the environmentalists and the corporations are not even the issue here. When we take time to slow down, sit quietly and breathe in what is actually before us, be it beauty or pain, our hearts open a little and the true power of the universe, compassion, has a chance to speak. And I begin to lose interest in what profits me.

*Scott Morrison.*

## NEW CAMPAIGN – [www.TheBigAsk.com](http://www.TheBigAsk.com)!



According to a recent NOP survey, 73% of people do not think that the Government is doing enough to tackle climate change. But taking action has never been easier and more effective.

Perhaps this campaign has already popped up by way of the TV, the radio or an email in your inbox. "The Big Ask" is the big new national campaign by Friends of the Earth and it is one of the most joined-up examples of how positive action can lead to real changes at the highest level.

### Radiohead

Supported by Radiohead's Thom York, The Big Ask is a campaign to support the adoption of the new Climate Change Bill. If adopted, it will commit the UK to year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. If it sounds simple that's because it is. A cross section of climate policy experts believe that this is the only way to really achieve the required changes in our economy over the long term.

### Top Politicians

The Climate Change Bill is supported by former environment minister Michael Meacher (Labour), with the backing of former Environment Secretary John Gummer (Conservative) and Liberal Democrat environment spokesman Norman Baker, and a coalition of organizations.

Climate change is of course an international issue, but it is very important that the UK leads by example. As the Big Ask Climate Manifesto states: "...the UK is

in a powerful position to show leadership and stimulate international action on climate change because it is one of the richest and most powerful nations in the world."

If we do not act, then how can we expect China or India to eventually agree to international agreements? Emissions have actually gone up under Blair's leadership!

Importantly, this is an issue for the G8 meeting in Scotland this July. Blair has stated that Climate Change is a top priority, but so far he has not put his words into concrete action.

### Take Action

To make your voice heard, go to [www.thebigask.com](http://www.thebigask.com), which explains everything. It will take you less than 3 minutes to add your support. Alternatively, if you don't use the internet, simply write to your MP asking him to sign Early Day Motion 178 - The Climate Change Bill.

*Jeremy.*

## YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR PLANET

Members of Bath FOE attended the Your Community, Your Planet Conference, on 8 July, organised by *envolve*, to complement the G8 proceedings up in Scotland.

There was a distinctly global feel, with delegates from as far afield as Lithuania and Romania, as well as from all over the UK.

The Catering Crew provided a locally-sourced lunch – with labels to show many food miles each dish had travelled - it's amazing when you add it all up. Try it next time you sit down for lunch!

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Professor Geoff Hammond, from The University of Bath gave an interesting and thought-provoking presentation on. Your ecological footprint is the area of land needed to support your lifestyle and can be calculated by taking into account the following aspects of your daily life: Food, Transport, Where you live, Energy in your home, Waste.

Delegates were each given a calculation sheet to work out our ecological footprints (at our leisure) and I think even the greenest amongst us got quite a shock to see the final figure. There will be more about ecological footprinting in a later issue.

Bath FoE was one of many "green" stalls there on the day and we met lots of old friends and contacts, as well as hopefully new members. Above all, it was a really good day for finding out what other Projects are going on locally and in the UK. Chris and Scott attended an inspiring workshop session on Eco-Teams, with Global Action Plan (see [www.globalactionplan.org.uk](http://www.globalactionplan.org.uk)) and Helen and Vicky learned how the Bradford Community Environment Project uses gardening to encourage communities to engage with their environment - lots of useful stuff here that could be followed in Bath, with links to allotments and food co-ops.

Thank you to all at *envolve* for an interesting day, some food for thought and much inspiration.

*Vicky.*

## TITBITS FROM AMSTERDAM

In March, my wife Jane, and I, went on a trip to Amsterdam. Jane goes to conferences and one or two are currently being held in the Netherlands. Last November she travelled alone by plane but worried that 'green' people should not fly unnecessarily. As I felt like celebrating my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, we went together by Eurostar on this occasion.

