

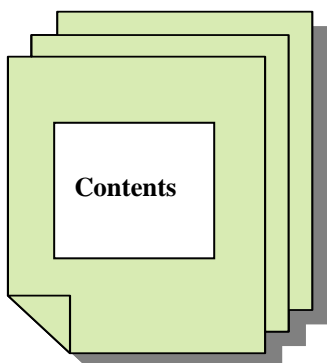
North West Friends of the Earth News

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Friends of the Earth

Regional Newsletter of Friends of the Earth in North West England. **Autumn 2005**
This edition was prepared by Kari Melissa John, Frank Kennedy, and Toye Ogisi.



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Frankly Speaking

“Who runs the world?” is one of those questions to throw out among a group of campaigners...if you’ve got the whole day (at least) to sort it out. Certainly, when collecting responses for the Big Ask on climate change during the summer, we frequently heard people say: “It’s up to George W Bush” or: “If the USA doesn’t sign up, there’s not much we can do.” The activities of major oil companies came in for comment, too.

These are serious points, though it is noticeable that many States in the US, and even a growing number of businesses, are far less blinkered than the White House. Whether the motivation is wanting their grandchildren to have a life, fear of flooding or spiralling insurance costs, more and more organisations are seeking to plan for a low-carbon future. We can only hope it’s not too little, too late – and keep pushing.

In practice, in this country, our **regional planning bodies** have a huge responsibility. They must implement policies about where and what to build - and what and where to preserve - that take into account our need to use far fewer resources, especially fossil-fuelled energy, over the coming years. As outlined in the letter I have enclosed to group coordinators, a consultation process on Regional Spatial Strategy for North West England has just begun. The ‘interim draft’ version pays too little attention to climate change – not setting any targets, for example – and I would urge individuals and groups to let the NW Regional Assembly know this. After all, the RSS will set the tone for all our local plans for decades to come. It’s really important that “non-green” groups raise this, too. Climate change doesn’t merely threaten environmentalists! So please use any contacts you can... The RSS details are at <http://rssnwra.dialoguebydesign.net> and there will be wider consultation next Spring – when we hope to hold one or more training and information sessions.

As you will see from Neil Kingsnorth’s piece below, I will be concentrating more on regional policy such as this, on key regional projects and on networking with other organisations. Neil will be your first point of contact for general help with the running of your group and supporting new groups. Do keep us both up to date with your news!

Frank Kennedy

Regional News

Regional Day for Local Groups, Preston

Our latest regional meeting was held in St Wilfrid’s parish centre on 15 October. Topics included info-sharing about local campaigns, the Big Ask, Conference feedback (and further national news provided by NW Board rep. Dave Coleman), waste treatment in Lancashire, network development in the North West, corporate campaigning and working with young people. **Neil Kingsnorth**, Northern Network Developer, outlined his new role and how it will interact with Frank’s job. **Ed Matthew**, FoE national Corporates Campaigner, led a workshop on the **Palm Oil Day of Action**.

Claudia Sartori, Capacity Building Support Coordinator, held a workshop on how to bring the issues of climate change into schools (as in **Shout About... Week** - 7-11 November 2005). She advised that it is important to be clear about what you want to get out of going into a school, and also to provide a clear outline of what you can offer the school and when. There are many opportunities to link our concerns to the National Curriculum. If we don’t have the time or confidence to work directly with youngsters, we can always make contact with teachers or governors. A free *Shout About* pack is available from: www.foe.co.uk/learning/educators/ or call 020 7490 1555

Introducing Myself *Neil Kingsnorth*

“Friends of the Earth is about taking action and achieving change. At the core of that is the idea of local to global action and at the foundation of all of that is the Friends of the Earth groups network - a web of committed, enthusiastic, energetic activists across the UK confronting, at the local level, the key local, regional, national and global issues that face humanity and the planet. Friends of the Earth recognises the importance of the groups network to its very essence and its ability to win change and that's why, over the past two years, it's invested a good deal of money creating a team to support the network. As some of the groups in the North West know, there is now such a thing as a "Network Developer" in your midst. I am he, and I am the face of that support team for the groups in the North of England. I've spent the last few months visiting many of the groups and intend to visit all groups as soon as I can.



