

- A Bridge Too Far?
- Comedy Night Sells Out

## Still Setting Forth in the Wrong Direction

The Fife Council-led Forth Estuary Transport Authority (FETA) have come forward with plans for a new road bridge across the Forth. Dan Barlow writes:

A Second Forth Road Bridge is the most expensive and least sustainable option put forward in FETA's consultation. The proponents admit that this option, as well as being ten times more expensive than the sustainable option, would further increase traffic levels. Currently, over seventy per cent of cars crossing the Forth Road Bridge at peak times have a single occupant. A second road bridge would encourage car use and would further undermine Scotland's ailing public

transport network.

FETA's description of the proposal as a "multi-modal crossing" is wholly unconvincing. The claim that any new bridge is needed for public transport is a smokescreen as there is no business case for another rail crossing of the Forth. Increasing public transport facilities to Edinburgh from Fife is entirely possible using existing rail infrastructure with comparatively modest investments. Instead this proposal would waste at least £450 million on a new bridge, a grandiose mega-project which will increase city traffic congestion and greenhouse gas

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Photo by Colin Hattersley

## Co-ordinator's Comments

Welcome to the September/October 04 edition of INFOE, the bi-monthly newsletter of Friends of the Earth Edinburgh (FoEE).

This summer Edinburgh has been the usual hub of activity, and the city has been buzzing, despite the unusually wet weather! Luckily the rain doesn't put either the visitors or the performers off having fun! The FoEE committee have wound down, spent time recharging batteries on holiday, and generally relaxing and enjoying the festival atmosphere. But fear not, we are now rested and poised to continue fighting for environmental justice in Edinburgh!

We had our annual star-studded fundraising comedy night in July, and once again, the event proved to be so popular that we were turning people away from the door! We managed to raise over £1,000, which will be a huge boost and allow us to focus fully on our campaign work for the next year.

We also held a public meeting in July on ecological and sustainable design - see the report on page 7 for details.

On September 30th, Lucy Danger, from EMERGE Recycling, who are based in Manchester, will be asking some controversial questions in her talk entitled 'The 3Rs (waste reduction, re-use and recycling) - are they just a load of old rubbish?' We hope to see both new and old faces back in the Friends Meeting House for our usual lively discussion.

We are always on the look out for enthusiastic people to help us in our work, so please come to our public meeting or contact us if you are interested in joining in. Whether you are interested in getting involved with the transport or waste campaigns, would like to help us distribute our newsletter or just want to come along to our meetings, we would welcome your support!

*Jolin Warren and Katriona Harding  
 Joint Co-ordinators, FoE Edinburgh*



Photo by Colin Hattersley

## Setting Forth in the Wrong Direction

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emissions and worsen air pollution.

The FETA draft Local Transport Strategy puts forward four different transport proposals, the third of which includes substantial support for sustainable transport and is one which we fully support. However the final proposal ('Package 4'), outlined as the favoured option, includes building a traffic-generating, environmentally-destructive, Second Forth Road Bridge and is entirely unacceptable from a sustainable transport planning perspective. Of the sixteen policies in the draft strategy the new bridge sneaks in at an anonymous number fifteen, where the authority outlines its intentions to develop the business case for the bridge.

FETA should stop wasting its, and our, time promoting new road-building and get on with delivering the sustainable transport alternatives that the Scottish Executive keeps on exhorting local authorities to prioritise. The Forthright Alliance is encouraging people to demand a sustainable and environmentally responsible transport policy for Edinburgh and Fife. Simply catering for more single-occupancy cars is neither sustainable nor affordable.

*Dr Dan Barlow is head of research at Friends of the Earth Scotland and a member of the Forthright Alliance. FoE Edinburgh is also a member of the Forthright Alliance. This article originally appeared in the Scotsman - [thescotsman.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=1024962004](http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=1024962004)*

**TAKE ACTION: You have until 30th September to tell FETA to reconsider!**  
See <http://www.forthrightalliance.org>

## FoEE AGM

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 7th October 2004 in the Library of the Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, at 7.00pm. If you want to find out more about what we do, who we are and how you can help then come along and listen in.

Any apologies should be passed on to Colin Howden at - [info@foe-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:info@foe-edinburgh.org.uk) or 07956 394121.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2004 AGM - copy available on request & at the meeting
3. Report and Accounts for the year
4. Appointment of Auditor
5. Setting of subscription rate
6. Officers and Committee elections
7. Any Other Competent Business

Please bear in mind that should a vote be required on any issue, only those who have paid their subscription to both Friends of the Earth Edinburgh & Friends of the Earth Scotland for the year to 31st August 2004 shall be eligible to vote.

Nominations for Honorary Officers are invited and can be accepted before or at the meeting. Officers are eligible for re-election in terms of the Constitution. Please consider standing for the Committee. Committee members can take on a range of roles depending on their interests, expertise and the time they have available.