I am sorry I no longer have the time or energy to be a transport activist but thought readers would be interested in the following observations:

Amsterdam Central Station was not the end of the outward journey. We had to find the hotel, so we took a tram. We would recommend Amsterdam trams - they run an extremely frequent service and of course seem far superior to Bath buses! They and the Metro link with three park and ride sites. They provide a fast service because private cars are certainly not

encouraged. The number of cars is low anyway because the flat terrain is very suitable for bicycles. I am sure Amsterdam would have become gridlocked years ago if a high proportion of its cyclists had changed to car transport.

It is also possible to travel by boat. The motor launches of this service are powered by an ecologically-friendly type of gas but the boat service seems to be a fun thing for tourists and not a serious mode of transport for the general public as in Venice.

At breakfast, we met a Tanzanian coffee bean farmer. He was in Europe promoting fair trade coffee which he and fellow farmers were cultivating on the lower slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.. We discussed global warming and he said it was due to forests being cut down. Amazingly, he did not mention the burning of fossil fuels as a cause. At the end of the break, our Tanzanian friend went on to Bonn in Germany by train. Jane took a train to a provincial industrial town for a conference and I entrained for Brussels. What a lot of trains!

I caught a Eurostar from Brussels and sat next to a salesman from India who claimed he had the biggest suitcase on the train. A UK salesman would probably use a car to carry his wares. Sadly, I did not say goodbye to my Indian fellow passenger. He was nabbed by a customs officer at Waterloo who obviously spied his large suitcase. I suppose it was a fair cop although it was sad, as he was travelling for business purposes in an environmentally-friendly way.

I arrived at Paddington. The rear locomotive of the Bath train was belching black smoke. An hour before, I had been on the country's fastest train powered by electricity. Electricity generation does normally also pollute but this diesel monstrosity really was getting up peoples' noses in the middle of a big city. Yes, for a few days, I had seen how transport should be run. Now I was really back in bungling, bumbling Britain.

Ninety minutes or so later, I was in Bath. With no taxis available, there was nothing for it but to take the number 13, the nation's favourite bus service. As I waited for it, I sensed that the air was less pure than in Amsterdam.

I sometimes wonder why Bath attracts so many visitors. It cannot be for the pollution and the rotten transport. It must be for the baths and the beautiful buildings of course. However, the pollution and rotten transport seem set to kill off this beauty and the resultant business income if we do not take care. The French Romantic poet Alfred de Musset once penned the

following line about another tourist city: "Dans ce vaste égout qui est Paris" (trans. "In the vast sewer that is Paris"). He would probably have said the same about contemporary Bath. Jane Austen made similar comments about horse manure and transport. Plus ça change!

*John Shepherd.*



is a new shop that has opened up in Green Park Station. It is the idea of Peter Andrews of eco-logic books, Greg Meanwell of Neal's Yard and Anton Saxton of the Natural Paint Company. They decided to make common cause as all three were concerned, together with other issues, about the number of man made and unnecessary chemicals in everyday products.

Seven Generations has a range of goods: paints and stains, cleaning materials, nappies and baby care products, cosmetics and shampoos that are reasonable in price and good to use. To further our minimal impact philosophy we also offer the biggest range of refills for Ecover and Bio D products. We have a large range of topical and practical environmental books and if it is not on our shelves and still in print we can order it for you.

Come and see our shop, and if you like what you see to tell your friends and relatives. One good turn deserves another and if you come to the shop on any day (except Saturday) in October and wave a copy of the fine FoE newsletter at our shop workers we will give you 10% off all your purchases.

We look forward to seeing you in at our shop at Green Park Station.

*Peter Andrews.*

## NEW BATH FOE MEETING VENUE

An era of Bath FoE monthly meetings held at the premises of the Bath Environment Centre is coming to an end. Due to organisational re-structuring within Envolve, Bath Foe will be meeting at a new venue starting with our AGM on Tuesday 31st January 2006.

Details will be posted on our website and in our next newsletter.

*Chris*

## UPDATE: BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION

Have any you noticed a greater frequency of planes flying over Bath this past year or so? I certainly have. Sometimes I see them, other times I can only hear that distinct penetrating whine of powerful engines passing across the sky.

It makes me think how ignorant, uncaring, or both, many people still are about the effect that their holiday flights are having on the stability of the world's climate. Concentrations of carbon dioxide are now at 380 parts per million, nearly 30% higher than at any time during the last few hundred-thousand-year ice-age-to-interglacial period cycles.

