



# Friends of the Earth

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## STOP BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION

### Update:

Bristol International Airport has announced that it will not be submitting a planning application until at least the first or second quarter of next year.

Despite this, the airport continues to expand. BIA usage is expected to grow to approximately 7 million passengers per year in 2008, due to the arrival of Ryanair.

SBAE will very shortly be sending out details on how to respond to the Core Strategy Consultation being run by Bath and North East Somerset Council and North Somerset Council highlighting the airport as a major issue. And there will be opportunities to pressure Government to include emissions from aviation in their Climate Change Bill in the near future.

For more information, go to:  
[www.nobristolairportexpansion.co.uk](http://www.nobristolairportexpansion.co.uk)



Whilst it is good news that the Climate Change bill was included in this year's Queen's speech, Friends of the Earth's The Big Ask campaign presses on with the aim of getting the bill "beefed up".

If the Climate Change Bill is to ensure the UK plays its part in keeping global temperatures from rising two degrees above pre industrial levels - the temperature rise recognised by the EU as a 'danger level' - it needs to commit the UK to cutting its emissions by at least three percent each year through to 2050 (equivalent to around 80 percent by 2050).

Friends of the Earth is calling for emissions from all sectors - including international shipping and aviation to be included in the Bill from the outset. Up to 10 percent of UK emissions currently come from aviation and shipping and aviation emissions are growing rapidly.

On 29 October, Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the following measures:

\*The target for cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions remains unchanged at 60 percent by 2050.

\*The Bill will not cover the UK's share of emissions from international shipping and aviation. The Committee will report on whether these emissions should be included by September 2009.



Bath MP Don Foster and leader of Bath & NorthEast Somerset Council Francine Haeberling join Bath FoE's Paula Malone on a photo opportunity to show their support for a stronger climate bill.

## **Support Bath Farmers Market or we could lose it**

Bath Farmers Market Ltd needs your support to ensure the Saturday Farmers Market stays at Green Park Station. Its landlord, involve, seemed on the point of cancelling the farmers' lease, but now they have postponed a decision until spring. It could still go against the farmers unless we act to support them.

You can help by writing to any or all of the following: The Bath Chronicle; Chris Head, Director of involve; MP Don Foster; and to your local councillors saying that you support Bath Farmers Market at Green Park Station and that you want the management of the farmers market to remain with the farmers, because they have a 10-year track record of success and promoting local business, and they guarantee that stallholders will always be local producers.

Involve manages the rest of the Green Park Station market on Saturdays and all of the space on other days. But it now wants to take over the Saturday Farmers Market as well. The reason is not clear, especially as involve could do more to develop the market on other days and also regain traders for the other sections of the Saturday market before insisting that it wants control of the successful Farmers Market.

involve has now said it will negotiate with the farmers, which begs the question: why did it not do this before it sparked a damaging spat in the local and national media?

I have been a supporter of involve since its inception as the Bath Environment Centre, and I would like to continue to support it. This spat appals me because it is one environment group against another when we need to work together.

Bath Farmers Market has been at the heart of several Bath FoE campaigns and it provides us and other green groups with space for campaign stalls to raise awareness of the issues with the general public now. We share the same goals of striving for better care of the environment and building a stronger local economy. It is time for involve to show that it is very firmly on our side, and it can do so by showing support for the Farmers Market.

### **Take Action! @**

Write to

1. The Bath Chronicle, Windsor House, Windsor Bridge, Bath BA2 3AU

Or email: [letters@bathchron.co.uk](mailto:letters@bathchron.co.uk)

2. Chris Head, Director, involve, Green Park Station, Bath BA1 1JB  
Or email : [chris.head@envolve.org.uk](mailto:chris.head@envolve.org.uk)

3. Don Foster MP, 31 James Street West, Bath BA1 2BT  
Or email: [FOSTERD@parliament.uk](mailto:FOSTERD@parliament.uk)

Find your local councillor from <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/councilanddemocracy/councillorsdemo>

## **Alternative shopping, Bath-stylee**

[cracyandelections/councillorsinformationandadvice/councillorscontactdetails.htm](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/councilanddemocracy/councillorsinformationandadvice/councillorscontactdetails.htm)

Susan Truill

A recent Guardian newspaper exposé highlighted the all too familiar message that garment workers overseas are not receiving a living wage.