## Comedy Success

Outside, a steamy July evening; inside, a room packed to the rafters with friends of the earth and their mates. It was hot, it was sweaty, and it was very, very funny. Having said that, the night might not have been quite so funny for those sitting on the front row, as they gamely took the brunt of many jokes - for being social workers, Irish, Australians or sailors, or for wearing stripy shirts.

For everyone else, this was all good fun and many thanks to those comedians who gave their time for free to help raise funds for the Edinburgh group. There was stand up comedy from Jane McKay, host Bruce Devlin, Brian Hennigan and Graeme Thomas, and inspired improvisation from Garry Dobson and Stuart Murphy. Their *film noir* Frankenstein sketch in particular was a highlight.

Tickets had been sold out well in advance, not even VIP status was enough to get late-



Photo by Colin Hattersley

comers in on the night and MSPs and other hopefuls had to be turned away. Even so, the event raised over £1,000 for the group which will help fund our campaigns on waste and transport over the coming year.

So lessons to remember for next year: get your ticket early – and don't sit on the front row unless you're very game for a laugh.

*Helen Todd, Committee Member,  
Friends of the Earth Edinburgh*



Photo by Colin Hattersley

## Lib Dems Censured

At the FoE Scotland AGM on the 12th June, FoEE proposed a motion censuring the Edinburgh Lib Dems for their appalling record on transport. We are pleased to report that the following motion was passed:

This AGM notes:

- the City of Edinburgh Council's welcome efforts to implement a congestion charge scheme in the face of selfish attacks by vested interest lobby groups and other political groups

This AGM further notes:

- the lack of leadership from the Scottish Executive Transport Minister Nicol Stephen MSP (Liberal Democrat MSP for Aberdeen South) in actively supporting the City of Edinburgh Council's congestion charging



FoEE's Jolin Warren makes a stand!

FoEE's Stuart Hay makes his vote count



Photo by Colin Hattersley

proposals

- the activities of the Edinburgh Liberal Democrats in opposing the Edinburgh congestion charging proposals, these activities being in direct contradiction to the Scottish Liberal Democrats' national policy to support congestion charging

This AGM calls upon FoES to:

- actively lobby the City of Edinburgh Council's Liberal Democrat Group to cease its opposition to the proposed congestion charge
- actively lobby Scottish Executive Transport Minister Nicol Stephen MSP to take steps to ensure delivery of the Edinburgh congestion charge
- failing active cooperation from the Scottish Liberal Democrats in achieving this outcome, to seek a meeting with Liberal Democrat leaders (Jim Wallace MSP and Charles Kennedy MP) in order to challenge them to set out convincing alternatives for reducing traffic levels in Edinburgh and across Scotland.

## The 3 R's - A Load of Old Rubbish?

**The speaker for our next public meeting (Thursday 30th September at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House) will be Lucy Danger the Managing Director of EMERGE Recycling. Lucy will speak on the topic 'waste reduction, re-use and recycling - are they just a load of old rubbish?'**

EMERGE Recycling started from humble beginnings as a voluntary group in 1996, and today employs over 50 local staff. Based in East Manchester, EMERGE provides a kerbside recycling service to over 70,000 households in partnership with Manchester City Council and Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council. EMERGE collects paper, cardboard, glass, textiles and cans from households, and also provides a service recycling a wide range of materials to over 250 businesses across Manchester.

"The key to progressing recycling is to engage with the community", says Lucy Danger. "Changing people's perceptions of waste and resources is best done at a local level, so EMERGE provides training and support for anyone who wants to become one of our Community Recycling Champions." EMERGE currently has over 60 Community Champion volunteers across Manchester, who provide information for their neighbours, communities and potentially businesses and schools in helping them use the service and spread the word.

In the business community, recycling is increasing day by day, with more and more

businesses signing up to an office collection every week. In a recent survey, most business customers said they felt that choosing a social enterprise to deliver their service was of high importance, because it ensures that more resources are put into Manchester to encourage recycling across the board. EMERGE's service to business customers is as flexible and simple as possible to fit in with the individual requirements of each office environment.

EMERGE is also working with the next generation, by providing a recycling service to schools, alongside an education programme. "We work with the children and teachers to design their own recycling service, and use a variety of activities to get the message across", said Sarah Keogh, Education Worker. "The response we've had is really encouraging, and we enjoy seeing the effects of the children getting their parents to recycle at home as well".

