

# TRACKS

Summer 2008 Issue 1

## Welcome...

to the first edition of Tracks, a magazine for young people, by young people, with the odd thing by old people.

We want this to be a space for pupils of all ages to say exactly what you feel about your school journeys... what needs to change and why, what you already do and how you've done it. What's the big picture? How does it affect our health, the environment and the world around us?

**We want your art and your articles.** Your quibbles and scribbles. Your quotes and soundbites. Your highlights, hindsights, websites and insights...

**This is your chance** to tell the people who make the decisions in government, council, business and communities exactly what needs doing.

**What do you want to know?** Maybe we can find out - or you can and then tell everyone else, by the medium of ... paper! The more you give us, the better Tracks will be.

That's enough! Sit back, have a read, then get outside and run/scoot/cycle/skate around, come back in and tell us what **you** would have included in here.

Oh, and **enter our Christmas Card competition**, it's on Page 3!



Sarah and the Elgin School Travel Team plan world sustainability from their underground lair

Courtesy of The Northern Scot

## Get yer hands dirty!

Well, metaphorically at least. Pupils all over the UK are knocking aside their elders, rolling up their sleeves and driving forward school travel work themselves.

**Sarah Berkeley**, 17, is in her last year at **Elgin Academy** in Scotland and is just such a pupil. Realising the importance of the school journey for our health and the environment, she started doing something about it through the school's Travel Committee.

They haven't just worked at their own school, **they've helped Feeder Primaries make the transition to Elgin** by running activities to address safety issues and highlight the importance of active travel (where possible) and planning their new journey.

Over to Sarah...

[continued over page](#)

Get yer hands dirty! continued...

GUESS WHAT?

Researchers in California found that - in general - the most active pupils also got the highest marks in Maths and English. So, get moving and save yourself some homework time!

“ I have been involved with the School Travel Committee since my second year when the group was set up; my experiences have allowed me to help others and given me opportunities to do interesting things.

The two largest projects I have been involved with are the installation of bike sheds and the transition project. The bike sheds have had a very positive effect on increasing the numbers of students cycling to school and I am proud to have been part of the team that made it happen. The transition project has also allowed me to help students in their move to secondary school.

Personally, I have been given the opportunity to speak at a number of conferences – locally and internationally – about the good work Elgin Academy is doing for school travel. These talks have boosted my confidence and I have found meeting other people working in travel a very enjoyable experience.

The recognition I have received as an individual and as part of the school travel team has spurred me on to do more work for the school. I was also delighted to receive the accolade of “**Moray School Travel Champion**” at our local travel awards.”

We asked Sarah if it was difficult to change travel behaviour, but apparently not! She reckons people often think it is so they don't start, but “...with good work by a group of people and the right facilities put in place I think success can be achieved.”

Any last advice? “Asking pupils what they wanted at the Academy was the key to making the improvements that were going to benefit people and see results.”

Want to write something for us? Email [alistair.goulding@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:alistair.goulding@sustrans.org.uk) and put TRACKS in the subject heading.

WHAT'S HOT?

The climate!!

85% of Young People believe that climate change is affecting their lives

Forum for the Future asked 25,000 higher education applicants what they thought were the challenges facing the world - and what their own priorities were. The results showed not just an impressive concern for environmental issues, but a strong sense that politicians lack the commitment to do what's needed.

It's fascinating reading, take a look at: [www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/future-leaders-survey-07-08](http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/future-leaders-survey-07-08)

Do you agree? Why not ask the same questions at your school and compare your results? Let us know if you do!

**OVER 18?**

once you've read this, pass it on to someone who isn't!

# None of your business?

At Red Maids school in Bristol, they actually make money out of being Green ... then they give it all away again! It's a little bit more complex, so we let Emma Watson, Year 12, explain...

“

When we set up our Red Maids' enterprise company in September 2007, we aimed not only to make a profit, but also to **encourage people to think more about how consumers affect the environment**. For this reason we developed 'GLOBE' as an **eco-enterprise company**, selling decorated canvas bags to reduce the use of plastic.

Like any business, we needed funds. We raised some money by selling shares (which have now tripled in value and been returned to our shareholders) but we also wanted to organise a fund-raising event that would promote our business. Keeping in mind our environmentally-friendly theme, we planned an evening hosted by Mark Watson, a comedian who has spent the last year trying to improve his approach to the environment.

Despite his inability to ride a bike, Mark has managed to reduce his carbon footprint in a number of ways: he uses buses instead of taxis (he can't drive either!) and has organised tree-planting events. His 24-hour show made people more aware of easy ways to avoid environmental damage and his book - called 'Crap at the Environment' - tells the story of his personal transformation into someone who has worked with Al Gore to spread the message globally.

Our comedy evening was a huge success, raising enough money to buy the supplies we needed and leaving us with such a large profit that we have **£500 left over, which we plan to donate to an environmental charity**. The aim of protecting the environment definitely added a new dimension to our business!

