



# Bill Oddie Launches Air Quality Website

## BILL ODDIE PRESENTS DEARNE VALLEY RSPB CENTRE WITH CLEAN AIR AWARD

Television personality Bill Oddie visited South Yorkshire to launch the Care4Air website. The site contains information about air quality in the region, and advice about how to keep the air clean.

Bill took a whistle stop tour around South Yorkshire, stopping at the village of Rossington in Doncaster, where air quality has been improved. He visited a local couple, Mr and Mrs Jones, who helped clean up the air by transferring to smokeless fuel.

Bill then travelled to Tinsley, in Sheffield, where residents have come together to investigate their local air quality. This work is particularly important in areas that are near very busy roads, because vehicle emissions cause air pollution. In Tinsley, local people have worked together and set up a network of small air pollution monitors. They are using the results to empower the communities and are also working with the local



Bill Oddie Launches the Care4Air website.

councils to improve air quality. In the evening Bill officially launched the Care4Air website at the Showroom Cinema in Sheffield. He spoke about air quality and introduced a video of his day in South Yorkshire.

Bill said: "I've been very impressed with the work being done to improve air quality in South Yorkshire. The website is a really good way of letting people know how they can Care4Air. I hope other regions follow South Yorkshire's lead to reduce air pollution."

Mark Daly of Care4Air said: "I'm delighted that the website launch was so successful and people now have the opportunity to find out more about the campaign at [www.care4air.org](http://www.care4air.org)."



Bill Oddie with Mrs Jones in Rossington.

The RSPB reserve in the Dearne Valley has been recognised for using green energy. The visitors centre at Old Moor uses a wind turbine and solar panels as alternative sources of energy, both of which don't produce any air pollution.

Bill, who recently presented hit BBC series "Britain Goes Wild" visited the Dearne Valley to find out about the green energy project at RSPB Old Moor. He saw the wind turbine and solar panels in action, before presenting the award to Dearne Valley Project Manager Joanne Gilkes.

Bill Oddie said: "It's not just the birds they care for at RSPB Old Moor. The green energy programme shows they also Care4Air. I'm delighted to support the campaign because Care4Air are trying to improve the air that we breathe, not just for me, but for my children and my grandchildren. Improving air quality benefits everyone, which is why we should all Care4Air."

Dearne Valley Project Manager Joanne Gilkes said: "We were very pleased to receive a Care4Air Award, especially from Bill Oddie. We've been delighted with the wind turbine and solar panels, and I'd encourage anyone to use green energy wherever possible."



Bill Oddie with Award Winner, Joanne Gilkes.

### Your Nominations

The awards scheme has been launched across the South Yorkshire region to recognise people's contribution to improving air quality. Awards fall into a number of categories and are open to all in the South Yorkshire area.

Categories:

- Regional
- Businesses
- Public Sector, NGO's and Health Sector
- Education Sector
- Community Groups and Individuals
- Transport Providers
- Individuals

If you are aware of any project, business or organisation who may be eligible for a Care4Air Award -

email: [mark.daly@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:mark.daly@sheffield.gov.uk)

## ▲ SHEFFIELD RESIDENTS URGED TO START THINKING ABOUT WINTER NOW!



Tony Roberts prepares for Winter.

**With temperatures reaching their 30's, summer might not seem like the right time to be thinking about heating homes, however, two city organisations are urging Sheffield people to take steps now to make sure they are prepared when the frost comes.**

Warm Front and Care4Air in Sheffield have joined forces to encourage more residents across the city to apply for a Warm Front grant, which are awarded to help make people's homes more energy efficient, therefore reducing heating bills and cutting air pollution.

One man who is looking forward to a winter of warmth is seventy-four year-old Tony Roberts of Stocksbridge, who recently received a grant worth £2500 for improvements to his house thanks to the scheme.

Mr Roberts learned he was eligible for the grant when he received a letter from Sheffield City Council. After applying an energy advisor visited his property to assess which measures were needed. Warm Front paid for and organised the work to be done, up to the maximum amount of the grant.

The work was then allocated to a contractor, who carried out the installation. Mr Roberts home is now ready for any blast of cold after he had a new boiler fitted, floor pipes

replaced, a new cylinder to replace an old tank, cavity wall and loft insulation, and draught-proofing for the front and back doors and windows.

Mr Roberts said: "I am thrilled with the work that has been done. I find it cold in my home in the winter, so I thought it was a good idea to have the work done now. I can already feel the difference too, there is definitely less of a draught in the evenings.

"Not only is it great news that my heating bills will go down and I will be kept warmer in winter, it is also good that I will be helping reduce air pollution, you never really associate air pollution with keeping your home warm!"

When power stations that supply homes with electricity burn fossil fuels, they pump out gases including carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In the UK, one quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions come from the energy we use to heat and light our homes, and to power household appliances.

Thanks to the Warm Front scheme in Sheffield there was a reduction of 52,210 tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere last year. Mark Daly from Care4Air said: "When heat escapes it reduces the energy efficiency of your home. This means you have to use your heating more, which in turn gives rise to more pollution.

"The Warm Front scheme is great news for Sheffield. Surprisingly the average home emits more carbon dioxide than the average car, and the fact that Warm Front has helped reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 52,000 tonnes last year alone is a definite step in the right direction."

The Warm Front scheme, in association with Sheffield City Council, offers free grants worth up to £2,500 to home owners and private tenants who receive certain income or disability related benefits or credits.

The scheme is aimed at people aged over 60, families with children under 16, expectant mothers who are over 26 weeks pregnant, the disabled and residents suffering from a long-term illness.

**Anyone who is eligible is encouraged to apply immediately to help keep their house warm and the air clean. Call the Warm Front Team free on 0800 952 1555 or visit [www.powergen-warmfont.co.uk](http://www.powergen-warmfont.co.uk)**

Want to know more about what's happening to improve our air in Sheffield?

Contact the Air Quality team on 0114 2734655 or register to be on our e-mail list -

[mark.daly@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:mark.daly@sheffield.gov.uk)

[www.sheffield.gov.uk/environment/waste-and-pollution](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/environment/waste-and-pollution)

To find out how you can do your bit to help the environment you can download a pdf from the website below:

[www.airquality.co.uk/archive/yourbit.pdf](http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/yourbit.pdf)



## ▲ Useful Websites

### Sheffield City Council

[www.sheffield.gov.uk/environment/waste-and-pollution](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/environment/waste-and-pollution)

### Sheffield City Centre Clean Air Partnership

[www.sheffieldairaction.com](http://www.sheffieldairaction.com)

### M1 Corridor Clean Air Partnership (Sheffield & Rotherham area)

[www.m1airaction.com](http://www.m1airaction.com)

### The UK National Air Quality Information Archive:

[www.airquality.co.uk](http://www.airquality.co.uk)

### Air Quality Management

[www.air-quality-management.co.uk](http://www.air-quality-management.co.uk)

### Department of Health

[www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/AirPollution/fs/en](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/AirPollution/fs/en)

### Current Air Quality Forecast

[www.airquality.co.uk/archive/Current\\_Bulletin.php](http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/Current_Bulletin.php)