



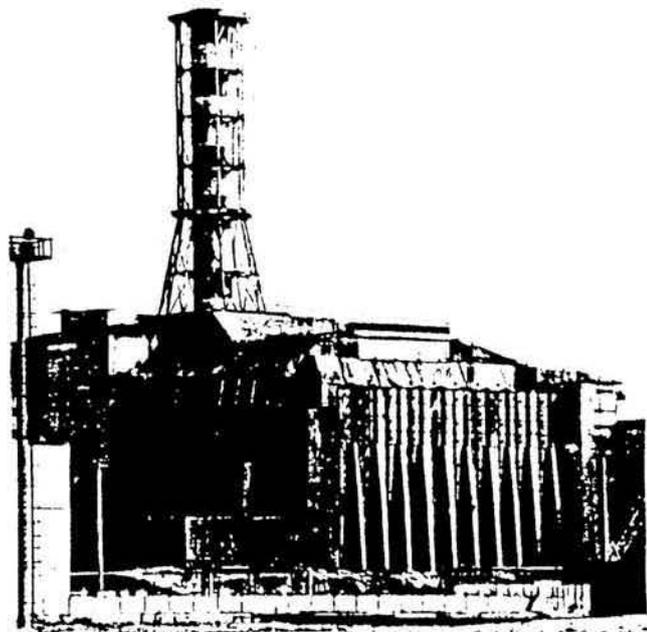
Newsletter

March/April 1991

SHE, Hockpitt Farm, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1EX
0278 732921 (Crispin Aubrey) 0278 422632 (Danielle Grunberg)

CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL

To mark the 5th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, SHE is bringing over an exciting exhibition of children's art and documentary photographs from Kiev in the Ukraine. "Environment Through Children's Experience" is a series of drawings, paintings and handicrafts created by children, aged 4-15, who suffered as a result of the accident. The exhibition is organised by the



Green Help environmental group based in Kiev which is campaigning to help children still living in the contaminated areas.

The exhibition will be in Taunton from June 3-7, Street from June 8-16 and Bristol from June 17-23 (in conjunction with the Conference on Low Level Radiation). Natalia Karpan, Green Help's International Campaigner, will speak at a public meeting in Bristol on June 18. (See diary for details.)

Both the exhibition and talk are events not to be missed! For further details, contact Danielle on 0278 422632. Volunteers also needed to mind the exhibition in Street.

CHERNOBYL VISITS

SHE's Press Officer Crispin Aubrey visited the Chernobyl area in March in order to write about the latest situation for Greenpeace.

"I spent 12 days in the region talking to people who were still being affected by the 1986 accident as well as those who are

Chernobyl: Five Years of Disaster

On the 5th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident, CRISPIN AUBREY, recently returned from the Soviet Union, will talk about the current situation.

MUNICIPAL HALL, CORPORATION STREET

TAUNTON

THURSDAY APRIL 25TH

7.30PM

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trying to deal with the continuing problems. My overwhelming impression was that the scale of the disaster, its effects on the countryside, on people's health and on their lifestyle have been totally underestimated by the authorities. Over 7 million people are still living in contaminated areas.

Five years after the accident, the first serious illnesses are emerging, from blood disorders to cancer. As big a problem is that many more towns and villages are now having to be evacuated because the level of radioactivity in the soil has remained much higher than expected.

The most important message for us in Britain is that the optimistic expectations of the nuclear authorities that the accident's effects would soon fade have been proved disastrously wrong."

Crispin Aubrey will talk about his visit at a public meeting organised by SHE in Taunton on April 25th. See p.1 for details.

SHE Coordinator Danielle Grunberg is also due to visit Kiev (70 miles from Chernobyl) later this month for a series of events in the Ukrainian capital to commemorate the fifth anniversary. The events, including a discussion with visiting European politicians and a rock concert, have been organised by Kiev City Council and the Green Help organisation.

