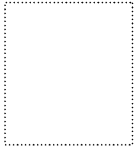


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

April 2009 No. 256 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: raywatson@iclway.co.uk; website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



April Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

**John Williams on
"Darwin's Bees"**

An insight from the Beekeeper at Down House

Tuesday 7th April

7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 19TH APRIL. Contact details inside front cover.

Our next stall is on Saturday 4th April, 2pm, outside Primark, Bromley

Diary dates:**April 4th (Sat)****Bromley FoE stall**, Recycling in Bromley, Bromley High Street, outside Primark, 2pm-4pm. *See below***April 7th (Tues)****Bromley FoE's April meeting – John Williams on “Darwin's Bees”**. The talk will describe how Darwin struggled with his initial ideas and the help he received from beekeepers to explain ‘the most marvellous instinct known.’**May 5th (Tues)****Bromley FoE's May meeting – Richard Priestley** on “Global Problems, Global Solutions”**June 2nd (Tues)****Bromley FoE's June Meeting** (*postponed from February*) – Richard Hines on FoE's Food Chain campaign**Be part of the action - Bromley High Street Stall, April 4th**

Bromley Council were obviously impressed when they sent us a speaker on the borough's latest recycling plans. So much so that the borough is to provide an exciting back-up to our waste and recycling leafleting demo in the High St on Saturday April 4th.

The council is to locate its display truck in the High Street to draw attention to our action - plus we expect a photographer from the News Shopper to attend. So please try to be there to help publicise the need for recycling -- and Bromley FoE. We need a good turnout if only to make a better photo!

The location has changed to outside Primark. The time is the same: 2pm to 4pm.

M&S goes silent

Our attempt to save the Biggin Hill branch of Marks & Spencer from closure has failed. The shop closed at the end of February.

We wrote to M&S chairman Sir Stuart Rose appealing for a stay of execution for a year in order to mount a campaign to encourage local residents to use the store more frequently. Our letter pointed out that the closure would mean many more car journeys to other shopping centres, thus adding to CO2 emissions.

Sir Stuart did not reply to our letter.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 19TH APRIL**.

by post to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS

by phone to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: johnstreet@gn.apc.org.

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons

March meeting report, by Annette Rose

Our speaker was Roberto Farina, Recycling Project Manager from Bromley Council.

Roberto explained that Bromley Council has a contract with Veolia Environmental Service. This contract expires in 2015. The contract is designed to achieve targets in recycling and waste diversion. Bromley's recycling rate is at present 36%. 70% of refuse that is brought to Churchfields and Waldo Rd. is sorted by the public and recycled. Bromley is in 3rd position in rates of recycling in London and the 3rd cheapest at £37 per head on monthly collection schemes. The service collects from 131,000 properties and there are 13 ½ m collections a year.

Some important progressions in the service have been-

- 2004/5 Green box doorstep service begun.
- 2005/6 Restructure at Waldo Rd with sorting into bays.
- 2006/7 Restructuring at Churchfields depot
- 2007/8 Recycling for All trials: Compulsory recycling for residents.

Improving rates

Tables show a steady improvement in recycling rates over recent years. Tonnage to landfill has dropped. Reasons include better awareness by the public who are recycling more and may be buying products with less packaging. There is a dip in December figures due to more waste at this time.

So why recycle?

Targets are set by the government for the tonnage of waste that is allowed to

be sent to landfill. Permits are limited and have to be bought at added cost so there is a need to reduce costs to residents. There is also tax payable on each tonne sent to landfill. Bromley differs from many London Boroughs in that it sends its waste straight to recycling centres so it is ensured that it really does get recycled. 40% of our waste is incinerated and turned into renewable energy.

What is in your bin?

The average bin was found to contain- Paper and card 27%, Kitchen waste 24% Metals 5% Textiles 4% Plastics 10% Glass 6% Garden waste 9%.

Kitchen waste seemed to be a good area to make a difference, hence the trialling of organic waste from several areas. Homes are given a kitchen caddy and a bin to place their food waste in. It can take all kinds of food waste and is put in a high heat composter which produces compost in 3 months. There has also been trialling of fortnightly collections.

Next Steps are weekly collections of paper and kitchen waste, collection of all types of plastic, and the development of on street recycling sites and the development of small item recycling such as batteries.

Roberto then showed some symbols that are found on packaging that can be misleading and do not mean that it can be recycled or is made from recycled materials.

