



Friends of the Earth

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

We haven't produced a newsletter for a while, but we've been far from idle. Campaigns that we've been working on in and around Bath include:

- **Waste and recycling** – with the new contract for the collection of waste and recycling up for tender, we have been working with Bath & NE Somerset council to try and ensure a greener and more comprehensive collection of waste and recycling.
- **Stop Bristol Airport expansion** – we've been supporting Bristol Friends of the Earth and Stop BIA in their campaign to stop further expansion at Bristol Airport. See page 2 for more details.
- **The Big Ask** – see page 2 for an update on this campaign.
- **The Planning White Paper** – see page 2 for news on this campaign led by National Friends of the Earth.
- **Green spaces** – we are supporting a new local group Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in their fight against plans for new housing developments that threaten to erode hundreds of acres of countryside in B&NES. For more information on the campaign, go to www.nourbansprawl.org.
- **Lambridge Park & Ride** – this continues to be a contentious issue and Helen has been keeping a close eye on developments.

- **The school run** - especially with regard to the bus services available to schoolchildren in Bath.

- **Publicity** of environmental matters – in partnership with Bath Greenpeace, we have held Green Light Lectures at the BRLSI in Queens Square. These have all proved to be interesting and lively debates and topics have included:

The Climate of Poverty - is climate change destroying development?

With speakers Dr Paul Clifford from Christian Aid and our very own Scott Morrison

Decentralised Energy – part of the solution to climate chaos?

With speakers Dr Julia Spraggs, leading Oxford University academic and Greenpeace "climate communicator" and a representative from ESD, Corhsam based company specialising in sustainable energy solutions

Walking the Walk - How the UK's leading councils are reducing their CO2 emissions

With speakers Bill Gething from Fielden Clegg Bradley, Architect & Sustainability Advisor to the President of RIBA and Mick Company, Woking Council's Climate Change Project Officer.

SUPERMARKETS: How the retail giants are destroying traditional farming, local food supply and the quality of our food.

With speakers Robin Maynard, Director of Communications, Soil Association and Alison Fogg, Director of British Agriculture Marketing & consultant to several TV documentaries

In April, just before the local elections, in association with Greenpeace and Bath Organics Group, we held a Green Question Time, where members of the audience were able to put questions to candidates from the four main parties.

If this has whetted your appetite, more Green Light lectures are planned for later this year. See page 2 for further details.



See you at Green Park!

Thanks to those nice, environmentally aware people at Green Park, we are now able to run a regular stall at the farmers' market at Green Park. Look out for us on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Come and pick our brains on matters environmental, take part in the local campaign or just say hi!

Extra stall volunteers always welcome, so please contact Scott if you're interested in joining us.



Susan, Dave and Chris on our stall at Green Park in July

PEDALLING INTO ACTION TO SBAE

Saturday June 17th was the second European day of Action on Aviation. Numerous anti-airport expansion groups in the UK and around Europe were out protesting against the serious problem posed by increasing air passenger numbers and the conflicting messages sent out by government, on the one hand ostensibly tackling climate change, and on the other hand supporting aviation expansion.

Locally, the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) campaign alliance was given support by over 30 cyclists who gathered at Bristol Temple Meads train station to highlight the alternatives to short-haul flights. Train travel is a significantly lower carbon-emitting cross-country alternative to short-haul air travel, and yet the local rail network is at capacity and cannot increase without substantial investment in re-signalling works. Such necessary works are not even scheduled in Network Rail's current investment plans.

Meanwhile Bristol International Airport (BIA) is still in the process of preparing a planning application due to be submitted in September 2007. Their masterplan has the ultimate aim of doubling and then tripling air passenger numbers by 2015 and 2030 respectively.

After a good speech to the press by Bristol FoE's Jeremy Birch, the cyclists, including Chris from Bath FoE and members of FOSBR (Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways), set off from the Temple Meads

under the watchful eye of television cameras and newspaper reporters, and then proceeded to travel 9 miles southwest to Felton and the entrance to the airport.

Here they were greeted by the cameras and reporters and the new manager of the BIA expansion masterplan. Our protest objectives were keenly and eloquently explained by campaigners Susan Pearson and Pip Sheard, and then we rounded off the morning with two circuits of the airport entrance roundabout whilst police temporarily stopped car traffic.