SHE NEWS

"TAKE THE HEAT OFF SOMERSET"

We have had a good response to our energy conservation campaign to "take the heat off Somerset". 38 people have taken the time to return the energy declarations in the last newsletter. Of these, ten wanted more information and 28 have already begun installing low energy light bulbs in their homes. Well done!

The majority of comments were about the initial cost of the light bulbs. They are more expensive than incandescent bulbs, and the expected savings will only show up on your quarterly electric bill a few pounds at a time. One suggestion which came back to us was to give them as birthday or Christmas presents.

Leicester City Council is subsidising them! It offers 11w bulbs (60w equivalent) for £8 and 20w bulbs (100w equiv.) for £8.40 to council tenants.

Many comments on the light quality were good. Most often criticised is the size of the bulbs, which tends to increase with the wattage. Mazda makes a bulb, 2D, which is about the same length as incandescent bulbs. Or you could consider buying a globe style bulb which looks exactly like its more wasteful counterpart. Another solution to the problem of tall people and low ceilings is plain old fashioned fluorescent lighting.

Apologies to those who pointed out that they wouldn't be taking the heat off Somerset because they live in other parts of the country. Any suggestions for a better slogan? All ideas and other comments are very welcome.

There is a new invention on the market called Savaplug. It is a plug for freezers and fridge-freezers that is supposed to reduce energy consumption by up to 30%, or about £15 per year. It costs £24.99 so it would begin to save you money after a year and a half. For those who really want to cut energy use it would be much cheaper than replacing their old freezers. More information from Carley & Co, 34-36 St. Austell Street, Truro (0872-77686).

And finally - we will soon be producing a leaflet on low energy bulbs. Meanwhile let us know how you are getting on with your own efforts to take the heat off...

GREEN ENERGY IN THE SOUTH WEST

Charmian Larke, director of the Cornwall Energy Project, gave an exciting personal account at the March SHE meeting of the group's work in energy conservation and the renewables. They have recently formed a company - Ecogen - which is now the largest developer of wind farms in the country. Initial plans are for wind generators in Wales and the West Country.

IDEAL ENERGY EXHIBITION

The exhibition is on the road again after a winter break and touring Nottingham, Shropshire and Norfolk in April and May. It will also be present at Birmingham Green Show (23-27 May). If you would like to book the trailer for a school or event, please contact Claire Dorling on 0454 418596.

"MELTDOWN: THE COLLAPSE OF THE NUCLEAR DREAM"

This is the title of a paperback book written by Crispin Aubrey to be published on April 25. It tells the story of the struggle against Hinkley C, the public inquiry and the eventual government retreat. It also looks backwards to the history of the protest movement in Britain and the origins of people's concerns about nuclear power, and forwards to what the future holds for energy options. In the process, it explains the failed attempts to make British nuclear power efficient and economic.

If you can't find "Meltdown" (publishers: Collins & Brown) in your bookshop, copies are available from the SHE Hockpitt Farm address for £6.99+ £1p+p (cheques payable to Crispin Aubrey).



7th International Standing Conference on Low Level Radiation & Health

Bristol 1991

Council House, Bristol

June 22nd/23rd 1991

Expert speakers from the USA, Ukraine, Europe & UK speak on the new international radiation limits and the implications for workers & local communities.

Presentations include: Decommissioning nuclear power stations; the after effects of Chernobyl; five years on; Radon; the role of monitoring radiation and the legal position here and in Europe. Many workshops. All welcome, crèche and disabled access available. Full details in March send S.A.E to:

7th Conference, Bristol City Council, Brunel House, St Georges Rd, Bristol BS1 5UY
Tel: 0272 223344

This year's International Standing Conference on Low Level Radiation and Health is being hosted by Bristol City Council. The impressive line-up of speakers includes Dr. Alice Stewart, Dr. John Stather (Assistant Director, National Radiological Protection Board), Martyn Day (solicitor acting for Sellafield families), Martin Mott (Professor of Childhood Cancer, Bristol University), Patrick Green (Friends of the Earth), Dr. Cameron Bowie (Somerset Health Authority), Zhores Medvedev (author of "The Legacy of Chernobyl"), Dr. Martin Pasqualetti (US decommissioning expert). Also present (leading workshops) will be Natalia Karpan from Green Help, Kiev, journalist Marco Bojcun and Dr. Ignatz Vergeiner from Austria.

