

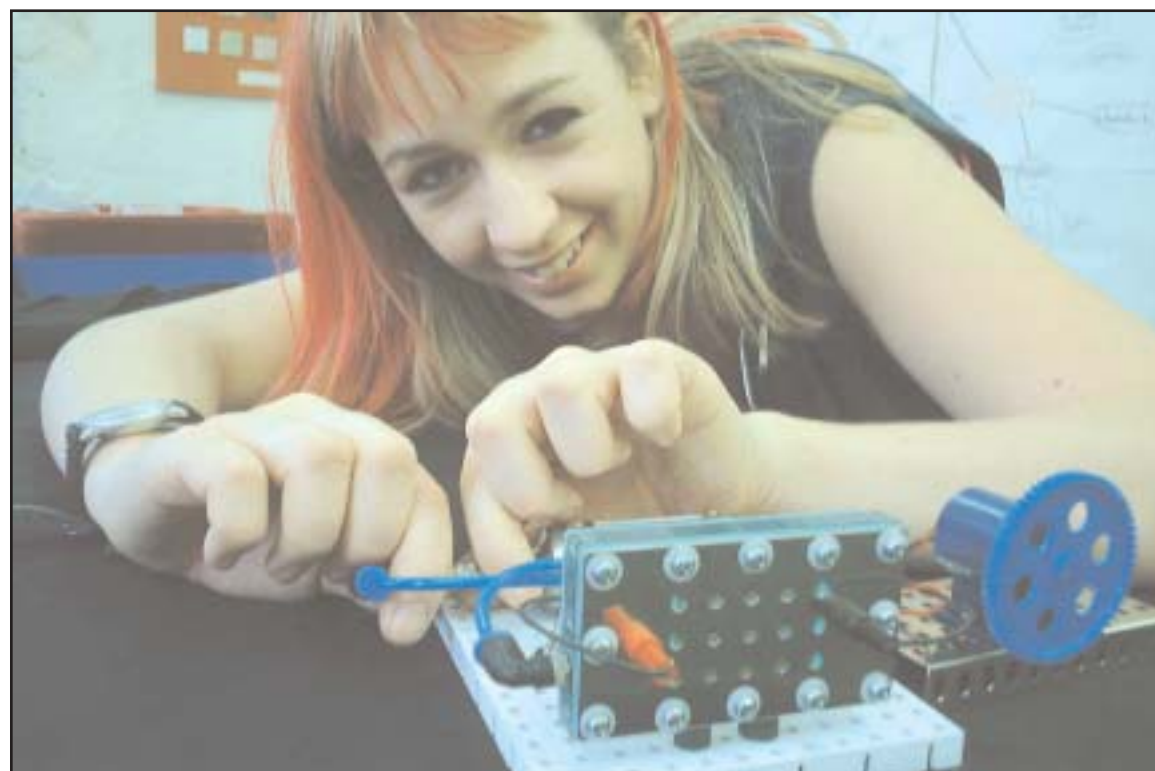
the green page

News and information from the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

ATC CONTACTS

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The views expressed by individuals on the Green Page do not necessarily represent the views of the ATC.



ATC volunteer, Jo Hobbs, assembles a state-of-the-art hydrogen fuel cell kit. The kit which has just arrived at the ATC demonstrates the potential of full sized hydrogen fuel cells, which are poised to provide the world with huge supplies of pollution free electricity.

The fuel cell works a bit like a battery and involves a chemical reaction, which converts the hydrogen into electricity and hot water. According to the Chairman of

the Ford Motor Company, "...fuel cell vehicles will finally end the hundred year reign of the internal combustion engine as the dominant source of power for personal transportation".

- For more information check out the ATC's new Alternative Times newsletter or our soon-to-be-available Understanding the Basics Infopack on the fuel cell.



This month's nomination for Green Room 101 comes from Calderdale Friends of the Earth Co-ordinator, Anthony Rae.