He then showed how the number of missed collections has fallen
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Campaigns information – Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator

Recycling Campaign

A reminder that this stall is on April 4th from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. The location has now been changed to outside Primark, Bromley High Street precinct, to link up with the Council stall. Many thanks to those of you who have offered to help. See you there!

New Sea Level Figures

Scientists have warned that rising sea levels triggered by global warming pose a far greater threat to the planet than previously estimated..

A new report has concluded that sea level rises of between 20 and 30 centimetres will occur by 2100. The Netherlands, Florida and London are sited as areas which would be particularly vulnerable to flooding.

The issue has been dominating the International Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. A new treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol is being planned for next December when a series of talks will take place - also in Copenhagen.

Nuclear Power

This has been much in the news recently due to the fact that four leading environmentalists have abandoned their opposition to nuclear power and said that Britain must build more nuclear reactors to meet our climate change targets. They have argued that while nuclear power has problems with waste storage, climate change is a far greater threat and that nuclear power much better than building more coal-fired power stations. About 10 nuclear power

stations could be built in the next 30 years.

Speed Bumps and New Energy

There are interesting plans for hi-tech 'ramps to generate electricity for traffic lights, street lights and road signs. 'Green' speed bumps will generate electricity as cars drive over them. A pilot scheme in London could be rolled out nationwide, and what has previously been the bane of motorists will now be positive in that the kinetic energy of vehicles will be captured. Any surplus energy will be stored in the national grid.

March meeting report, *continued*

dramatically from 286 in 2003/4 and is now down to 21.

He summed up his talk by stressing the need for a good partnership between all those involved. This includes the Customer Service Centre, the collection crews, the support officers and the waste and recycling services. All have to work well together to make the service a successful one.

Roberto answered a wide range of questions, including the importance of making sure that if we pay to have rubbish taken away we make sure they have a waste carriage notice because there is a danger that the refuse will be fly tipped; the financial difficulties of providing services for businesses and charities; a more extended service is due to start to schools in April. He said that if a mess was left in a street, then residents should phone and they will return to clear up. He also mentioned that paper that has been shredded cannot be recycled.

Transport information, from Ray Watson, transport campaigner

All up in the air again

A bit of long term planning for aviation policy would not come amiss, but the Government will get it whether it likes it or not because the big plans to extend Heathrow and Stansted are becoming more and more delayed.

Take Heathrow. The transport secretary Geoff Hoon may have given his approval for a third runway, but it is only an endorsement. A full-blown planning application still has to be staged and given that the airport's owners, BAA, have yet to draw up detailed plans, the application will probably not begin until late this year or early next. Then Ministers must consider the inspector's recommendations.

Which will take us to 2010 or later – and after a general election. If the runway is given the go-ahead, we may therefore not see it in action until 2014.

Stansted too, is being delayed, A public inquiry into the need for a second runway was recently put back to give objectors more time to organise. The result of that planning application may well stretch into 2011.

Going down

Underlying all this is the sale of Gatwick which is being forced on owners BAA by the Competition Commission. Six serious bidders entered the fray but two have since withdrawn. A decision in a month or two is possible, but the haggling is being complicated by the drop in passengers that Gatwick is suffering along with all other UK airports.

Stansted, for example, is recording its lowest number of flights in five years.

Official figures show that international passenger flights from the UK were 4.6 per cent down in December and 5.6 per cent in January, while freight was down 22 per cent in December and 23 per cent in January. So much for the Government's predictions for growth year after year!

Inevitably, job cuts have been announced at Manchester, Prestwick and Dublin airports, with, no doubt, more to come. Meanwhile, BAA itself is losing money hand over fist and so is its parent, the Spanish company Ferrovial. So, a few million from the sale of Gatwick may well be welcomed in certain quarters.

New powers-that-be

Just to add to the airlines' woes, the Environment Agency is to be given new powers to ensure that airlines do not break the limits on carbon emissions. It will have authority to fine airlines or even seize their assets if they do not pay up.

There's a thought...

The Government has a 'green' advisor called Lord Adair Turner – yes, the same man who runs the ill-feted Financial Services Authority. In giving evidence to MPs recently he came up with an intriguing idea to reduce carbon emissions. He said the only way to achieve carbon targets might be to restrict – meaning ration – overseas flights to a certain number per person each year. Can't wait for the ration book, complete with tear-out coupons...

(FoE) Ask Gordon Brown to act on climate change

Last December the United Nations held international climate talks in Poland. But little progress was made on the key issues of: Targets for reducing emissions; Financial commitments. This was partly because the European Union (EU) failed to agree to do its share.