Below are excerpts from my recent letter to the Chronicle in which I answered the question: Are there any protest groups against the expansion of Bristol International Airport?

*"Yes, there is". Organised by Ms Pip Sheard of Bristol Friends of the Earth, this protest group has brought together a whole host of concerned people in communities and action groups across North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and the Bristol and Bath areas.*

*Readers may have seen and heard on local TV, radio and papers about several actions already executed [by the group], including the handover of a climate change bill to the Airport Management on 19<sup>th</sup> May.*

*The protest group also issued a petition to Bristol City Council on 12<sup>th</sup> July calling for a public meeting at which Bristol International Airport would be asked to justify their expansion plans, particularly relating to environmental aspects. Locally and globally, climate change will increasingly affect every area of all our lives. We'll also experience a significant*

*spread of flight paths over an enlarged area including the skies above the City of Bath.*

*Let us not forget the additional road building that would be required, and the inevitable increase in road congestion and air and noise pollution which would transpire through airport expansion, and not just immediately around the airport but radiating out through the Chew Valley with negative knock-on effects all the way to the City of Bath.*



*Most recently, the protest group have commissioned an analysis of the ostensible economic benefits to our sub-region as propounded by the airport masterplanners. This should make interesting reading if similar assessments are anything to go by. These have shown up some shocking number-juggling to boost support for the otherwise wholly unsustainable growth of civil aviation as encouraged by the present government. How perverse, when talking about Britons jetting off on holiday, that Labour Environment Minister Elliot Morley said last month: "But there is an environmental cost; in particular, flying has a significant environmental impact because of the distances covered and the amount of CO2 emitted."*

It is our understanding that B&NES have made no 'formal' comments to the airport whatsoever..... because they have not consulted the people of B&NES first, and won't do so until this autumn. **LOOK OUT FOR THIS CONSULTATION**, and please spare a half hour to write a response! Every letter counts!

And yet the Council have already formulated a preliminary Joint Local Transport Plan with the South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and

Bristol Local Authorities which allows for the expansion of Bristol International Airport.

To add your voice to the protest group or to contribute in some way, contact Pip Sheard by email <pip\_sheard@hotmail.co.uk> or phone 01225 835633. The group have produced an excellent leaflet which has been distributed across the region and to Councillors in the four local authorities. To receive copies, contact Pip or request a pdf from info@bath-foe.org.uk

Chris

**FROM ASHES RISE** is a new business that has started life as a market stall in the Green Park Market most Saturdays. We specialize in clothing, books, aromatherapy products and music. Our clothes are fair-trade for men and  
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women, from Namaste, who are recognized by BAFTS (British Association of Fair Trade Shops.)

There are a mixture of books from AK Press on such diverse topics as anarchism, anti-capitalism, environmentalism, gender, animal rights, fiction, spirituality, poetry and music. Alongside these, we have a selection of books from local authors, such as Mick Leigh's comical or even romantic poetry, Kevan Manwaring's book of poetry and prose *Writing The Land* (all proceeds to Friends of the Earth) and his novel, *The Long Woman*. We also have beautiful hand made books of poetry from former bard of bath, Helen Moore.

For the music lover we have a small but growing selection of music at present mostly focusing on the alt rock scene, but expanding shortly into all sorts of music, including local artists.

Finally, to relax you, we have an exclusive aromatherapy range from America; gorgeous naturally produced, environmentally friendly candles and bath products. We have free gifts to give out with purchases. If we don't have what you want, we are also always open to suggestions of how we can develop our range. From *Ashes Rise* is committed to conducting business in a sustainable and fair manner. *Steve*

## WALLINGTON'S LTD, GUILDHALL MARKET, BATH

Sean Wallington and his wife Elaine started making their own bread because they wanted to give the kids something wholesome to eat. Sean remembered his grandma making dense, tasty bread that was a total contrast to the spongy, air-filled stuff from the supermarket, so he decided to start making his own. Friends kept asking for loaves and in the end they decided to turn their baking into a business. They sell at farmers' markets as well as the Guildhall, and the café in the Guildhall uses their loaves.

