



**Special Edition... Special Edition... Special Edition... Special Edition...Special Edition...Special Edition... Special**

## **Our One Chance to Make Moray GM Free**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May Moray Friends of the Earth and Moray GM Concern launched a joint campaign calling on Moray Council to make Moray a GM-free zone. The campaign is inspired by Highland Council's recent decision to declare the Highlands as a GM-free zone and join the alliance of GM-free zones in Europe, who are actively lobbying the EU to grant individual regions the legal powers to decide whether they wish to grow GM crops or not.

**We have just heard that the issue of making Moray a GM-free zone will be discussed at the Moray Council Environmental Services Committee meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. We have until then to convince our Councillors to vote for a GM free Moray. This is our best chance to win a battle in the fight against GM.**

Jeffrey Smith, author of *"The Health Dangers of GM-food – and their Cover-up"* made the campaign launch after his talk. As the Director of the Institute for Responsible Technology in the USA, he was visiting Moray as part of a UK tour in which he is giving public talks based on his new book *"Seeds of Deception"*.

Gordon McAlpine, chairman for Moray GM Concern said: "Jeffrey Smith's book clearly documents the growing independent evidence of the dangerous side effects of GM crops. Further, it details the cunning ways in which biotech corporations create their own set of evidence through experiments deliberately designed not to examine the most critical factors involved. Finally, and most sadly, it shows the willingness of our governments to support these economic power-brokers 'in the name of science', and to discredit any scientists brave enough not to play this game."

The talk was to an audience of more than fifty people from throughout Moray and included Cllr Jeff Hamilton the local Councillor. Cllr Hamilton spoke briefly at the end of the talk to say that he not heard such an informative and enjoyably presented talk on the subject of GM before. **He went on to say, that in order to inform The Moray Council of our request that they earnestly consider declaring Moray a GM free zone, we should write to each of the twenty six councillors in order to achieve maximum impact before the Moray Council Environmental Services committee meeting due to be held on the 26th of May.**

Moray GM Concern has already collected approximately 200 signatures for a petition requesting Moray be declared a GM free zone. We could help the cause, considerably, by collecting signatures at the Plain Stones Market in Elgin on Saturday **15 May** and **22 May**.

For more information, contact:

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Gordon McAlpine (Moray GM Concern) 01309 690796

### **This is some information to put into your letters:**

Highland Council has recently declared itself a GM-free zone and joined the alliance of GM-free zones in Europe, along with Wales and many other regions of Europe. This decision has been prompted by the massive public opposition to the GM crop trial near Munloch. Because this trial was held in Highland Region, they have been amongst the first to act and send this strong political signal to Holyrood, Westminster and Brussels. But opinion polls over the last few years have consistently shown that there is deep-rooted and wide-spread opposition to GM food all over the UK, including Moray.

We call upon Moray Council to declare Moray as a GM-free zone on the basis of the precautionary principle – i.e. that there is reasonable doubt as to the safety of GM crops.

If we do not act now, then at some point in the future we will have no legal means of stopping a biotech company from planting GM barley in our beloved whisky country. Whereas declaring Moray as a GM-free zone now would encourage other regions throughout the UK and the rest of Europe to do the same.

So far, almost all the research into GM has been financed by the same biotech companies who produce the GM seeds. The few independent studies that have been carried out have indeed shown that it is a risk to both our health and our environment.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Meetings for 2004**

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every second month at 7.00pm in the Moray Resource Centre, Maisondieu Road, Elgin.

Dates for 2004 are: **Tue 25 May, Tue 27 July, Tue 28 September, Tue 30 November.**

At our next meeting on Tue 25 May we will be judging the posters in our schools competition, discussing GM and windfarm issues. All members are welcome.

## List of Moray Councillors and their details

<b>Cll Ward</b>	<b>Cllr's Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Email Details</b>
Bishopmill West	Alan R BURGESS	21 Meadow Crescent, New Elgin, Elgin IV30 6DS	alan.burgess@moray.gov.uk
Bishopmill East	Sandy KEITH	11 Spynie Place, Bishopmill, Elgin IV30 4JT	sandy.keith@moray.gov.uk
Cathedral	Ronnie SIM	12 Woodside Terrace, Elgin, IV30 4AZ	ronnie.sim@moray.gov.uk
Central West	Alastair BISSET	3 Fleurs Place, Elgin IV30 1ST	
New Elgin West	Robert BURNS	24 Academy Street, Elgin IV30 1LP	robert.burns@moray.gov.uk
New Elgin East	John A DIVERS	3 Birkenhill Place, New Elgin, Elgin IV30 6EX	john.divers@moray.gov.uk
Forres East	Iain YOUNG	Briar Cottage, Findhorn, Moray IV36 3YN	
Forres Central	Rex McINTOSH	4 South Street, Forres IV36 1DE	
Finderne	Jeff HAMILTON	East Lodge, Seapark, Kinloss, IV36 3TT	jeff.hamilton@moray.gov.uk
Forres West & Altyre	Alasdair URQUHART	Netherlea 115 St. Leonards Road, Forres IV36 2RE	alasdair.urquhart@moray.gov.uk
Burghsea	Eric McGILLIVRAY	Parkvale, 7 Cooper Street, Hopeman IV30 5SD	eric.mcgillivray@moray.gov.uk
Heldon & Laich	John C HOGG	The Manse, Alves, Forres IV36 2RB	
Lossiemouth East	Thomas M BOTHWELL	Bon Accord, Commerce Street, LOSSIEMOUTH, IV31 6QQ	thomas.bothwell@moray.gov.uk
Lossiemouth West	Joyce STEWART	34 Community Way, Lossiemouth IV31 6RL	joyce.stewart@moray.gov.uk
Lhanbryde & Birnie	Mrs Roma HOSSACK	46 Gordon Street, New Elgin, Elgin IV30 6EF	roma.hossack@moray.gov.uk
Innes	Eddie COUTTS	5 Grant Street, Elgin IV30 1PH	eddie.coutts@moray.gov.uk
Lennox	George McINTYRE	Southwood, 16 High Street, Fochabers IV32 7EP	george.mcintyre@moray.gov.uk
Buckie Central	John A LESLIE	43 Linn Crescent, Buckie AB56 1NA	john.leslie@moray.gov.uk
Buckie East & Findochty	Sinclair D I LONGMORE	14 St Paul Street, Buckpool, Buckie AB56 1EJ	
Rathford	Ronald H SHEPHERD	22 Reidhaven Street, Cullen AB56 4SY	ronald.shepherd@moray.gov.uk
Fife Keith & Strathisla	Percy WATT	Auchoynanie, Keith AB55 5NT	percy.watt@moray.gov.uk
Keith	Linda GORN	19 Land Street, Keith AB55 5AW	gornb@aol.com
Rural Keith & Rothes	Pearl B PAUL	56 Land Street, Rothes AB38 7BB	pearl.paul@moray.gov.uk
Speyside	Eddie ALDRIDGE	20 High Street, Archiestown Aberlour AB38 7QZ	convener@moray.gov.uk
Glenlivet	Bob WILSON	Sabhal, Brickfield, Craigellachie, Aberlour AB38 9TG	bob.wilson@moray.gov.uk