Time to lead

We need a strong and fair deal at the next UN climate talks in Copenhagen in December. The UK is represented by the EU at these talks.

Heads of government met the EU council in mid-March in a meeting that would have shaped the Copenhagen talks. We need to ensure that the UK uses its influence to push for a strong position.

Changes needed

The current EU proposals for a global climate deal are weak and inadequate. Friends of the Earth believes we need concrete commitments for:

- * Finance for developing countries

To address the impacts of climate change and support clean development goals.

- * Tough targets for EU countries

To reduce their own emissions rather than buying offset credits.

Take action

Please write to the Prime Minister and ask him to take action on climate change. Here is an example of a letter that you might send the Prime Minister.

Climate change is happening now and is already hitting the poorest and most vulnerable people hardest. Developed

countries must take and support actions required to keep global temperatures as far below the dangerous climate threshold of two degrees Celsius as possible, while at the same time safeguarding the right of poorer countries to develop in a low carbon way.

I am pleased that countries are working together through the United Nations to secure a safe climate future. However, I am deeply concerned that the current European Union position does not reflect the urgency and strength of action needed to prevent climate catastrophe and help poorer people adapt to the changing climate.

The UK must push for a stronger EU position which effectively and equitably addresses the need for financing of emissions reductions and adaptation for developing countries and tough emissions reduction targets. The proposal as it stands lacks detail, and will not build the trust that is needed to obtain a strong and fair climate deal at Copenhagen.

As a supporter of Friends of the Earth and along with supporters of CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Practical Action, Tearfund and WWF as part of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, I call on you to push the EU to commit to:

- At least 40% emission reductions by 2020 from 1990 levels, with all of this coming from cuts in domestic emissions - no offsetting.

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Did you know there's an election only a couple of months away?

John Street writes:

Hopefully this article won't be telling anyone who reads it anything they don't already know – but just in case, here it is anyway.

The next set of elections for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are in June. In the UK, we vote on Thursday June 4th. In most of the rest of Europe, voting is on Sunday June 7th and that's when the votes from our elections will be counted.

The UK is divided into a number of electoral regions, of which London is one. At the 1999 Euro elections, London elected 10 MEPs. Because of population shifts and the admission of new members to the EU, that was reduced to 9 for the 2004 elections and 8 for these forthcoming elections. Currently, London's MEPs are: Conservative 3, Labour 3, LibDem 1, Green 1, UKIP 1.

The allocation of seats is done by proportional representation. There's a threshold of 5% below which a party or individual can't be considered for election. Effectively that means that in order for a party to have one MEP elected it needs approximately 10% of the vote. It may prove to be slightly less than this depending on how many parties just fail to reach the 5% threshold.

The electoral system used is one that involves closed party lists. That is, each political party standing presents a list of candidates to the electorate and you vote for a political party, not for a particular person on the party's list.

The ordering of the list of candidates will have been done before the election by the party itself.

Once the seats available have been allocated to particular parties, e.g. Turquoise 3, Purple 2, Rainbow 2, Heather 1, then the MEPs are selected from the relevant party lists, in order. Thus the numbers 1, 2 and 3 on the Turquoise party list will become its MEPs and the number 1 on the Heather party's list will become its MEP.

Turnout in European elections has traditionally been fairly low in this country but the influence of the European Parliament on our affairs is increasing, so why not have your say and vote on June 4th ?? Of course you do need to be on the electoral roll to vote, so if you're not already registered or if you are a citizen of another EU country (apart from Malta, Cyprus or Gibraltar) then contact Bromley's Electoral Registration Office right away.

Ask Gordon Brown to act (cont'd)

- Providing its fair share of the total climate protection costs. This finance is necessary to support poor and vulnerable communities adapt to the changing climate (additional to Official Development Assistance) and to support emissions reductions action in developing countries.

Only if the EU takes a progressive leadership position within international climate talks will we achieve the global climate response that is so desperately needed.

(FoE) The Age of Stupid - Taking climate change personally

The Age of Stupid is a new film about the consequences of dangerous climate change. It was released in cinemas around the UK in mid- March.

This drama documentary stars Oscar-nominated actor Pete Postlethwaite. He stars as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055. Watching archived footage he questions why we didn't stop climate change while we had the chance.

Age of Stupid director Franny Armstrong said: "We want to be part of the sea change in awareness which leads to the greatest ever public uprising which in turn forces the world's governments to make a binding international agreement to cut global emissions."