There will also be videos, exhibitions and plenty of opportunity to socialise with people interested in radiation and health during the packed two days. Attendance costs £20 for the whole weekend (£15 Sat/£10 Sun) or £10 for concessions. Further information from Jill Sutcliffe (0243 603605) or see panel above.

HINKLEY C MEETINGS

County and district councillors from Somerset local authorities are to join a "monitoring group" with Nuclear Electric officials to discuss "unresolved issues" over Hinkley C. These include emergency plans, landscaping and the siting of the workers' hostel. Such meetings were recommended in the public inquiry inspector's report last year.

NE is also pressing ahead with an appeal against refusal of planning permission by West Somerset District Council for a caravan park for Hinkley C construction workers at Doniford, near Watchet. A 3 day inquiry will start on May 15. SHE has written to oppose this development.

EVENING POST, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1991

INTERNATIONAL

JAPANESE ACCIDENT

The worst accident in the history of Japanese nuclear power occurred at a reactor at Fukui in February. A fractured cooling water pipe resulted in radioactive leaks into the air and sea. The reactor is a smaller version of the PWR which would be built if Hinkley C went ahead.

WIND RULES OK

Denmark: Capital city Copenhagen will soon see its first wind turbines. A wind farm of 12 200-300kW machines will be sited in the windiest part of greater Copenhagen. Despite some initial reservations from city dwellers unused to turbines on their doorsteps, the project is now gaining in popularity.

Soviet Union: All is not doom and gloom in the Ukraine despite the suffering after Chernobyl. The enterprising Danish Folcenter for Renewable Energy signed an historic agreement last November with the Ukrainian Ministry of Power. Three 270kW wind turbines will be installed by mid-summer, another three larger machines will follow in early 1992. Eventually the aim is for up to 100 turbines in the Ukraine.

HINKLEY PROBE DELAY

By TIM JONES

A LONG-TERM safety review of Somerset's ageing Hinkley Point A nuclear power station has been delayed again.

Nuclear Electric wants to extend its life until 1995 and possibly by another six years after that.

The safety review is carried out by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate — the

government's nuclear watchdog.

But station manager George Jenkins told a meeting of Hinkley Point local liaison committee that he could still not reveal the contents of the review.

Hinkley A was commissioned in 1965 with an expected operating

life of 20 to 25 years.

Nuclear Electric wants to keep it in production, but the NII has now asked for further evidence that it is safe to run at slightly higher operating temperatures.

The review is expected to be completed in August, and Mr Jenkins said it would not contain any surprises.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April 25	Taunton	"Chernobyl - Five Years of Disaster", Speaker: Crispin Aubrey: Municipal Hall, Corporation Street, 7.30pm.
May 2	Bridgwater	SHE Committee Meeting, Manor Farmhouse, Wembdon, 7.00pm.
June 3-7	Taunton	Chernobyl Children's Art Exhibition, Somerset College of Arts and Technology, Wellington Road, Taunton.
June 8-16	Street	Chernobyl Children's Art Exhibition, Crispin Hall, Street.
June 17-23	Bristol	Chernobyl Children's Art Exhibition, The Cathedral, College Green, Bristol
June 18	Bristol	Public Meeting with Natalia Karpan, Green Help: Friends Meeting House, College Green, Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol, 7.30pm.
June 22-23	Bristol	7th International Conference on Low Level Radiation, Council House, College Green.

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