The article cited the usual suspects from our high streets, who continually fail to ensure that those who produce their goods are paid a decent wage. Perhaps more alarming is the fact that the token initiatives they supposedly aim for, don't even come close to being a viable solution anyway. No doubt that Bath's forthcoming shopping developments will house some of the repeat offenders.

So, what can we as consumers do? We wouldn't watch a poverty-stricken woman make a garment for us then pay her a pittance that would mean that she and her family would go hungry, would we? Certainly, not all garments in high street stores are produced this way, but why take the risk?

Ultimately, reducing our reliance on these stores is the answer and, here in Bath, that's really not too hard. Moorland Road in Oldfield Park plays host to some of the most impressive charity shops selling, for the most part, the cast-offs of Bath's chic student population. It's fair to say that these garments may not have been ethically sourced in the first place, but at least you're supporting a good cause by buying them, and recycling at the same time.

Not enough time to trawl through charity shops? Then online shopping is also a good solution. Generally, fairtrade online retailers such as the Natural Collection, People Tree and Natural Store are more pricey than many high street stores, but, for a clear conscience and garments that will last for ages, an extra £10 is surely worth it.

Lastly, don't forget to visit Bath's very own FreeShop, which has recently celebrated its second birthday. Come and join in the celebrations by picking up donated clothes, amongst other weird and wonderful things. And, if

you're having a clear out, remember that the FreeShop's always in need of donations and is run on the second Saturday of every month opposite Holland and Barrett in Bath city centre.

Rachel Rance

**ACTION TO STOP  
ILLEGAL GM RICE**

Take a stand against illegal GM rice and also encourage the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to brush up its act by providing the food industry, local authorities, caterers, retailers and the public with the prompt information they need to stop potentially harmful, unauthorised GM foods.

The GM rice in question is Bayer Crop Science's herbicide-tolerant LLRICE601, which underwent field trials in the US in 1999 and 2001 but was not approved for human or animal consumption. Bayer apparently decided not to develop this rice, but somehow, from January to August 2006, the rice slipped into human food supplies in the US and was exported to Europe.

In August 2006 the US administration informed the EU Commission of this. Under EU law national governments are responsible for dealing with such emergencies. However the FSA

issued no warnings to local authorities or to caterers (the main users of imported American rice) and initially advised the food industry against testing for this potentially harmful rice. The rice would be traceable in tests through its unique DNA.

FoE took the FSA to court for its failure to put the precautionary principle and consumer protection first, and won in February this year. The FSA announced a review of its procedures and opened its 29 November hearing to the public.

 *Take Action! @*

This all looks promising, but we need to take it further and ensure the FSA puts consumers and the environment first from now on.

Please write to Don Foster at  
31 James Street West, Bath BA1 2BT  
Or email: [fosterd@parliament.uk](mailto:fosterd@parliament.uk)  
and ask him to ask the FSA:

- 1) Why they did not act promptly to safeguard consumers against LLRICE601 rice.
- 2) What they are doing to remedy the situation.
- 3) What steps they are taking to ensure a more appropriate response to any future GM emergency.

Susan Truill

## TRANSITION TOWN BATH

“Peak Oil” may still be a term unfamiliar to many, although it has been appearing with growing frequency in recent newspapers. It refers to the impending peak in oil production and the ramifications that the decline in cheap oil will have on our way of life. Our society is completely dependent on oil and Peak Oil will affect every aspect of our lives, from food procurement, transportation and economy to tourism, education and health, not to mention the impact it will have on our attempts to fight climate change. In response to this, some pioneering communities in Britain have embarked upon a “transition” to an oil-independent existence.