Neil Kingsnorth, Northern Network Developer, introduces himself to NW group members at the Preston meeting

What about Frank? Rest assured that I am not here to replace the much-admired Frank Kennedy - your Regional Campaigns Co-ordinator. However, my presence means that Frank will now be freed up to concentrate more of his time on regional campaign and policy work and I will be here to put my time in to offering support, resources, training and time to local groups as well as helping to get new groups going. I'll also be organising events and get-togethers so that groups can network better with each other and with other organisations.

On the issue of new groups, it looks like we'll be getting a new group up in **Penrith** in the near future. A first meeting of interested people in the area was very well attended recently and they are meeting again on November 5th to make themselves official. A new green network in **Furness** has also recently started which we hope to build up strong links with and there are plans to work on getting new groups off the ground in the **south of the region** too.

From the groups I've visited so far, it's obvious that there is huge variety in styles, campaigns and interests in the North-West. One thing I hope to do is help groups share their skills, knowledge and top-tips more easily so we can all benefit from this amazing network of people. A great opportunity for that is the Northern Gathering we're planning for groups in the **Lake District** on April 1st and 2nd so make sure you put that in your diary now.

Whilst I've got your attention, just a quick plug for the special website Friends of the Earth runs for the local groups - <http://community.foe.co.uk> - it's packed full of information, resources and tools, has a discussion forum and events calendar and it's well worth a look every now and then to keep your group well-oiled and ready to take on the world.”

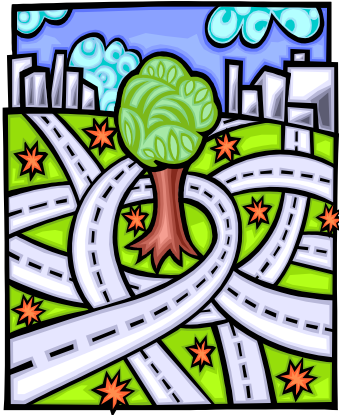
Neil Kingsnorth, Northern Network Developer, Friends of the Earth Leeds office: 74 Kirkgate, LS2 7DJ. Tel: 0113 389 9952, E-mail neilk@foe.co.uk Mobile: 07818 091739.

North West Campaigning Stars!

North Westerners brought home *two* of the four **Earth Movers Awards** presented at this year's national Friends of the Earth Conference at Reading in September. **Jill Perry** of **West Cumbria & North Lakes FoE** landed the 'Commitment to Friends of the Earth' award for her tireless endeavours and media presence, especially on energy issues - often beyond her "patch". **South Cheshire FoE** won the 'Inspirational Voice' prize for their carefully-communicated campaigns and educational work. **Tania Sayer's** presentation featured a slide of the group's version of Noah's Ark, used in climate campaigning - for which **Southport** claim some credit as having "inspired the Inspirational Voice"!

Many congratulations to Jill and to South Cheshire – each of whose awards were accompanied not only by the applause of Conference but by cheques for £250 for their groups to spend on further good work. Compliments are also due to **Manchester FoE**, who once again received a nomination (for their excellent website); and indeed to every group in our region who managed to send one or more representatives. Reading is a fair old trip; so a NW turnout of around 30 was most impressive.

How “green” is your Council?



NW members who took part in a National Conference Networking Session on 11 September thought that, since both **Manchester** and **Liverpool** state that they are working towards being “green cities”, it would be interesting if North West groups could rank our local authorities on environmental issues. Data is being collected on issues such as recycling, waste, transport, air pollution, energy, organic and Fairtrade foods available, Eco Schools and availability of local produce. The data collected by various local NW groups will then be collated and the results publicised. It is a good opportunity to bring to attention local and regional areas for campaigns, demonstrate successes and highlight what improvements could be made. Contact Paul from Manchester FoE on paul@manchesterfoe.org.uk (0161 834 8221) if you have any useful information.

Apple Sourcing Survey, Liverpool

Kari M. John

This month I have done an apple sourcing survey which looks at the availability of organic apples in both supermarkets and greengrocers, and whether the apples are from the UK or abroad. I visited Sainsbury's, Tesco and Somerfield. I also went to a fruit market in Liverpool city centre and an organic food shop in one of the Liverpool suburbs.

