

Welcome to your special edition *Flying Green*. Our regular newsletters come four times a year, but with Parliament closed for the summer we thought it was a good time to put together an extra update. So put away your broly as summer becomes autumn, and find out what we've been working on, what our plans are for the year to come, and all you ever wanted to know about the AEF staff!

### UK policy in the shadow of the White Paper

The 2003 White Paper remains the key aviation policy document for government. While we believe that this failed to take environmental impacts appropriately into account, AEF continues, in meetings with the Department for Transport and others, in consultation responses, and through public speaking engagements, to try to highlight ways in which policy could be improved.

With talk of the White Paper becoming a National Policy Statement under proposed new arrangements to 'streamline' the planning system, AEF will be lobbying to safeguard community involvement in local planning applications. We will also be pushing government to deliver further work on the ANASE findings about aircraft noise and annoyance, and we have launched a fresh campaign on third party risk around airports.

Already this year, we have held a successful meeting about the impacts of proposed airspace changes, and a conference for planners on environmental issues in relation to airport planning. The All-Party Parliamentary Sustainable Aviation Group, to which AEF provides the secretariat, has held events at the House of Commons launching an unpublished report on global environmental impacts from aviation (which gained front-page media coverage), and promoting the business benefits of videoconferencing as an alternative to air travel.

### Developments in Europe

Increasingly, environmental policy affecting the UK is decided in Brussels. The past year has seen an agreement to include aviation in the EU's emissions trading scheme and a pre-proposal consultation on options to address emissions of nitrogen oxides – Nox – from aircraft at altitude. (At ground level, NOx affects local air quality, but at altitude it reacts to change ozone and methane concentrations, contributing to climate change.) A European Commission proposal is expected later in the year.

AEF is actively involved in European politics. As part of a coalition lobbying on the ETS agreement, we helped to shape a deal that, while not as stringent as we would have liked, nevertheless forms a first step towards bringing the aviation sector in line with policies to mitigate climate change.

On noise, we hold a seat on the European Commission's working group looking at airport noise. The recommendations of this group will be used to inform the future reviews of Directives covering noise mapping and the phase-out of noisier aircraft at EU airports.



Summer  
strolling  
from the  
AEF office



### International activity

As well as speaking at international events, AEF provides the secretariat for the International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation (ICSA). ICSA was founded in 1998 to provide environmental NGOs with observer status to the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Based in Montreal, ICAO continues to develop noise and emission standards for aircraft and, through the Kyoto Protocol, is charged with finding solutions to greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft. AEF attends ICAO environmental sessions to push for greater stringency in aircraft standards, and is very active in working groups; we have contributed to the task forces on air quality charges, emissions trading and market-based measures.

## Who we are

AEF has a team of staff dealing with different areas of our work, with Nic Ferriday and Tim Thomas in the front line for member support. Contact details for the office are always on the back page of *Flying Green*.



### Tim Johnson

Tim has just started his twentieth year with the Federation, having joined as Planning Officer in 1989 with a degree majoring in transport planning. He became Director in 1997 following the retirement of the AEF's founder Moyra Logan. Early work focused almost exclusively on aircraft noise and planning law, but undeterred, he stayed to witness the birth of the debate on aviation's contribution to climate change, an issue that the AEF plays a major role in resolving at a global and national level.

Tim provides the AEF's representation at the International Civil Aviation Organisation as well as on the Department for Transport's External Advisory Group, and other stakeholder advisory roles associated with NATS, the Sustainable Aviation Initiative, the European Commission, and the academic partnership, OMEGA. He spent a year working for DEFRA on aviation issues, a role that left him with some sympathy for the civil servants we try to influence today! He tries to leave all this at the office at the end of each day to spend time with his young family – two boys aged one and four.

### Cait Weston

Cait (short for Catrina) joined AEF as Policy and Communications Officer in October 2007. Having previously worked in education and social care, she is interested in the ways in which social and environmental goals and policies should overlap, for example through a shift in political focus from economic growth to quality of life. She has a First Class degree in sociology and an M.A. with distinction in environmental philosophy; her dissertation focussed on the social justice implications of climate change.

At AEF, she has so far been engaged in policy development and lobbying work on the inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme and has represented AEF at consultations on European policy for regulating cruise Nox emissions. During the coming year, she will continue to monitor European Nox proposals, as well as the development of the UK Climate Change Bill, currently set to exclude international aviation and shipping.



Cait also helps to manage the content of the AEF website and to communicate AEF policy through journal articles, speaking engagements and the members' newsletter *Flying Green*, of which she is editor. Outside work, she is currently encouraging her fiancé to book an aviation-free honeymoon in 2009!



### Riki Therivel

Riki was invited to join AEF as a part-time planning consultant in 2007, in response to a need among members for specialist planning knowledge. Her expertise in 'appropriate assessment' and strategic environmental assessment offers a new way of identifying and assessing environmental impacts. Since joining AEF, Riki has authored our online handbook *Airports and Planning*, written AEF's response to the Heathrow consultation, advised us on the Planning Bill and taken on a range of member casework.

Riki is a visiting Professor at Oxford-Brookes University and a partner at environmental consultants Levett-Therivel, where she has recently worked on developing guidance on appropriate assessment of plans and conducting Sustainability appraisal and appropriate assessment of the South East Plan and RSS for the North West. Riki is based in Oxford.