Room 101 is the opportunity to have a good old rant about something we do not like. So I'd like to make it clear that my opposition to air travel is not just from greener than green pretensions (at the moment I'm representing Friends of the Earth at the public inquiry into the proposed new international airport at Finningley near Doncaster) it's also based on ... naked fear. Is there anything more unsettling than staring out of the window of a plane at 20,000 feet? I've had to fly on two or three occasions,

FEAR OF FLYING

when I was younger and more foolish - and wondering: "What on earth am I doing up here!", with only a flimsy bit of metal between yourself and a very fatal impact with terra firma. If God had meant us to fly he would have given us wings, but he didn't, so the moral is: stay on the ground.

As to the more rational arguments, the aviation industry is the only other sector of the global community, in addition to the United States, that thinks it is exempt from having to participate in the Kyoto process on climate change. Air travel is growing even faster than road traffic - 150% increase as against 65% over the next 20 years - and with that comes all those harmful emissions. Not just from the planes but also from the cars taking you to the planes. Just to keep up with that demand, fuelled by ever lower air fares (airlines pay no petrol tax at all) will require more than 100 new Finningley airports over the next 30 years. With this will

come all the other widespread environmental and social impacts associated with airports, such as noise and ever more concrete, which local communities are powerless to do anything about.

Two very good reasons to put air travel in the bin.

- If you would like to submit a nomination for Green Room 101, please send your contribution (preferably by e-mail or on disc or otherwise by fax / post) to John Brierley at the ATC. It has to have a vaguely 'green' theme and be no more than about 300 words.
- We now have a facility for commenting on the nominations for Green Room 101 on our website. Just go to www.alternativetechnology.org.uk and have your say.

In one of his recent columns Sir Bernard Ingham fulminates against lesbians, liberals and - bizarrely - trees. He propagates the idea that Hebden Bridge has become the 'Lesbian Capital of Great Britain'. This label, he suggests, "does not say much for the men of Hebden Bridge". In a few ill-chosen words of jaw-dropping crassness, he manages the neat trick of insulting just about everyone in town. Is he really subscribing to the notion that lesbians can be 'cured' by a good seeing-to? On his next visit to Hebden Bridge I suggest he wears a cricket box.

"Whose side are you on?", Sir Bernard continues, as he berates those who fail to give Bush and Blair their unquestioning support as the world slides into war. Well, unlike Sir Bernard I have little difficulty in condemning the appalling acts of September 11, while also wondering why the rest of the



IT CAN BE DONE.....

Following the revelations in the Hebden Bridge Times of October 5th that Calderdale Council is dumping the metal cans collected from their recycling banks into landfill, Hebden Bridge community recyclers, Kerbside, have stepped in to try to rescue the situation. Kerbside are in negotiations with the council and are currently carrying out a pilot study to assess whether they can take on the job of recycling Calderdale's cans.

Kerbside currently collect from some 2000 homes in the area and all the cans (not to mention the paper, card, bottles...) they collect are recycled. First of all, they separate the aluminium and steel cans with a magnet. The aluminium cans are then taken to Alcan recyclers in Leeds and the steel to Ripponden where it enters the recycling chain, ending up with Corus (formerly British Steel).

As Kerbside's Jamie Johnson says: "Food and drink can recycling should not be treated as a gimmick. It is a cost-effective means of re-using valuable resources to help protect and improve our environment. Recycling is the most practical alternative to landfill and will also save us all money as waste disposal costs continue to rise."

Some facts supplied by Kerbside about can recycling:

- Every steel can is 100% recyclable.
- Producing steel cans from recycled metal saves 75% of the energy used to make it from virgin material.
- For every tonne of steel cans that are recycled 1.5 tonnes of iron ore, 0.5 tonnes of coal and 40% of the water required in the production process are saved.

- Air and water pollution is reduced hugely when steel is produced from recycled cans.
- Aluminium cans can be recycled over and over again.
- Compared to producing aluminium from raw materials (itself an immensely environmentally damaging process) up to 95% less energy is used every time an aluminium can or aluminium foil tray is recycled and 99% less pollution is emitted!
- A recycled aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for 3 hours!