I found that Sainsbury's and Somerfield sold no organic apples at all. Tesco sold organic Braeburn apples from New Zealand and Organic Gala apples from the USA. However they were packaged in plastic bags and to me looked far too “perfect” to be truly organic! Bold Street Fruit Market showed an interest in the survey, but informed me that they find organic apples difficult and too expensive to stock. Windmill Organic Shop was selling the following organic apples: Russet, Red Flagstaff, Bramley and Cox. They told me that there are only two organic farms in the Merseyside area and most of the organic food they stock comes from outside the local area. I find this rather a sad state of affairs that there is little locally produced organic fruit and vegetables.

*If you have similar information, or would like to receive the results of this nationwide survey, contact **Liz Wright** on 0113 389 9957 or lizw@foe.co.uk.*

Nuclear Training Day in Penrith (1 October 2005)



Environmental Limits Co coordinator **Roger Higman** with Fred Barker of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management - speakers at the **Penrith** event. Also in picture: Jill Perry (**West Cumbria & N.Lakes** FoE), Margaret Sanders, Anita Stirzaker and Marianne Bennett, (**S.Lakeland** FoE).

Following this valuable Saturday session, attended by a dozen Cumbrian and Lancastrian activists, Friends of the Earth has stepped up its anti-nuclear campaigning. This is in the light of Tony Blair's announcing a new Energy Review which will consider the case for a nuclear new-build programme. Clearly, we need to respond - and to integrate this work into the climate campaign more broadly. Roger Higman is now the media spokesperson on this issue and will be working 2 days a week managing the nuclear project. A nuclear expert will be engaged to strengthen the evidence to support the case, and a consultant will help plan a media/communications strategy that will integrate the Big Ask work. Research on likely public subsidies for nuclear power is being commissioned. ***A nuclear information sheet is enclosed in the group coordinators' mailing containing this newsletter.***

Anti Roads Groups North West Action

A coalition of groups is forming to plan and take action on the multiplicity of road schemes being proposed across the region. The focus will be on getting together and supporting each other, with a demonstration outside the Highways Agency in Manchester on the cards for early next year. Work is underway on an artspace/exhibition and on devising suitable street theatre. If you would like to be kept in touch, or have roadbuilding news to pass on, ring Kirsty on 0161 248 9224 or e-mail amidreaming@riseup.org.uk

Local Group News

Bolton Friends of the Earth (FoE) have got themselves on Bolton Council's mailing list for the new Local Development Planning Framework consultations. They would appreciate help in responding when they are sent technical documents from the Council. Contact Phil Newsham, 01204 366913 or Philip@philpnewsham.wanadoo.co.uk

Burnley FoE have been monitoring local ("mis") planning and have been campaigning on GM foods, local phone mast construction, sustainable development and environmental justice. They are also showing their support for the palm oil campaign by getting involved in the day of action on 29 October.

Central Lancs FoE have been campaigning on issues such as waste reduction and climate change. They held a very successful meeting on the "Stop Climate Chaos" theme on 22 September with guest speaker Professor John Whitelegg. To support the waste campaign, they have designed and printed some fantastic cloth carrier bags with the message "No thanks to plastic bags." The bags are being sold at local shops for £1 and were very well received at the regional meeting. After Ed Matthew's convincing presentation, CLFoE signed up to the palm oil DOA. There is no Tesco in **Preston** so they will do it in the usual place, on Friargate. Five new people turned up to the group's last meeting!



Marion Seed and Dot Kelk of **Central Lancs** FoE show off their cloth bags joined by Elizabeth Shepherd (centre) of **Bolton** FoE.

Hyndburn & Ribble Valley FoE are involved in The Big Ask campaign, the Hyndburn Fairtrade Initiative and opposing the planning application of a new waste treatment facility in **Huncoat**. This threatens to wreak havoc within the greenbelt as it would require new access roads creating more traffic. Slip roads from the local highway have been suggested as a possible alternative but the Highways Agency has turned that option down. Although H&RVFoE fully support better waste treatment, this would make two large waste treatment facilities in the local area and would lead to various other problems including extra landfill sites. Anyone who may be able to advise the group on this is welcome to phone Ian Dixon on 01254 236778.