The first of these Transition Initiatives was the town of Kinsale, West Cork (popn. 7,000). Here, tutor Rob Hopkins and permaculture students at the local college drafted an Energy Descent Plan for the town, a positive response to peak oil and climate change weaning the community off of its dependence on fossil fuels. At the heart of the movement is a “planned relocalisation”, an inspiring and empowering process of building community resilience and reconnecting to our communities and environment.

Other communities have followed their lead, notably Totnes, Devon but also towns, villages and cities throughout the UK (including Glastonbury and Bristol) and in communities as far afield as Argentina and New Zealand.

A steering group has recently been formed to plan the initial stages of Bath’s energy descent. You should be seeing signs of us in your local community soon, but for more details about Transition Bath or to get involved, please contact Paula Malone (plynnem@yahoo.com) or Peter Andrews ([zen20627@zen.co.uk](mailto:zen20627@zen.co.uk)).

Paula Malone

## A MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE- COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION IN THE SOUTH WEST

Friends of the Earth South West, with financial support from the South West Regional Assembly, recently undertook an inventory and survey of community climate change groups – large and small - in the South West. The full results, with graphics and appendices, can now be found at:

[http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing\\_notes/south\\_west\\_climate\\_change0.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/south_west_climate_change0.pdf)

This document includes a list of respondent groups, a county-by-county breakdown and some more detailed case studies.

One of the most exciting findings is the huge increase in the number of community groups tackling climate change in the South West; 103 have formed since 2005. Most of these groups are “independent”; not part of a larger organisation. The groups have many strengths, but also desire support and collaboration. The quantitative and qualitative results make interesting reading, although important questions remain to be asked.

The other news is that The Co-op, working with the South West Wildlife Trusts, has generously agreed to help us take a networking project forward; working to support and establish county-wide climate change networks.

There will be a workshop in each county to explore how groups can work together more, and what support they need to do so.

We would appreciate any input you have on this idea and process; please email [jane.laurie@swwt.org.uk](mailto:jane.laurie@swwt.org.uk) for more information.

Sara Grimes

🎵 I'm dreaming of a green Christmas... 🎵

**Here are a few tips to help be a bit creative and relieve the strain of Christmas on the environment!**



Opt for seasonal local food and drink. A traditional Christmas dinner is made up of seasonal British produce: buying your food from a local market or grocer helps the local economy and cuts down on food miles, which contribute to climate change. And if you buy your produce loose, it cuts down on packaging too. Plan your food shopping and don't buy too much – in the UK, we throw away one third of the food we buy!!



If you're having a party, avoid serving food and drink on disposable plates and cups - they will just add to our growing mountain of waste. Invite your neighbours and ask if you can borrow some extra crockery from them. Many wine shops lend boxes of wine glasses, if you're buying your drinks from them.



Instead of throwing away all those sprout peelings, why not put your vegetable leftovers in a compost bin? Around 4,000 million sprouts are bought in the week before Christmas, so there's a lot of composting just waiting to happen.

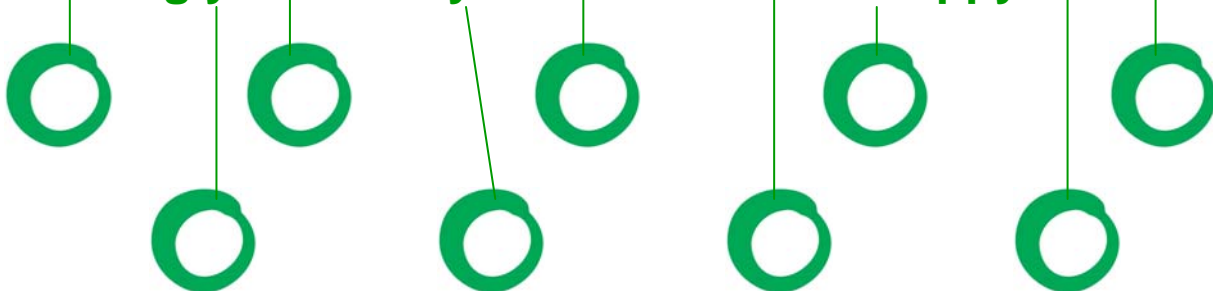


Don't forget that if you've got a real christmas tree, this will be collected free for composting, if you put it out during January. Just make sure to take off all the decorations and leave it at the edge of your property on the date that your garden waste and cardboard is usually collected. If you're not sure of the date, you can contact Council Connect on 01225 394041 or [councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk).



