



Nottingham
Friends of
the Earth

Welcome to Nottingham Friends of the Earth. We are one of around 150 local Friends of the Earth groups campaigning for a better environment locally as well as nationally and internationally. **Friends of the Earth** has a reputation for effective campaigns backed up by authoritative research.

Dirty Energy Lives Here



People and planet before profits: Nottingham campaigners outside the huge pile of coal at Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station, taking part in a National Day of Action organised by Make Polluters Pay

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Clean Air Nottingham monitors City's pollution
- NEW Young Friends of the Earth Nottingham
- Nottingham Net Zero Conference 2023
- Nottingham Youth Climate Assembly
- Sometimes we win: the brakes put on an airport expansion

Clean Air Nottingham now monitors deadly toxic air



Built-in WiFi enables this air quality monitor to transmit data to a real time map, accessible from any smart device.

Clean Air Nottingham (CAN) has just sited four PurpleAir PA-11-SD air quality monitors in and around Nottingham. They continually measure PM2.5, the very fine particles contributing to thousands of deaths each year and affecting the day-to-day life of many more people with long term illnesses such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). These particles are a thirtieth of the diameter of a human hair and have been linked to brain and breast cancers, diabetes, mental illnesses, increased risk of heart attacks and strokes, dementia and other serious health problems.

The City Council only have one PM2.5 monitor in the city located on Lower Parliament Street, opposite the Victoria Centre, which only reveals hourly readings. The latest air quality data for this monitor can be seen at https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/site-data?f_site_id=NOTT&view=last_hour

CAN's four monitors are currently located in Wilford, West Bridgford and two in Sherwood. One monitor will be moved during March 2023 to obtain data from different sites. One can easily view the measurements by logging on to purpleair.com and choosing the real time mapping option. It's then possible to compare the PM2.5 measurements taken in Nottingham with similar PurpleAir monitors located elsewhere in the world, such as Manchester, cities in Scotland or even Utah, USA! Note that the figure you see in a circle is the US Air Quality Index for PM2.5 and not the actual PM2.5 level. The AQI figure shown in bold translates as follows:

- 0-50 represents 0-12 micrograms/m3 (24 hour average)
- 50-100 represents 12.1 -35.4 micrograms/m3 (24 hour average)
- 101-150 represents 35.5-55.4 micrograms/m3 (24 hour average)

After some years of research, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended limits for PM2.5 of 15 micrograms/m³ per day and 5 micrograms/m³ for each year. But experts acknowledge there is no safe level. The City Council's last Air Quality Annual Report showed that the annual average of PM2.5 for 2021 at the Lower Parliament Street site was 8 micrograms/m³. So that exceeds the present WHO limit by 60%.

Enough figures! CAN is just starting to analyse the data. Already we have seen a number of days that exceed the WHO limit, some huge peaks and troughs within a 24 hour cycle and some higher readings in West Bridgford. Could

this be the use of wood fires? CAN plans to revive its Facebook page soon to provide more commentary and information as well as record its data findings.

Lastly an appeal. We'd like to fix more monitors next to schools and around the city. If you would be interested in having a monitor outside your home sometime in the future, please get in touch. And if you or any friend or any business you know, would like to sponsor a monitor, we'd love to have your support. Current cost is just under £300. Just get in touch: rjcritchley@btinternet.com

Roger Critchley

Nottingham Green Festival bounces back



September 2022 saw people flock to Nottingham's Green Festival on a glorious warm Sunday, in a return to normality following the Covid-19 pandemic. With more than 36% of Nottingham households living in fuel poverty, FoE was busy supporting the Warm This Winter campaign, calling for a rapid programme of free basic energy saving measures such as home insulation.

Young Friends of the Earth group established in Nottingham



In the past year, we have seen the UK government fail to deliver at international climate conferences, plan for the first coal mine in over 30 years and allow oil giants to celebrate record profits as ordinary people struggle to heat their homes. There is a need for climate activism now, more than ever.

We are creating a network of young activists in Nottingham and across the Midlands,

Save the Date: Nottingham Net Zero Conference, June 2023

The Energy Research Accelerator (ERA) group is funding Fern Baker, a former member of Nottingham Friends of the Earth and PhD student at the University of Nottingham, to hold a Net Zero Conference at the University. The event will showcase how organisations and people can reach Net Zero and will be supported by Nottingham Friends of the Earth and Clean Air Nottingham. The conference is aimed at PhD students from an ERA partnership university (e.g. Aston University, Cranfield University, Keele University, Loughborough University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, University of Nottingham, University of Warwick).