Liverpool FoE have established links with the city's Capital of Culture Company, with whom they are discussing ways of making its 2008 programme carbon neutral. Capital of Culture officers will attend the group's 16 November meeting. This follows some research done in Cork (European Capital of Culture 2005). A detailed 'clone town' survey of Liverpool city centre, and a 'Shop Local' campaign are being prepared.

Manchester FoE took part in the Manchester Harvest in August, when part of St. Ann's Square became a full-sized allotment to encourage people to start growing their own food. As well as promoting the health and financial benefits of home-grown food, **Manchester** FoE also made the link to the Big Ask campaign in that local food production cuts down on food miles, a growing contributor towards climate change. 150 people, plus Benny the rabbit, agreed: the Government needs to do more to tackle climate change!



Manchester have also been lobbying MPs, asking them to sign a Climate Pledge. Photos available at <http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/mps/index.htm> **STOP PRESS:** Manchester City Council have agreed a £30,000 'Love Your Bike' promotion, devised by MFoE and Creative Concern.

Meanwhile, the **Longsight community transport project** continues with **Graeme Sherriff** now in post as part-time project worker. **Kirsty Ogle** is still giving valuable support, while preparing her own exciting travels in the new year. A Longsight update is now available at www.allnet.org.uk/transport Graeme can be contacted at 0161 248 4248.

Southport FoE ran a stall at the annual Southport carnival in June; a large number of 'Big Ask' postcards were signed and many other carnival-goers began thinking about climate change. They also took part in the procession with their ("now-patented!") version of Noah's Ark following the appearance a strikingly similar vessel at this year's conference...

Pendle FoE are active in the 'Get Knotted' campaign to stop Persimmon Homes despoiling a wildlife site at Knotts Mount in **Colne** (as was being attempted, despite the fact that there is no permission to build houses locally for at least 12 years). To widespread relief in the local community, the bulldozer has been removed...for now. More information has been posted on the FoE Community website.

Chester FoE took advantage of a themed social evening – the last Sunday of the month at Alexander's Jazz Bar in the city – to put on an enjoyable (but also worrying) event on 25 September. It featured local musicians and poets...and Frank Kennedy talking about climate change.

Meanwhile, **Halton** FoE are keeping an eye on the New Mersey Crossing, or "Mersey Gateway" road bridge proposal – for which the DfT still seems to be leaving the door ajar, despite reports that it will cost half a billion pounds...while Alistair Darling has requested further consideration of the M6 Expressway (toll motorway) project, saying that a public consultation which resulted in 98% disapproval meant "opinion was divided"! **South Cheshire** FoE are keeping watch here. For further news of that other NW road scheme, the M6-Heysham Link or Lancaster northern bypass, see www.heyshamm6link.info or contact our **North Lancs** group on 01524 62146.

<p>Transport Campaigners – are you on the NW TAR (Transport Activists Roundtable) mailing list? If not, contact Lillian Burns: 01625 829492 or BrLIn@aol.com</p> <p>Waste Campaigners – have you or your group joined the NW Waste Forum? nwwf@emergemanchester.org.uk / 0161 223 8200.</p>
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National and General News

The Big Ask

Up to 26 October 2005, 27 of the 76 North West MPs had given support to FoE's Climate Bill by signing Early Day Motion 178. The table below shows MPs who have agreed to our call for 3% year-on-year emissions reduction. If you can, collect signed Big Ask postcards. Check if the FoE parliamentary unit* has any more completed cards that you could present to your local MP, and ask him or her to sign the EDM. Take a camera and/or arrange for a local press photographer to be present – hopefully the MP will agree, and his/her green credentials can be splashed across the weekly paper... **If your local MP is not listed in the table below then they have not signed up!** See <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/51012e01.htm> View signatures at: <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=28373&SESSION=875>