## Laura Simpson

Laura was happy to join AEF as Policy Coordinator in November 2007, after working for a senior Liberal Democrat MP and interning for the World Development Movement (primarily on aviation policy issues). Laura grew up under the Heathrow flightpath, and has always been interested in aviation impacts, with early memories of hiding under her bed to escape the noise of Concorde (not very effective). Her MA study on the environmental impacts of technology in developing countries gained a distinction, and she has acted as a climate change ambassador for Christian Aid. Despite numerous meetings with the DfT, she retains a strong belief in the political process and the importance of taking action now to reduce emissions.

Since joining AEF, Laura has been working on our media profile (liaising with journalists and sourcing PR programmes) and on designing and funding a youth website, encouraging young people to make their voices heard on aviation issues. She has also been supporting AirportWatch (setting up Noise and Freight groups to help generate policy positions) and, when not at AEF, works as Technical Assistant to the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG), a local government organisation. Outside the office, Laura enjoys singing (soul, rock, folk, and classical), dancing, and speaking grammatically novel but enthusiastic French.

## Nic Ferriday

Nic has been an environmentalist ever since leaving university where he obtained a degree in physics. After a career with British Telecom and its previous incarnations he retired early so he could, to use his own words, “do something worthwhile instead of just making money for myself”. Living in West London, he was drawn to the biggest environmental issue in the area and the biggest polluter – Heathrow. He represented Friends of the Earth at the lengthy Heathrow Terminal 5 public inquiry, dealing with aviation policy, air pollution, surface transport, economics, ecology and air pollution. The knowledge and interest gained there led to him becoming a part-time case worker for AEF, dealing with civil aviation.



Nic also campaigns on transport issues for his local Friends of the Earth group, including fighting for a tram scheme, addressing air pollution and trying to change planning policies. A particular concern of his, arising from many years of dealing with councils and central government, is the systematic use of spin, bias and misinformation from politicians and from the officials who support them.



## Tim Thomas

Tim has been involved with the AEF for around 30 years, initially through his local parish council at Headcorn in Kent, which he was representing at a local airfield planning appeal. He was elected to the AEF council in the 1990s (when also tackling a further planning appeal at Headcorn) and became AEF treasurer a few years later. Since retiring from BT in 2001, his role at AEF has expanded and he now undertakes part-time general aviation casework and handles membership issues. He also represents AEF at the National Air Traffic Management Committee, where, as the sole environmentalist, he manages to cause some controversy (ask him for details!)

Tim, who has experience as a retained firefighter and school governor, continues to be closely involved with his local community. He is chairman of the parish council and of the local history society, is a part-time librarian, and is currently helping to set up a village archive centre in Headcorn's new £1.6m village hall complex, as well as somehow finding time to deliver IT training to the older generation. At AEF, he is regularly to be found under a desk, fixing our computers. He enjoys the Kent countryside and believes in the value of rural peace and quiet.

## AEF membership – a reminder of what your subscription includes

AEF relies on its members not only for a contribution towards our running costs but also to help us get heard: the fact that we represent hundreds of people and organisations around airports and airfields is often essential in securing meetings with Government officials. Thanks for your support!

But it's important to us that you benefit too. Annual membership entitles you to:

- Advice and information on all aspects of aviation and the environment, including noise, climate, planning issues and the political process
- Quarterly newsletters and updates on relevant consultations and policy changes
- Attendance at the Annual General Meeting, usually with a guest speaker
- A political voice; if you feel strongly about a topic you think we are not addressing but should be, please get in touch



## AEF Execs

AEF's work is overseen by an Executive Council that meets every two months in the AEF office. The Council guides and monitors staff activities, budgetary decisions and the AEF work plan.

Council members are approved at the AGM held at the end of each year. If you have the experience and enthusiasm to help guide the direction of AEF, please consider putting yourself forward. Forms will be sent out prior to the AGM but you can always call the office first if you need more information.

## AirportWatch: fighting together

AirportWatch was formed in 2000 to bring together national environmental organisations and community groups around airports who oppose the aggressive go-for-growth policy of aviation expansion that the UK government is pursuing. As an umbrella movement, it supports the view that the social and environmental problems associated with aviation cannot be solved by simply shifting them around the country and instead seeks policy-level solutions to these challenges. It also allows campaigners to share tactics and give each other support and encouragement in their local activities.

AEF is a member of the AirportWatch coalition and supports the organisation by providing a space for meetings and office facilities for the coordinator, Sarah Clayton. To find out about their current activities see [www.airportwatch.org.uk](http://www.airportwatch.org.uk)

## Upcoming events

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> October 08:** Aviation and road campaigners' conference, Birmingham; organised by AirportWatch and Campaign for Better Transport; for more information see the conferences section of the AirportWatch website

**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> November 08:** AEF's AGM plus guest presentation, London; more details to follow

The **Omega** knowledge transfer partnership is offering a wide range of free events between now and next spring, including workshops and seminars on open rotor powered aircraft, alternative aviation fuels and climate-related air traffic management; see the 'Events' section at [www.omega.mmu.ac.uk](http://www.omega.mmu.ac.uk)

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