If you don't own one already, make a new year's resolution to buy a compost bin or water butt AND start using it. Making your own compost is very satisfying and your plants will love it. Plants also prefer rainwater to tapwater, so you'll be helping them out at the same time as saving precious water (and money, if you have a water meter!)

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!**



# DIARY 2008

March

## January

**No Bath FoE monthly meeting in January.**

- Weds 9th** Green Drinks. 8.30 pm, upstairs at "The Rummer"
- Sun 13th** "Recycle your Sundays". FFI call Hazel on 01225 469199
- Sun 27th** "Recycle your Sundays". FFI call Hazel on 01225 469199
- Mon 28th** Bath Cycling Campaign meeting, 7.30 pm, upstairs at "The Raven"
- Tues 29th** **ICE Seminar:** "Future flooding: uncertainty and risk." Professor Paul Bates, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol. Venue: 8 West 3.22 Lecture Theatre, University of Bath, 4.30 pm. FFI call 01225 386156

## February

- Mon 4th** **Bath FoE Annual General Meeting, 8pm. Stillpoint, next to YMCA, Broad Street.**
- Tues 5th** **ICE Seminar:** "What happens when ICE melts? From (environ)mental block age to co-creative flow of natural inclusion. Dr Alan D M Rayner, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Bath. Venue: 8 West 3.22 Lecture Theatre, University of Bath, 4.30 pm. FFI call 01225 386156.
- Sun 10th** "Recycle your Sundays". Collier's Way, 30 miles, pub lunch. Meet 10.15 - 10.30, by The Abbey. FFI call Tricia on 01373 447086.
- Tues 12th** **ICE Seminar:** "Climate change, deforestation and ecosystem vulnerability in the Amazon and Andes." Dr Yadvinder Malhi, Reader in Terrestrial Ecology, Oxford University Centre for the Environment. Venue: 8 West 3.22 Lecture Theatre, University of Bath, 4.30 pm. FFI call 01225 386156.
- Weds 13th** Green Drinks. 8.30 pm, upstairs at "The Rummer"
- Sun 24th** "Recycle your Sundays". FFI call Karin on 07952 687371.
- Mon 25th** Bath Cycling Campaign meeting, 7.30 pm, upstairs at "The Raven"
- Tues 26th** **ICE Seminar:** "When it comes to carbon emissions the Built Environment is just that - Built. Dr Paul Ruysevelt, UK Director, Energy for Sustainable Development Limited (ESD), Corsham, Wiltshire. Venue: 8 West 3.22 Lecture Theatre, University of Bath, 4.30 pm. FFI call 01225 386156.

- Mon 3rd** **Bath FoE monthly meeting. 8 pm. Stillpoint, next to YMCA, Broad Street.**
- Sun 9th** "Recycle your Sundays". St Catherine's and beyond, 25miles, pub lunch. Meet 10.15 - 10.30 by The Abbey. FFI call Jane on 01225 423832.
- Tues 11th** **ICE Seminar:** "Saving carbon, by day and night. Dr Christian N Jardine, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford. Venue: 8 West 3.22 Lecture Theatre, University of Bath, 4.30 pm. FFI call 01225 386156.
- Weds 12th** Green Drinks. 8.30 pm, upstairs at "The Rummer"
- Sun 23rd** "Recycle your Sundays". FFI call Tony on 01225 312961.
- Mon 24th** Bath Cycling Campaign meeting, 7.30 pm, upstairs at "The Raven"

**If you have any relevant diary dates to be included in the next issue, e-mail Vicky on [v270167@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:v270167@yahoo.co.uk).**

## 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.  
E-mail to [v270167@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:v270167@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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