* Contact katiee@foe.co.uk / 0202 566 1673

MP	Constituency	Party
Anderson, Janet	Rossendale and Darwen	Lab
Benton, Joe	Bootle	Lab
Borrow, David	South Ribble	Lab
Chaytor, David	Bury North	Lab
Cooper, Rosie	West Lancashire	Lab
Crausby, David	Bolton North East	Lab
Curtis-Thomas, Claire	Crosby	Lab
Dobbin, Jim	Heywood and Middleton	Lab
Ellman, Louise	Liverpool Riverside	Lab
Field, Frank	Birkenhead	Lab
Farron, Tim	Westmorland and Lonsdale	LD
Gwynne, Andrew John	Denton and Reddish	Lab
Heyes, David	Ashton Under Lyne	Lab
Hoyle, Lindsay	Chorley	Lab
Humble, Joan	Blackpool North and Fleetwood	Lab
Iddon, Brian	Bolton South East	Lab
Leech, John	Manchester Withington	LD
Lloyd, Tony	Manchester Central	Lab
Meacher, Michael	Oldham West and Royton	Lab
Miller, Andrew	Ellsmere Port and Neston	Lab
Pope, Greg	Hyndburn	Lab
Pugh, John	Southport	LD
Rowen, Paul	Rochdale	LD
Russell, Christine	City of Chester	Lab
Southworth, Helen	Warrington South	Lab
Stunell, Andrew	Hazel Grove	LD
Ussher, Kitty	Burnley	Lab

Revealed: Country's Most Polluting Power Companies



Friends of the Earth is urging consumers to start pulling the plug on the country's polluting nuclear and fossil-fuel power companies. All power companies are for the first time obliged to tell their consumers how polluting their electricity is. The Table below shows the source of each company's energy and the resulting environmental impact (carbon dioxide and nuclear waste generated):

Company	Coal	Gas	Nuclear	Renewable	CO2*	Nuclear	Waste*
Scottish Power	48%	41%	4%	6%		590	500
British Gas	14%	62%	16%	5%		368	1870
SSE	30%	57%	4%	7.5%	483	500	
EDF Energy	46%	33%	14%	3%		555	1700
Npower	46%	35%	13%	3%		558	1000
Powergen	56%	33%	8%	0.5%	642	1000	
Good Energy	0%	0%	0%	1.00%	0	0	
UK average	33%	39%	21%	4%		460	2500

*Units used: carbon dioxide (grams per kilowatt hour) nuclear waste (micrograms per kilowatt hour)

Source: Green Electricity Marketplace <http://www.electricityinfo.org/> Also you can visit: <http://www.electricityinfo.org/suppliers.php> For more information see www.thebigask.com

Energy Efficiency Talks

Nicola Baird, editor of *Earthmatters* magazine and of FoE's acclaimed book *Save Cash and Save the Planet*, has offered to give talks to local groups about energy efficiency, based on the book. She has found this a good way to spark interest in the larger themes around the Big Ask, and to get new members to turn up to their first meeting. Readers of *Save Cash...* are also becoming FoE members - at least 40 have joined as a result of reading or buying it. Having given talks and workshops at Nottingham, Oxford, Islington, Muswell Hill, South Beds, Birmingham, and the Cymru conference, Nicola reports: "It is surprising how little people know about energy efficiency and how to cut down on their waste." Contact Nicola at: nicolaba@foe.co.uk or telephone 020 7566 1628.

Power Up!

Nothing could be finer than a summer's weekend in South Yorkshire, staying out of the sun (by and large), keeping away (mainly) from the gripping Test Match on the tv, and concentrating on planning, rights and justice at the first Friends of the Earth residential summer school. An invaluable guide to the intricacies of English planning processes, freedom of information laws and organisations than can help... Those who went would highly recommend the experience to those who didn't. And the good news is...the event will be run again in Summer '06 (when there will be no Ashes series to distract anyone). To get your name on the 'interested' list, contact **Tim Sander** on 0113 389 9954 or tims@foe.co.uk

"If you or any community group you know are fighting the developers and trying to understand where the authorities are coming from, then Power Up is for you!" **Jason Addy**, *Save Spodden Valley* (challenging house-building on an asbestos tip in Rochdale; www.Spodden-Valley.co.uk)

Transport Campaigning



Feedback on Community Website

National FoE is running a short survey on what people think of the community website. To participate go to:

http://community.foe.uk/visitor_survey/

Friends of the Earth has launched a new resource for transport campaigners to enable you to get up to the minute information on what's happening in your area.

