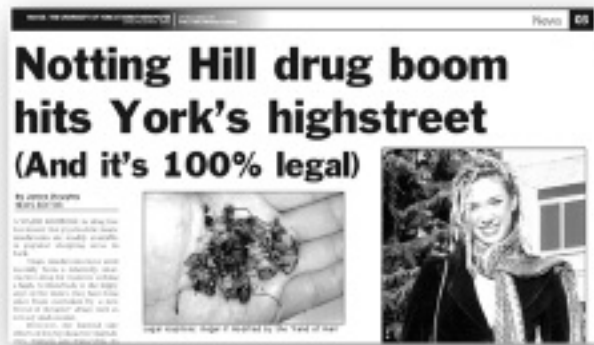


# York Councillor confession after 'over the counter' Class A drugs exposed

By James Doughty  
NEWS EDITOR



How no use broke the story, Left, Councillor Tracy Simpson-Laing who admitted to taking magic mushrooms, Right



A YORK COUNCILLOR who admitted indulging in magic mushroom tea as a teenager, has expressed her dismay that the 'Class A' drug is being sold openly on the high-street.

Councillor Tracy Simpson Laing was responding to the findings of a *nouse* investigation into the increased availability of the drug in the city.

The investigation revealed that the exploitation of a major legal loophole means that Class A psychedelic magic mushrooms can be sold 'over the counter' to shoppers in Gillygate.

Despite enjoying the drug as a teenager, she described "those days" as a world away from the current devastating social and health implications that illegal

substances inflict both on the drug users and the victims created by drug crime.

"The laws we have at the moment are totally inadequate to protect the public from the kinds of people these sorts of shops attract."

The police have maintained that they exercise the laws they are given and have "no interest" in pursuing any lobbying action

to ensure they have the powers to restrict access to this freely available Class A drug.

With the declassification of cannabis from B to C classification, and calls from Tory leader, Michael Howard for it to be reversed, the debate is intensifying as to whether the law should be tightened up around illegal drug users, or whether drug laws should be liberalised.

# Student turns down city job to protect tiger

By James Gallagher  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

NEIL FRANKLIN could have worked behind a desk in London after he graduated, but instead is leading the conservation effort to save the Sumatran Tiger from extinction in Indonesia.

As the tiger's habitat is destroyed through logging and oil palm harvesting, they have been forced closer and closer to human settlements. In order to survive the tigers resort to preying upon the villagers' livestock. Tragically this proximity in the province of Sumatra, has led to the death of at least 30 people in the last two years. In comparison, there are less than ten shark deaths per year, globally.

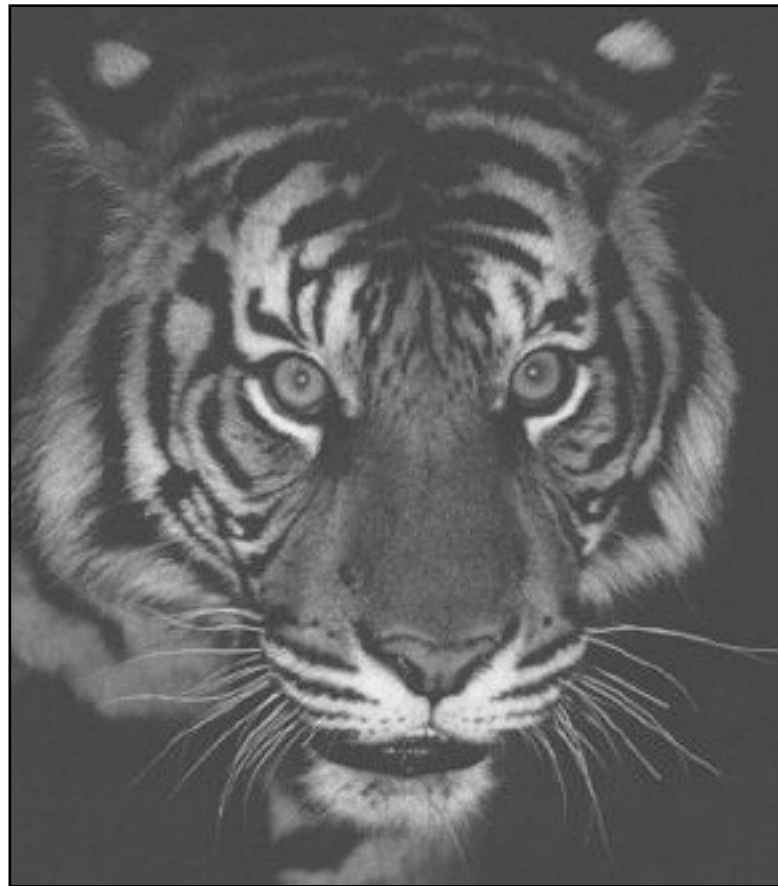
The reaction of local villagers was to kill the tigers, although some were captured and sent to zoos. In conjunction with poaching for skins and traditional medicines this has led to a decrease in the wild population size to just over 400, less than 5% of the population 50 years ago.

The former York student has been involved in the setting up the Senepsis Reserve a new 60 000

hectare sanctuary. Tigers that terrorise local villages are humanely captured and transferred to the reserve, what he describes as "a wonderful solution" and hopes "the reserve will provide a long-sought model for threatened tiger populations in many other parts of the world".

The long-term prospects are less rosy, as climate change threatens the habitat of the Sumatran Tiger and every other endangered species on the planet.

Sir David King, the Government's chief scientific adviser, described climate change as "the most severe problem that we are facing today, more serious even than the threat of terrorism". The most recent study into global warming predicted the extinction of over a million species within 50 years. King added "millions more people around the world may in future be exposed to the risk of hunger, drought, flooding, and debilitating diseases such as malaria.". As the producer of one fifth of the world's emissions, King went on to criticise the US "failing to take up the challenge of global warming".



### Sumatran Tiger Appeal

£ Please donate what you can

The Sumatran Tiger Trust  
South Lakes Wild Animal  
Park, Dalton in Furness  
Cumbria, UK LA15 8JR

[www.tigertrust.info/donate/](http://www.tigertrust.info/donate/)

UNDER THREAT: Just one of 400 Sumatran tigers surviving in the wild

T-SHIRTS - SWEATS - POLOS - GIRLIE TOPS  
MOUSEMATS - MUGS AND LOTS MORE  
ALL PRINTED TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS

# ZIK ZAK

minimum order is ONE!  
SINGLE AND FULL COLOUR PRINTING

10% student discount

15 Fossgate - York - Tel: 01904 655255

HOT DISCOUNTS  
ON BULK ORDERS  
FOR YOUR CLUB/SOC