We all then ate a hearty lunch of provisions generously donated by local 'real food' companies which stood us in good stead for a pleasant return cycle ride to Bristol. That evening ITV covered the story, as did Radio Bristol and GWR. Several newspapers also reported the day of action including The Bristol Evening Post.

A few weeks later on July 10th, the front page of The Independent newspaper featured the successful campaigning of anti-airport expansion groups around the country, recognising SBAE as being "By general consensus, one of the most impressive protest groups.....which has the support of North Somerset District Council."

The paper reported that Manchester airport expansion plans had been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate who supported the objections of Macclesfield Borough Council, and on the same day The Guardian newspaper reported that Luton's airport expansion plans had been scrapped.

As already mentioned, BIA is now due to submit a planning application, despite serious concerns as raised by SBAE and North Somerset Council about the economic justification for airport expansion, and the impact that expansion would have upon carbon emissions and climate change in light of central government's CO2 reduction targets.

YOU can respond to the planning application by writing to North Somerset Council and expressing your concerns and objections. You can be notified of when and how to do this by requesting an email alert from the SBAE website www.stopbristolairportexpansion.com

Or you can look out for the planning submission by keeping an eye on the Planning pages of North Somerset Council's website for the next couple of weeks www.n-somerset.gov.uk (follow the "BIA masterplan" link), or visit the BIA website www.bristolairport.co.uk

Chris.



COMING UP...

Weds 26th September

"Nuclear Power" – a lively debate on the prospects and implications of nuclear energy in the UK, with speakers Dr David Clubb, Senior project Manager, Centre for Sustainable Energy and Frank Moran, Bath Greenpeace.

Tuesday 13 November

"Peak Oil" and "Transition Towns" – details and speakers to be confirmed.

Both lectures are to be held at the BRLSI, 16 Queens Square, Bath, 7.30.pm Doors open at 7pm. Entrance £3 (unwaged £1.50)



Cyclists at the start of their 9 mile ride to Bristol Airport



Last year, over 130, 000 Friends of the Earth supporters nationwide asked their MPs to support the introduction by the Government of a climate bill.

This happened in November 2006, but now we need to make sure that the bill is tough enough. A strong law will allow the UK to play its part in tackling climate change. And it would set an example that the rest of the world could follow.

The majority of MPs last year said they wanted such a Bill. This year we need to make sure they stick to their word and support a strong Climate Bill. Many local Friends of the Earth groups have their work cut out encouraging their MPs to support a stronger bill, but we are pleased to say that we have the support of our MP, Don Foster.

Go to <http://www.thebigask.com> to join The Big Ask online web march, along with other FoE supporters, including many famous faces, who are all asking the Government for a strong climate law.

PLANNING WHITE PAPER

We collected signatures on our stall at Green Park in July - thanks to all signed our postcards for this campaign, or took part in an "e-action" to oppose the new planning laws which would "give the green light to massive new developments while stripping away opportunities for affected communities or the wider public to input on the decisions."

The consultation ended on 18 August and country-wide there were over 15,000 responses to the consultation. As a result, most of the bias in favour of developers has been removed, however, the Planning White paper is still flawed.

To find out more and take action, go to <http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/local/planning/>

Friends of the Earth is a member of a coalition of social and environmental organisations campaigning for a system that puts people at the heart of the planning system. Visit www.planningdisaster.co.uk where you can also find an interactive map of large projects.



RECYCLE YOUR SUNDAYS Autumn rides 2007

tranquil countryside - quiet lanes -
village pubs - relaxed pace

all cyclists welcome

September 23rd
Tucker's Grave and Faulkland.
Pub/cafe lunch. 25 miles.
JANET 01225 837944

October 7th
Corsham and Biddestone. Pub lunch.
30 miles.
FRANK 01225 428882 or 07791
499869

October 21st
Mystery ride. Pub lunch.
STUART 07952 687371

November 4th
Doynton. Pub lunch. 30 miles. Meet
9.45-10.00
HUGH 07966 080005

November 18th
Colliers Way. Bring sandwiches. 30
miles.
TRICIA 01373 474086

December 2nd
Priston. Bring sandwiches. 20 miles.
Meet 9.45-10.00
PHIL 01225 464625