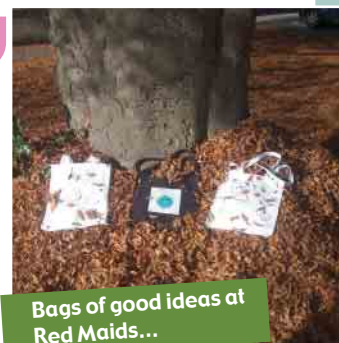
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**Make it your business!** If your school needs money for lockers, cycle shelters or tools for your bike club, why not set up an eco-enterprise? Apart from raising the cash you need, it could set you up as the next Richard Branson. Ask a Business Studies or Economics teacher for advice to get started.

**Mark Watson** is an award-winning, TV-appearing, book-writing comedic good egg, whose green efforts you can find out more on at: [www.myspace.com/markwatsonthecomedian](http://www.myspace.com/markwatsonthecomedian)  
Look out for an interview in the next edition!



Mark's heart is in the right place, but alas his feet aren't



Bags of good ideas at Red Maids...

**Design the Sustrans Christmas Card!**

A bike is not just for Christmas! Win 200 Christmas cards to give to your family and friends by designing one that celebrates Sustrans vision with festive flair.

Prizes up to a free Sustrans T-shirt. All entries must be in by 31st July 2008.

The winning card will be announced in September, unfortunately we are unable to return artwork.

**Find out more about our charity on [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)**

Send your designs to Sustrans, Information and Training Team, 2 Cathedral Square, Bristol, BS1 3DD.

Please put your contact details on the back of your entry - name, age and school contact number.

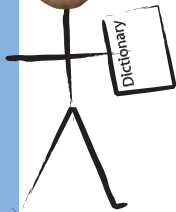
See [www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk](http://www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk) for full terms and conditions.

## Chrimbo Compo

We can't draw, so with just 180-odd shopping days to go, it's time to enter our Sustrans Christmas Card competition. Details are on this poster, but ignore the closing date - we've extended it to 22nd September 2008!

Visit [www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk](http://www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk) to download a bigger version of the flyer and full details.

# Pete's Fantabulous Jargon De-mystification Contrapulation

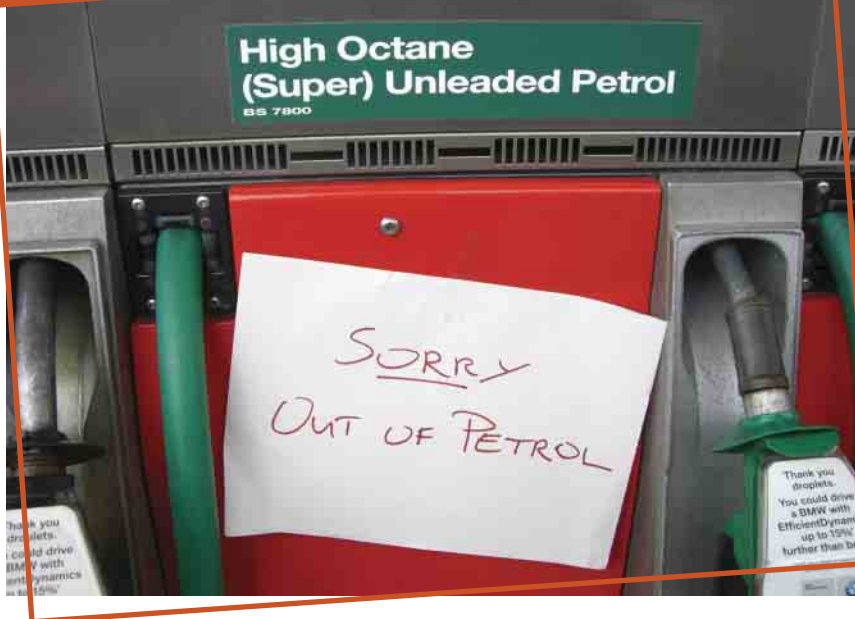


**Peak Oil** – it's all over the papers, it may have happened already, but just what on (or under) earth is it?

Our Carbon chap, Pete, likes to go on about it, so we thought he could let you know. Pete says:

“Imagine that all the banana plants in the world have died and there are only 100 bananas left before they're all gone. That means that, once you've eaten 50, you'll never be able to have more than 50 again – you're at “peak banana”.

**Peak oil isn't about completely running out of oil.** It's the point when half of the oil that was formed under the ground (or the sea) has been discovered and pumped out. From that moment on, unless we start finding ways to use less of it, we



won't have enough to do everything we're used to doing with it.

**Does this matter?** Lots of the things we use every day are made from oil (like plastics) and the fuel used for anything that has been flown, shipped, trucked or driven is almost bound to have been oil. It is also a key

part of fertilizer to grow our food. So yes, it matters.

**Can we do anything about it?** Yes, we can - we can radically cut our reliance on oil if we change the way we do things. Whether we do or not is going to be one of the big questions facing us all. ”

## Hype that Site!

### Hype that Site!

“Four thousand holes in Blackburn, Lancashire...” sang the Beatles. **Are pesky potholes ruining your route to school?** Are there cracks in the concrete you could disappear down? Get on [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk), report it and wait for the council to leap into action – nearly 5000 have been filled! Check the table to see how many your council have done. For the record, Blackburn have filled 12.



Please send stories, photos or any ideas to: Alistair Goulding, Sustrans, 2 Cathedral Square, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5DD  
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Department for  
**Transport**