Most commercially produced bread is made using the industrial 'Chorleywood' process. Traditional bread making requires dough to be fermented and 'proved' over several hours. The Chorleywood process avoids this by incorporating the air and water using high speed mixers and chemical oxidants, and then using hardened fat and emulsifiers to stop the bread collapsing. Because 'processing agents' don't have to be shown on labels, you will not see any of this mentioned in lists ingredients; they all conveniently disappear under the term 'flour improver'. Even bread baked 'in store' uses ready-mixed dough made by

this process. Wallington's use traditional methods of proving, no hydrogenated fats, and they use organic local ingredients as far as possible.

As well as the standard white, wholemeal and malted bread, they specialise in bread with names like 'Mediterranean Feast' (containing green olives, sundried tomatoes, a hint of garlic, and olive oil), Multiseed with Pinenuts, or Cheddar Gorgeous (which lives up to its name). They also produce tasty rolls, cakes and muffins. *Sue*



## BOOK REVIEWS: **CAPTIVE STATE** BY GEORGE MONBIOT

This is a powerful, detailed book which details Monbiot's assertion that power in the UK is seeping away from Government to private corporations.

On **PFI (Private Finance initiative)** Monbiot tells the story of the Skye Bridge. The deal with the private consortium means that the value of the tolls they will raise will be three times the cost of building the bridge!

On **genetic modification**, Monbiot draws attention to the fact that GM companies have been permitted to patent genes themselves, rather than just the techniques for extracting and modifying them. It is as if a company had discovered the light bulb and then been allowed to patent electricity! The GM companies claim that without this measure, research would not be viable and therefore would not happen. In fact, the opposite is true - allowing whole genes to be patented has stifled research. In the 1980s, Doctors at St Marys Hospital developed a test to detect whether or not someone carried the cystic fibrosis gene, helping to speed up diagnosis and treatment of patients suspected of suffering from this disease. In 1990, the Hospital was contacted by a company in Toronto, claiming to own this gene and demanding a licence fee and royalties every time the hospital carried out its tests. Luckily, in this case, the hospital discovered that the Canadian company did not yet possess a patent in the UK, but if they had, a major obstacle would have been put in the way of the potentially lifesaving work done by St. Marys.

Monbiot is also unsurprisingly scathing about the role of **Supermarkets** in the UK. An organisation called the SAFE alliance has found that some of the vegetables being sold at two supermarkets near Evesham had been grown just a mile from the town, but made their way to the

supermarkets via Hereford, Dyfed and Manchester!

On **Development issues**, Monbiot asks why, in every other country in the EU, local people who disagree with a council's decision to approve a development can use the planning system to object to it, but in the UK only developers can appeal against a council's decision.

This is a well researched book and deserves a read.

*David Searby.*



## **NOT ON THE LABEL**

FELICITY LAWRENCE (PENGUIN, £7.99)

This is a fascinating and horrifying exposé of what happens to supermarket food. Felicity Lawrence is an investigative food journalist and she shows what lies behind those perfect, healthy-looking fruit and vegetables and those ready meals with the tempting pictures and mouth-watering descriptions on the packet. She reveals a world of bubbling vats where hydrogen is pumped through vegetable oil, vast cement-mixer tumblers churning chicken scraps with additives and flavourings, fuming baths full of chlorine ten times stronger than in a swimming pool. And it's not just the industrial production methods which cut quality to reduce price that are alarming. There are the people stories - such as starving third-world producers having to take their kids out of school because they are paid so little for their crops, immigrant farm workers terrorised by ruthless gang bosses and Asian coastal farmers thrown off land to make way for large-scale prawn farms. Not to mention the chickens who grow so fat so fast, their legs can't support their weight. And the human consumers of high-calorie processed foods who are heading the same way....

The book demonstrates how the food world is full of 'spin', with all the emphasis on presentation and none on quality or taste, and no concern for the well being of consumers or producers. Anything used as a processing aid does not have to be shown on the label. You may have thought there was not much they could do to a simple salad or a piece of chicken, but you'd be in for a shock! The supermarkets justify themselves by claiming all this is done because consumers want cheap, attractive looking food. Read it and see what you think when you know the facts. The book is well written and moves along at a cracking pace. It's guaranteed to anger and amaze you - and change the way you shop.