December 16th
Marshfield. Christmas lunch at the
Catherine Wheel. 25 miles.
TONY 01225 312961

**You will need to pay a £5 deposit to
Tony Ambrose, 31 Bloomfield Avenue,
Bath, BA2 3AB by the end of
September to secure a place**

**Meet by Abbey Churchyard, 10.15-
10.30 unless stated otherwise**

**Make sure you have water and
energy food with you**

Bring lights for shorter days

**Plans can change – ring the ride
leader if the destination matters to
you**

ffi ring Hazel on 01225 469199

DIARY 2007

September

- Monday 24th Bath Cycling Campaign, 7.30 pm, upstairs at "The Raven"
- Wednesday 26 Greenlight Lecture – "Nuclear Power", BRLSI, 16 Queens Square, Bath, 7.30 pm.
- Friday 28th "BIOFUELS: Sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels?" - Professor Matthew Davidson University of Bath. BRLSI, 16 Queens Square, Bath, 7.30 pm. Call 01225 312084

October

- Monday 1st Bath FoE monthly meeting 8pm. Stillpoint (next to YMCA) Broad Street**
- Tuesday 2nd ICE Seminar – "Hydrogen and Fuel Cells - part of a Sustainable Energy Future" - Dr David Hart, Head of Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Research, ICEPT. 4.30 pm, University of Bath. FFI call 01225 386156
- Monday 8th Greenpeace monthly meeting, 7.45pm, Stillpoint (next to YMCA), Broad Street
- Tuesday 9th "The SW Spatial Strategy: its implications for Bath and North East Somerset" - Stuart Todd SW Regional Assembly. BRLSI, 16 Queens Square, Bath, 7.30 pm. Call 01225 312084
- Wednesday 10th Green Drinks, 8.30 pm, upstairs at "The Rummer"
- Saturday 13th Bath FoE stall at Green Park Farmers' Market.
- Tuesday 16th ICE Seminar – "The Economics of Adaption to Climate Change" - Richard Boyd, Department of Economics and International Development, Bath Uni. 4.30 pm, University of Bath. FFI call 01225 386156
- Monday 22nd Bath Cycling Campaign, 7.30 pm, upstairs at "The Raven"
- Tuesday 30th ICE Seminar - "Tuesday 30 October Assessing Environmental Risk - Integrating Science and Society". Professor Guy M Poppy, School of Biological Sciences, University of Southampton. 4.30 pm, University of Bath. FFI call 01225 386156
- Monday 5th Bath FoE monthly meeting 8pm. Stillpoint (next to YMCA) Broad Street**
- Saturday 10th Bath FoE stall at Green Park Farmers' Market.
- Monday 12th Greenpeace monthly meeting, 7.45pm, Stillpoint (next to YMCA), Broad Street

November continued

- Tuesday 13th ICE Seminar – "Innovative Construction Materials - Their Contribution in Sustainability". Professor Peter Walker, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, University of Bath. 4.30 pm, University of Bath. FFI call 01225 386156
- Tuesday 13th Greenlight Lecture – Transition Towns – speakers to be confirmed. **BRLSI, 16 Queens Square, Bath, 7.30 pm.**
- Wednesday 14th Green Drinks, 8.30 pm, upstairs at "The Rummer"
- Monday 26th Bath Cycling Campaign, 7.30 pm, upstairs at "The Raven"
- Tuesday 27th ICE Seminar – "Casting stones for environmental improvement. Professor Barry D Crittenden, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Bath. 4.30 pm, University of Bath. FFI call 01225 386156

Who Does What

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Please check your label to see if your subs are due.

Subscriptions £10 (£6 unwaged) Send cheque payable to "Bath FoE" to Mike Gordon, 3 Raglan Street, Bath, BA1 6HP or contact Mike to request a standing order form.

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

All items for newsletter welcome - send items to Vicky, preferably by email or disk as **plain text**. Include photos/images.

For occasional news updates between newsletters please email a request to info@bath-foe.org.uk or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or would prefer to receive via e-mail, contact Vicky or Scott.