EMERGE welcomes enquiries regarding any aspect of the 3Rs — reduce, reuse, recycle: see [www.emergemanchester.co.uk](http://www.emergemanchester.co.uk) for details - **and come along on Thursday 30th September to find out more!**



## Green Buildings

Fifty per cent of all energy consumption in this country is for keeping our buildings warm and light. The potential for reducing our energy and resource use by improving energy efficiency is clear, whether in commercial, industrial or domestic buildings. A perfect example of how this can be achieved is the old school building of Norton Park, near Easter Road stadium. Built in 1902, it was re-opened in 1998, renovated to a high standard of ecological and sustainable design. According to Richard Atkins, the architect in charge of the project who spoke at our June meeting, the "feelgood factor" added by the sustainability aspect of the renovation made it much easier to sell the plans to the backers and to attract a range of funding. While around £500,000 was added to the final budget due to the sustainability element, this will be recouped within 10 years because of the energy efficiency rating.

You might expect the installation of double glazing and the addition of wall insulation to feature in the renovations, but there were also some other surprising facts and figures to be learnt about the process. For example, lime mortar emits less CO<sub>2</sub> than cement, using white rather than yellow outside lighting is more insect-friendly, and there is a chemical-free way to deal with dry rot (remove the conditions it likes to grow in, ie, warm, damp, still air). In addition, wooden floors in the building were waxed rather than varnished, and all carpeting was of natural fibres. No timber was treated with chemicals, all light bulbs were high efficiency, and a material and component audit ensured that the most environmentally-friendly option was chosen within the budget that was

available. Even the contractors were asked to separate and recycle their construction waste.

The principle behind all the renovations was that everything should be reversible or removable, and so, for example, when mezzanine floors were added in the larger rooms to take advantage of air that was already heated, the components were all bolted together and can later be taken out in their entirety. However, the character of the school building was retained as much as possible, by use of the old radiators, sprucing up old doors and keeping the decorative tiles.

The most interesting aspect of the project is that the building's energy consumption is of a level with that of new "best practice" buildings. This is achieved by a computer programme that uses sensors in all rooms to turn lights off if no movement is perceived, and also measures temperature throughout the building to control the heating system. A solar system underneath the slate tiles augments the background ventilation for free. Add to this a rainwater collection tank which gravity-feeds 40% of the toilets in the building with unchlorinated water and constant energy monitoring, and you have a wonderful example of sustainable architectural and design practice.

If you feel inspired to tackle your own currently unsustainable building, have a look at the SEDA website and check out the links to be found there for advice and ideas: [www.seda2.org](http://www.seda2.org)

*Helen Todd, Committee Member,  
Friends of the Earth Edinburgh*

## Make Contact

If you'd like to get involved in the work of Friends of the Earth Edinburgh then please email us - [info@foe-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:info@foe-edinburgh.org.uk) or see [www.foe-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.foe-edinburgh.org.uk). For those without access to the internet you can call Jolin Warren on 0131 558 2783.

We'd also be keen to hear any ideas or comments you have about the events and campaigns organised by the group.

## Dates for Diaries

**16th - 22nd September**  
**'In Town Without My Car' week**  
For information see:  
[www.intownwithoutmycar.org.uk](http://www.intownwithoutmycar.org.uk)

**Sunday 25th September**  
**Doors Open Day**  
See [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk)

**Monday 27th September, 6.30**  
**Transport Campaign Group Meeting**  
For information contact:  
[JWarren@FoE-Edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:JWarren@FoE-Edinburgh.org.uk).

**Tuesday 28th September, 7.30**  
**'Poverty and Wars' open meeting**  
Organised by the ESF Scottish Mobilising Committee and the G8 Alternatives Group  
Renfield St. Stephen's Church,  
Bath Street, Glasgow

**Thursday 30th September, 7.30**  
**FoEE Public Talk**  
'The 3Rs (waste reduction, re-use and recycling) - are they just a load of old rubbish?'  
Lucy Danger of EMERGE Recycling, a leading UK social enterprise

undertaking waste management in Manchester.  
Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terrace

**Thursday 30th September**  
Deadline for responses to FETA's Second Forth Road Bridge proposal  
See page 1 for further details

**1st - 3rd October**  
**Big Blether**  
See [www.bigblether.org.uk](http://www.bigblether.org.uk)  
Loch Tay, Perthshire

**Monday 4th October, 9.30 - 4.30**  
**Taking Charge**  
Conference on road pricing  
Organised by TRANSform Scotland  
See: [www.transformscotland.org.uk/events](http://www.transformscotland.org.uk/events) or call - 0131 467 7714  
Radisson SAS Hotel, Royal Mile,  
Edinburgh

**Thursday 7th October, 7.00**  
**Friends of the Earth Edinburgh Annual General Meeting**  
Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terrace

**Tuesday 12th October, 7.30**  
**Capital Rail Action Group (CRAG) public meeting**  
Speaker from Waverley Route Trust  
City Chambers, High St

**14th - 17th October**  
**European Social Forum**  
'Another World is Possible', London  
See [www.fse-esf.org](http://www.fse-esf.org)

**Wednesday 27th October, 7.30**  
FoEE Public Talk  
Topic TBC  
Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terrace

**Thursday 25th November, 7.30**  
FoEE Public Talk  
Topic TBC  
Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terrace