As part of "Community", FoE's dedicated grass roots campaigning website, the transport pages give campaigners the following information:

- Action Guides on influencing key policies and strategies (e.g. Local Development Frameworks, Airport Master Plans and Local Transport Plans)
- Links to all of these strategies and policies.
- Contact details for our regional offices

Go to the Community website now and find out the information you need to be an effective local transport campaigner. Then, if you like what you see, spread the word - the more people know about this, the more useful it will be.

The web address is

<http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/transport/index.html>

Supermarkets Campaign

Supermarkets Campaigner **Robin Webster** seeks site battles! She is already aware of over 150 planning conflicts between supermarkets and local communities around the country. To strengthen links and mutual support among local campaigners, and to build up strong case study material for national lobbying, a resource pack is being developed. If you or your group has any useful information for Robin, please e-mail her on robinw@foe.co.uk or phone 020 7566 1671. You may like to check the new website: <http://www.tescopoly.org/>

Little Book of Big Green Ideas



185 need-to-know facts, Inspiring quotes and bite-sized, lifestyle-friendly tips

Top tips include:

- Car-share and cut your carbon dioxide emissions. The average commuter drives 19 miles a day. Car-sharing with one other person can save 640 kg of carbon dioxide, reducing your contribution to climate change.

Top facts include:

- **In some parts of the world, the bodies of whales and dolphins washed ashore are so highly contaminated they qualify as toxic waste** (Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society).

The Little Book of Big Green Ideas is published by Think Publishing (www.thinkpublishing.co.uk) and priced £4.99. For more information, tips and advice see also www.foe.co.uk/living

DIARY

November

- 12 10-4 World Development Movement Regional Conference, Friends Mtg House, Liverpool.
10.30-4.30 pm. *Contact: Katherine Bosman, 0800 328 2153 or register@wdm.org.uk*
- 14 5pm: North West Waste Forum AGM Manchester Town Hall.
Contact: Emma Smith, 07949 819385.
- 17 7pm: Campaign Against Climate Change Public Meeting, Friends Mtg House, Liverpool.
Contact: Martin Owen, 07740 864181 or martin@football.com
- 20-22
*Tom Marchbanks would like to hear from any groups who would like to attend the **EU Trade Council Meeting and Protest**. FoE is able to pay the cost of travel from London Waterloo to **Brussels**, plus accommodation in Brussels and hostel meals for any activist wishing to come. **Contact tomm@foe.co.uk or phone 0207 566 1688.***
- 25 Deadline for comments, Interim Draft Regional Spatial Strategy is 25 November.
Details on: <http://rssnwra.dialoguebydesign.net>

December

- 3 International Day of Climate Protest
Contact: 0207 549 0395 / www.campaigncc.org
- 10 WTO Hong Kong Summit: local solidarity actions.
Contact: Tom Marchbanks, 0207 586 1688 / tomm@foe.co.uk

January 2006

- 14 Friends of the Earth Activism Committee meets in NW England
Contact: Clare Horrell, 0207 566 1701 / clareh@foe.co.uk

February

- 4 [t.b.c] NW Transport Activists Roundtable open meeting
Contact: Lillian Burns, 01825 829492 or Frank Kennedy 0151 707 4328

March

- t.b.c.** Public Consultation on draft NW Spatial Strategy begins (13 weeks)
- t.b.c.** NW Friends of the Earth Local Groups' Meeting/Training day/s
Contact: Neil Kingsnorth, 013 389 9552 / neilk@foe.co.uk

April

- 1-2 Northern Friends of the Earth Groups Gathering, Langdale Youth Hostel
Contact: Neil Kingsnorth, 0113 389 9552/ neilk@foe.co.uk

June

- 5 UN International Environment Day

September

- 8-10 Friends of the Earth National Conference, Nottingham University