

# Think Global, Act Local?

## 40 years of Environmental Action in the UK

### A unique presentation and discussion

The modern environmental movement has existed in the UK for about 40 years. From early days of 'Save the Whale', self-sufficiency and 'The Good Life', through campaigns on nuclear waste, rainforests and much more, to today's global concerns about climate change, the desire to protect our planet has led millions of people to take action. In the UK that action has had a unique flavour, linking the biggest issues to our most local concerns about our cities, towns and villages.

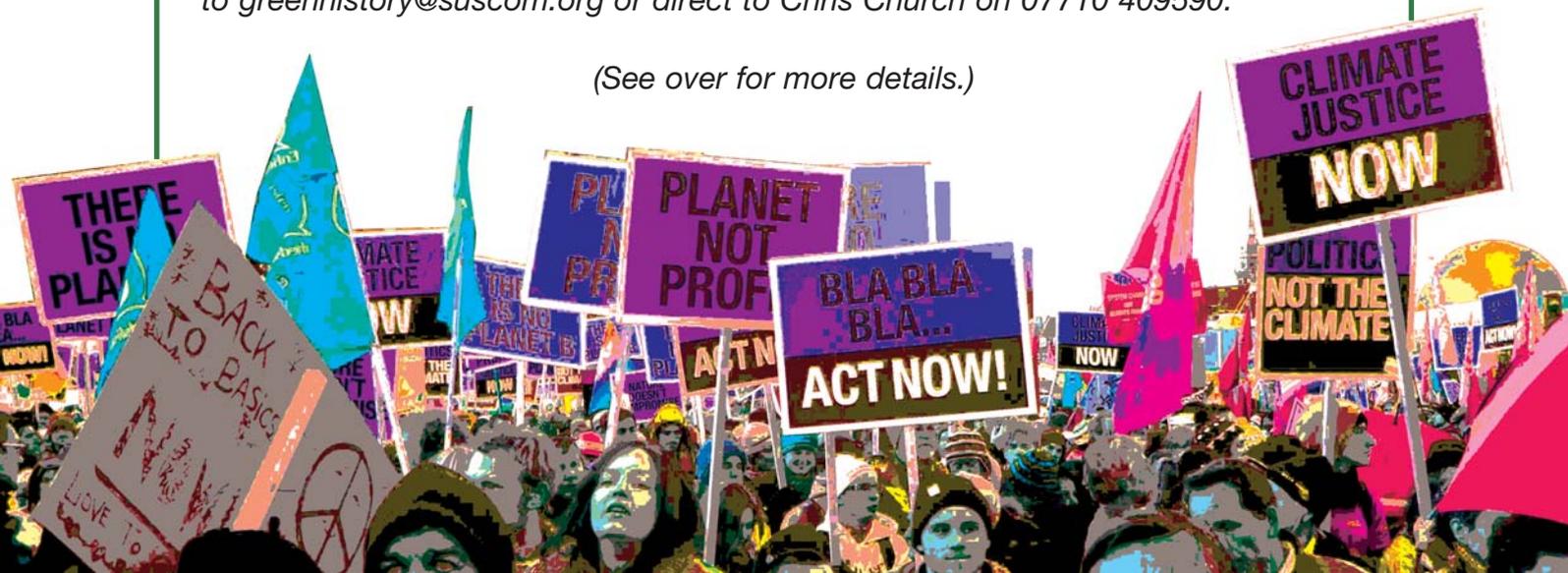
This fully illustrated talk takes an informed and entertaining look back at those 40 years, at both the successes and the failures, and at what those active today can learn from what has gone before. It lasts for 45 minutes and the story is told by Chris Church, who has a unique record of involvement in national and local action.

The presentation can lead into a discussion or a more detailed interactive workshop, and can act as a basis for an organisation to reflect on their own history and what they have achieved.

**Chris Church** has been actively involved in this work for over thirty of those forty years. As a young activist he helped stop plans for a nuclear power station at Didcot and campaigned successfully to see the M40 moved to save Otmoor and Bernwood Forest. He was working for Friends of the Earth when Chernobyl exploded and when the hole in the ozone layer made the front page of the Sun. For 20 years he has worked as a consultant looking at how local action links to national and global issues, and he now chairs the UK Low Carbon Communities Network.

*The costs of booking this presentation are flexible. All enquiries should be made to [greenhistory@suscom.org](mailto:greenhistory@suscom.org) or direct to Chris Church on 07710 409590.*

*(See over for more details.)*



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## 40 years of Environmental Action in the UK

This illustrated presentation is about more than just the history of the environmental movement in the UK: it's about what we have done, what we have learnt, and how the many smaller actions have helped deliver long-lasting change. The key points, as highlighted below, are woven together into a story to show not just what happened, but how it happened.

It is a history in four phases:

- 1 The first pioneers and the early victories (1970–1982)**
- 2 Unsustainable growth? (1982–1992)**
- 3 A widening world (1992–2002)**
- 4 Climate change and the global agenda (2002–2010)**

### 1 The first pioneers and the early victories

- The first moves: returnable bottles and open-cast copper mining
- From the countryside to the world – endangered species locally and globally
- 'The Good Life' – cycling, recycling and self-sufficiency
- From Windscale to Sellafield – concerns and action on nuclear power

### 2 Unsustainable growth?

- Victories in the early '80s: wildlife, whaling, and lead-free air
- Acid rain, pesticides and the 'dirty man of Europe'
- Chernobyl, nuclear waste and more
- Going global: rainforests burning, holes in the ozone layer, and a big green vote
- From green consumerism to sustainable development

### 3 A widening world after Rio

- The challenge of sustainable development, locally and globally
- Green business – good business or greenwash?
- Climbing trees and digging tunnels – transport and direct action
- Making it work – recycling, renewables and local food

### 4 Climate change and the global agenda

- The climate change imperative
- Environmental issues – not gone away! Chemicals, pesticides, and much more
- The light bulb and the plastic bag – everyone's going green?
- New responses, new challenges (or the same old same old)? ...
- So where does this get us?