Events around Net Zero tend to be based on large scale objectives, such as the Government's 2050 Net Zero goal, however local goals are important contributors to how this is achieved. The plenary session for the event will feature Wayne Bexton, the Director of Environment and Sustainability at Nottingham City Council, who will talk about the city's progress and plans towards their 2028 Net Zero goal. Other talks will include the university's progress towards Net Zero from

campaigning for social and environmental justice.

In the current political climate, it is very easy for young people to feel disenfranchised and apathetic. Through organisations, such as Friends of the Earth, a platform is provided for young voices to be heard on the important issues that will not only affect us, but future generations to come.

Groups like this are especially important in cities, like Nottingham, with such a significant young demographic and Young Friends of the Earth looks forward to joining the amazing campaign work that is already being carried out in the city.

Will Ellis
yfoenotts@gmail.com

the sustainability team and sustainable building design by Professor Mark Gillott at the University, with further speakers to be confirmed on the theme "What are organisations doing to get to Net Zero?" There will also be a workshop for industry, students, and stakeholders to converse on how different sectors can work towards Net Zero and share ideas.

Fern Baker

Date: Tuesday 13 June 2023, 09:45 - 17:00.

Venue at the University to be confirmed.

For more information contact: Fern Baker, PhD student at the University of Nottingham, Email: Fern.Baker@nottingham.ac.uk

About ERA

The Energy Research Accelerator draws on the expertise and world-class facilities of the Midlands Innovation group of universities – Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham and Warwick, plus the British Geological Survey. ERA is funded by Innovate UK, with match funding and support supplied by a range of industrial partners who are working with the organisation on a range of projects across the Midlands.

Climate Justice - This Crisis Demands Action

In 2021 a number of groups came together to form a local Climate Justice Coalition. That organised a large rally in Nottingham to coincide with UN climate talks in Glasgow (COP26 – see report in last year's Down to Earth).

In November 2022 the Coalition organised a rally to coincide with COP27 in Egypt. That was in support of a COP27 Coalition created by African and Arab civil society groups in solidarity with Egyptian groups.

To achieve climate justice the COP27 Coalition demands included:

- Decolonise economy and development:
 - enable a just transition to 100% renewable energy through an equitable

- phase out of fossil fuels;
- prioritise public health, food sovereignty, agroecology and decent living conditions;
- restore nature.

- Have rich countries repay climate debts.
- Stop false solutions driven by corporations who see the climate crisis as a way of profiteering.
- Build global solidarity, peace and justice.

The Nottingham Coalition has continued to coordinate campaign activities locally. For information contact

nottingham@cop26coalition.com

Nigel Lee



Vigil to Defend Nature, in solidarity with The Wildlife Trusts' #DefendNature campaign

Nottingham FoE supports biodiversity campaign

In December 2022 we supported The Wildlife Trusts' Defend Nature campaign, joining other activist groups at a Vigil to Defend Nature in Nottingham city centre. This coincided with UN talks to improve protection of biological diversity.

The talks did agree to protect 30% of global area (land, sea and water) by 2030, but without

adequate funding or protections for indigenous people's rights.

Now the UK government wants to tear up most of the laws that protect our environment – because they were based largely on European Directives. You can support the Wildlife Trusts' campaign at #DefendNature.

Nigel Lee

In brief...

Nottingham Youth Climate Assembly



In July 2022 Nottingham's Climate Assembly organised a Youth Assembly at the University of Nottingham.

The resulting Youth Manifesto can be seen at: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/policy-and-engagement/themes/sustainability/youth-manifesto.aspx>

Themes covered include Food, Energy, Transport, Nature, Shopping & Consumption. Demands include:

- Energy efficient homes
- Safe cycling routes
- Accessible public transport
- Green roofs
- Design for re-use and repair
- Buy local

Nigel Lee



Artwork by Laura-Jay Doohan

Campaign for better recycling



Nottingham City's waste collection service is one of the country's worst for recycling. We have been campaigning for over 20 years for improvements, particularly:

- Separate food waste collection
- Kerbside sorting of recyclables rather than mashing up paper, glass, cans, plastics together as at present

At last the government is forcing all councils to improve recycling and collect food waste separately.