*Sue*

## October

- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Recycle Your Sundays. Bath Abbey 10.30am  
Salford & beyond. Pub lunch AND possibly  
tea. Vicky 334727
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Bath Greenpeace monthly meeting  
7.30pm Envolve, Green Park Station
- Tues 11<sup>th</sup> BRLSI Lecture, 16 Queen Square, Bath, 01225  
312084. 7.30 pm – “How Transport can Deliver  
a 60% Reduction in CO2 Gasses by 20?? !” –  
John Grimshaw, Sustrans
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Green Drinks, upstairs at The Rummer 8.30pm
- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Bath Cycling Campaign, upstairs at The  
Rummer 7.30pm
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup> ICE Lecture series, University of Bath  
“Reinventing the Greens – The German Green  
Party after Two Terms in Government” 01225  
386156
- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Recycle Your Sundays. Bath Abbey 10.30am.  
Salford, Priston, Monkton Combe. 25 miles.  
Pub lunch. Steve Lambeth, 01225 462064.
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Bath FoE monthly meeting 7.45pm  
Envolve, Green Park Station**

## November

- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Recycle Your Sundays Bath Abbey 10.30am.  
Paul, 01373 466185
- Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Green Drinks, upstairs at The Rummer 8.30pm
- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Bath Greenpeace monthly meeting  
7.30pm Envolve, Green Park Station
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Recycle Your Sundays Bath Abbey 10.30am.  
Isabel, 01225 867363
- Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Bath Cycling Campaign, upstairs at The  
Rummer 7.30pm
- Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Bath FoE monthly meeting 7.45pm  
Envolve, Green Park Station**
- Tue 29<sup>th</sup> ICE Lecture series, University of Bath “Making  
Business Sense of Climate Change – The  
Carbon Trust Approach” 01225 386156

## December

- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Recycle Your Sundays Bath Abbey 10.30am.  
Erica, 01225 837944
- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Bath Greenpeace monthly meeting  
7.30pm Envolve, Green Park Station
- Tue 10<sup>th</sup> ICE Lecture series, University of Bath  
“Green Chemical Technology Metrics”  
01225 386156
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Green Drinks, upstairs at The Rummer 8.30pm
- Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Bath Cycling Campaign, upstairs at The  
Rummer 7.30pm

Group Coordinator	Scott Morrison	463555
Membership Secretary & Treasurer	Mike Gordon	334516
Webmaster	David Beasley	425200
Spokesperson and Press liaison	Sue Board	335962
Newsletter Editor	Vicky Stone	460688

## Campaign Group / Activists

Local Government	David Searby	312770
Waste	Andy Nelmes	338742
Toxics	Richard Carder	313531
Real Food and GM	Susan Traill	339861
Transport	<b>Vacant – contact Scott if interested in post</b>	
Biodiversity, Habitats and Open Spaces	Vicky Stone Sue Board	335962
Climate & Energy	Helen Woodley <b>Vacant – contact Scott if interested in post</b>	

Would you prefer to receive your copy of the Bath Foe newsletter via e-mail?

If so, e-mail Vicky at v270167@yahoo.co.uk to receive the newsletter as an easy to read & easy to print pdf file.

Bath FoE meets on the last Tuesday of each month at Envolve, Bath Environment Centre, Green Park Station. (new venue as from January '06 to be confirmed)  
Meetings start at 7.45pm. **All are welcome.**

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Subscriptions – £6 pa per household or £3 if unwaged.  
Standing Order or cheque payable to “Bath FoE”.  
Contact Mike Gordon, 3 Raglan Street, Bath. BA1 6HP.

**When you join Bath FoE you get  
free membership of National FoE for 1 year**  
(Tell your friends)

**Please check your address label to see if your subs are due**

This newsletter is produced quarterly.  
Send items to Vicky :v270167@yahoo.co.uk as plain text. Include photos/images (images can be tiff, gif, bmp or jpg)

For occasional news updates between newsletters please email a request to [info@bath-foe.org.uk](mailto:info@bath-foe.org.uk)

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