For more information on recycling your food and drinks cans and aluminium foil contact Jamie at Kerbside on (01422) 881110.

BEYOND THE VALLEY...

Positive green news snippets from outside the Calder Valley (but of possible relevance locally....)

DEVON GETS DUNG POWER

Britain's first dung-fired power station should be in action in Devon by January 2002. The plant will turn slurry into electricity, hot water and liquid manure.

About 30 local farmers will provide an estimated 1.6 million tons of slurry a year to the renewable energy scheme. The power station will produce up to 2 megawatts of electricity for the national grid. Biogas drawn from the stored and fermented slurry will drive turbines, while the hot water resulting from the cooling process will heat local schools, hospitals and homes.

CALLING LOCAL GREEN GROUPS

We often get asked in the ATC about local green activities and organisations. To help us answer these kind of questions - and at the same time help groups to promote themselves - we would like to build up a collection of newsletters and other information.

If your group has a newsletter or other promotional material, please drop it in or send it to the ATC (Hebble End Mill, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6HJ). Then next time someone comes in wanting to know about your topic, we will then be able to point them in your direction!

LOCKGATE PLANTERS

Planters made out of reclaimed oak lockgates destined for the Ecopark along from the ATC at Hebble End. They were transported by barge kindly supplied by Callis Mill Lockgate Workshop at Charlestown. Volunteers helped to guide them to their final destinations at three points along the canal, where they will be planted up over the autumn and winter. Benches made from recycled lockgates will also be in place soon. This is the final leg of the ATC's part of Pennine Rural Challenge project, funded by Yorkshire Forward.



Left to right: Susy Feltham from the ATC, Jack (Dogsbody) and Steve (Machinist) from Halifax Property Renovations



A Sideways Look John Morrison

world fails to love America as much as Americans seem to love themselves. In recent years the US has developed the unfortunate habit of waging war on the poorest countries on the planet. A little soul-searching might be in order, starting with America's foreign policy.

Sir Bernard then discovers "the squalor that is hidden away in some parts of the town". And what's getting him hot under the collar now? Yes, trees. One of the big attractions of Hebden Bridge, for those of us who actually live here, is being able to walk out of town in almost any direction and, within minutes, be out 'on the tops', enjoying fields, moors and woodland.

People travel miles to walk in Hardcastle Craggs, and rightfully so. Yet Hebden Bridge is surrounded on all sides by beautiful - though less celebrated - woodland. Not the

serried ranks of conifers that blight so many upland landscapes, but ancient deciduous woodland that supports a wide variety of wildlife. The woods are full of birds such as warblers, woodpeckers and jays; pied flycatchers, quite a rarity, are a particular favourite of mine. Even the trees in the middle of town help to soften the harsh gritstone scene. Sir Bernard reveals himself as a man who, in the most literal sense, can't see the wood for the trees.

He likes to portray himself as a Yorkshire exile, but an exile is someone who is unable to go home. Sir Bernard, by contrast, simply chooses not to come home, unless there's a film crew in tow. He's not an exile, just an economic migrant. He left Hebden Bridge almost half a century ago (as he had every right to do), and now returns sporadically to wander down Memory Lane

and tell us how much better things were in the good old days.

Tellingly, Sir Bernard reveals in his column that he "popped into the Picture House for the first time in around 50 years". This is the man with his finger on the pulse of South Pennine life. This is the man who knows better than we do about how we should think and behave. Enough is enough. It's time he turned his attentions closer to his actual home. Perhaps the Purley Gazette & Advertiser is looking for an outspoken columnist.

Sir Bernard recalls wistfully what life was like 'BL' (Before Lesbians). There are many people in this vibrant little town - original inhabitants and off-cumdens alike - who see things rather differently, and relish life 'AI'... After Ingham.