The City Council consulted on proposed improvements at the end of 2022. Our response can be seen at https://nottfoe.gn.apc.org/2212NFOE-Waste_response.pdf

Nigel Lee

Sometimes we win: the campaign to stop the expansion of Leeds-Bradford Airport

Nottingham FoE's Jon Simons recalls a successful campaign, inspiring us that we can win.



Expansion needs an Emergency Exit: XR & GALBA activists demonstrating outside Leeds Town Hall, 2020.

There is so much bad news about the climate emergency it's hard to keep in mind that sometimes we win. That was my experience in Leeds, from where I recently moved. A successful community campaign led AMP Capital, the Australian owners of Leeds-Bradford Airport, to withdraw their plans to expand the airport, nearly doubling flights and emissions, in March 2022.

The first time I knew about the airport's expansion plans was in 2019, leafletting with Extinction Rebellion (XR) about the issue. XR was then in its heyday, but it was good to be able to tell passers-by that they didn't have to sit down in any roads just yet and that a local campaign group GALBA (Group for Action on Leeds Bradford Airport) was forming. GALBA did the lion's share of the work of the campaign, not least by raising tens of thousands of pounds to hire an expert environmental barrister.

Initially Labour-led Leeds City Council was the main target of the campaign because it was up to their planning committee to approve or reject the airport's plan. Sometimes XR and GALBA protested together, such as at the council offices, sometimes GALBA acted alone.

The campaign faced a major setback in February 2021 when the council approved the expansion plan, despite energetic lobbying and the presentation of expert and community evidence against it. A brave XR & GALBA activist undertook a solo protest against the

decision, throwing fake blood on the steps of the Civic Hall, for which she was arrested and charged with criminal damage. That gave us a hook for a series of protests to mark her (often postponed) court appearances, keeping the issue in the local press. I coordinated those events, knowing I could count on not only XR and GALBA, but also support from Unite Community, Greenpeace, speakers from Medact to highlight the ill-effects of air pollution and climate change, street music from the Keep our NHS Public campaign, and groups in the regional Climate Justice Coalition. On a national level, Friends of the Earth had raised legal issues about the expansion.

After the council's approval, GALBA countered with a campaign to have the Secretary of State hold a public inquiry into the expansion plan, which they agreed to in January 2022. Two months later, the airport withdrew their planning application. The fight isn't over yet, as the airport is sneaking in more flights than they're allowed. But GALBA has broadened its scope by taking the government to court over its Jet Zero policy for aviation. I learned from the campaign that there isn't one right way to go about environmental campaigning and every group brings its own valuable approach. Letter-writing, fund-raising, expertise on the issues and legal measures are vital, while non-violent direct action and street theatre sustain public pressure. It took a whole network of organisations to succeed. In summary, ally to survive.

Jon Simons

Contacts

Co-ordinator: Jeremy Jago (c/o Sumac Centre, address as below)
Membership Officer: Nigel Lee, 0115 9788059; Jeremy Jago
Newsletter Editor: Roger Steele, 07474 257029
Website Editor: Nigel Lee, 0115 9788059

Campaigns:

Nottm ProWA: Roger Steele, 07474 257029
Anti-fracking: Nigel Lee, 0115 9788059
Clean Air Nottingham: Roger Critchley (see page 3)
Fuel Poverty: Vacancy
Waste & Resources: Nigel Lee, 0115 9788059
Trees: Vacancy

For general information, please visit our website (see below), or write with an SAE to Nottingham Friends of the Earth, c/o Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX.

For information about joining the group, please mark the envelope "Membership".

For latest campaign news and contact details, visit
<https://www.nottfoe.gn.apc.org>

National Friends of the Earth: The Printworks, 131-143 Clapham Road, London SW9 0HP (020 7490 1555), or email info@foe.co.uk.

See national website <https://friendsoftheearth.uk> for easy online actions.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to meet online on the second Tuesday of each month, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Please email nottinghamfoe@hotmail.com for details. You would be very welcome.

Printed on recycled paper.

If you would like to receive future editions of this newsletter electronically to save paper, please let us know your email address. You can contact us by email via our website (see above), or alternatively nottinghamfoe@hotmail.com. Please note that the file size can be over 1MB.

AGM Announcement

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held online on Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7:30pm. Email nottinghamfoe@hotmail.com for details.

We look forward to seeing you there.