

SWINDON CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Send contributions to e-digest@swindonclimate.org.uk

April 05, 2008 Volume 04 Issue 04

SCAN AGM

16th April 7pm Refreshments 7.30 pm start
Friends Meeting House Eastcott Hill

ALL WELCOME. Speaker, food (bring a dish if you can), elections to committee. Fresh blood welcomed.

Ken buses to Plymouth On his free bus pass

SCAN founder member (if we have such things) Ken Trennery will be celebrating the extension of free bus travel for the over-60s by making a journey to Plymouth - by regular service bus. Ken is keen to promote the use of public transport. "Being a BMW pensioner I can't say I'm anti-car. My theme is to use the car less: walk or use public transport when possible" said Ken who is travelling to visit family in Plymouth

By using the Traveline website (<http://www.traveline.org.uk>) it is possible to plan journeys by public transport quite easily - this journey will take a little over 9 hours, via Trowbridge, Wells, Taunton and Exeter. Ken is travelling down on 3rd April and will return a few days later via Bristol. This will cost him nothing in fares with his new bus pass and his journey will have a minimal effect on his carbon footprint as he will be using regular service buses.

Although the new scheme is not being fully funded by the Government and will therefore force local authorities into further expense (possibly from existing public transportation budgets) it is certainly good that there is some encouragement to use public transport. This trip is entirely Ken's own idea and SCAN is just trying to get some publicity for it, to show some of the possibilities that the new scheme can offer, given a bit of imagination.

The local press and radio stations have all been contacted so hopefully there will be some coverage of this - the Adver and Brunel radio have already shown some interest.

Many SCAN supporters are active in all kinds of 'climate friendly' activities - so please share these with the group!

GREEN PUB Quiz A Success

The 20th March saw SCAN's first Green Pub Quiz fill the tables of the Nine Elms on Old Shaw Lane. Quiz regulars and novices alike met to tackle a mixture of standard pub quiz fare and some new carbon-friendly questions.

Organised by Viv Dipper, SCAN's own fundraiser, with a veg box prize from Purton House, everything went very smoothly if you don't count the fact that the SCAN teams all were soundly beaten. As well as being nearly as much fun as a committee meeting, the quiz raised a triumphant £94 for SCAN and hopefully some climate change consciousness

SCAN Interviewed on Radio 105.5.

Swindon's new Community Radio station <http://www.communityradioswindon.com/> invited SCAN to speak on their early morning discussion slot last week. Deb Joffe, joint co-ordinator, rolled out of bed and onto her bike to head for the County Ground where the new radio station's studio is sited.

The interview, with Shirley Ludford, presenter and director, went very smoothly and we were invited back to take part in a community debate - details will follow!

Tell the Government More Roads are not the Answer

The Government spends billions of pounds of our money on road building. This short-sighted spending endangers our landscape and health and the future of our planet. If all the roads in the current roads programme are built, carbon dioxide emissions will increase by 752,100 tonnes a year. Meanwhile a report by the RAC Foundation is calling on the Government to build even more roads! We need to show the Government that this is a dangerous and very unpopular suggestion. In a poll conducted in November by YouGov, 62% of people said they wanted money spent on public transport, whilst only 30% voted for roadbuilding. Please write to Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly, asking her to invest in public transport rather than roadbuilding.

http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/take_action/alternatives_to_roadbuilding

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday 16th April**
SCAN AGM. Friends Meeting House, [SN1 3JF](#), 7:00pm for refreshments, 7:30pm start. Everyone welcome.
- **Sunday 27th April**
TWIGS Open Day, Cheney Manor Garden Centre, [SN2 2QJ](#), - gardens, allotment, plants for sale, children's activities
- **Thursday May 1st** Local Elections Ask your candidate about climate change!
- **Friday, 9th May, 2008**
Annual General Meeting of the CPRE: North Wilts and Swindon Group at Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall DEBATE "HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT THE COUNTRYSIDE?" CHAIRED BY THE RT. HON. LORD KING OF BRIDGWATER CH with Panel members Mr. CHRIS GINGELL from the National Trust, Dr. RICHARD PAGETT international environmental expert and oceanographer and MR. JEREMY BIRCH from Friends of the Earth on the effect of airport expansion. 6.30 Hall and bar 7.15 Start (doors closed)
- **Sunday 11th May**
Literature Festival Eco Day **Tel 01793 466454**
10am - 4pm • 11 May • £10 adult • £5 child
Includes all talks, workshops, and lunch
http://www.swindonfestivalofliterature.co.uk/11_sun.html at [Lower Shaw Farm](#), SN5 5PJ.
- **Wednesday May 21st** Transition Towns talk - venue to be confirmed



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