The film documents six key stories focusing on:

- * Climate change
- * Oil
- * War
- * Politics
- * Consumerism

Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite tells us why he felt compelled to be the anchor man for The Age of Stupid.

Think of the actor you want. Then Google him. That's how director Franny Armstrong bagged Pete Postlethwaite for The Age of Stupid.

Pete plays an archivist in 2055 wondering why we didn't stop climate change when we had the chance. And Franny hopes he will help her film turn millions of us into climate activists.

Why did you get involved in Age of Stupid?

[I play] a human being who is mortified at what's happened - and perplexed. I understand him because I feel that. I had no difficulty at all in deciding to do this part. Some things just have to be done.

I got interested in climate change mainly through Jacqueline, my missus. Her Open University course six or seven years ago started to make us aware of what was happening.

It's something we've got to live with and do something about now.

Any surprises?

As far as I was concerned it was a voice-over. Then I turned up on the day and there were all these cameras. I was amazed that for a film that contains so much information it actually kept me gripped. It is very moving. And the opening section - that's Spielberg eat your heart out.

Aside from helping launch a global campaign are you greening your own life?

There's lots we can do in our own little worlds. It is a question of altruism and economics. We're getting a wind turbine at home. We live on a hillside. But I don't think it'll look like Teletubbies - I hope not.

Insulate, insulate, insulate. Everybody can do that. In a way it's an economic thing. I just don't want to pay the bills any more for electricity or gas.

FoE's Earth Matters - Mixing it up

We need a revolution in renewable energy in the UK. But which technologies deliver and why aren't they the norm?

Renewable energy technologies have a vital role to play in turning Britain into a thriving, progressive low-carbon economy. But no one single technology offers a silver bullet. Rather we need to get our energy from a mix of different sources: from local power, and imported solar, to smart grid electrics and travelling less.

Wind power

Although currently under-exploited, wind energy is well understood and working hard for the UK on land (onshore) or in the sea (offshore). Onshore projects under construction or with planning permission would bring generating capacity to nearly 5 per cent of the UK's electricity. Offshore wind has similar potential.

So what's stopping this well-understood technology coming into its own? One reason is that numerous wind projects have got stuck in the planning system. Another obstacle is getting a connection to the National Grid.

Concentrated solar power

Concentrated solar power (CSP) uses mirrors to focus the sun's heat on to a steam generator to produce electricity. Some studies suggest CSP sites in Southern Europe and North Africa could generate enough electricity to replace all of Europe's nuclear power and vastly reduce electricity consumption of fossil fuels. The key

challenge is that investment would be needed in high-voltage cables linking the deserts to the areas using the power. Even so, it's thought that the UK could be importing small quantities of CSP by 2020. Algeria is aiming to export CSP to Europe by that date.

Combined heat and power

Most of the waste in our electricity system happens before it reaches us — our power stations lose two-thirds of the energy they generate as heat. In fact they waste enough heat to keep every house in the UK nice and warm and to provide their hot water too. Producing heat and electricity from the same fuel in the same plant can increase efficiency massively. This is combined heat and power (CHP) — also known as co-generation.

So, what potential does CHP have? CHP plants provide both heat and power, only take a few years to build, and a relatively small number of the largest units can provide the same electricity as proposed new nuclear power plants. Because CHP can run efficiently on all sorts of fuels, it's crucial for our transition away from fossil fuels towards clean fuels like biomass.

For more facts and figures about the role the clean technologies could play in a low-carbon Britain, download our latest booklet: *Renewable energy*. Your questions answered, from www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/renewable_energy.pdf

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WDM asks – Fairtrade - Is it enough?

Fairtrade is a step towards trade justice but won't take us all the way, says World Development Movement's head of campaigns Murray Benham.

Let's face it. There are not many of us who can say that every purchase we make is ethical. When you're zooming round the supermarket at five minutes to closing, it's all too easy to fill up your shopping trolley with products that are probably made by some mega-corporation with appalling labour and environmental standards.

That's where the Fairtrade brand comes in. There among all the questionable goods on sale is something you can rely on, a product with a simple proposition: buy me and you can be sure that the producers will get a fair deal.

This simple idea has proven an enormous success. UK sales of Fairtrade goods grew by 72% in value in the past year. 25% of all roast and ground coffee sold in British supermarkets is now certified as Fairtrade - that's one cup in every four. Week in, week out, the shopping trolleys of the British public provide clear and welcome evidence that a large and growing section of the population cares a great deal about the impact of their purchases on producers in developing countries.

There's no doubt that this is something to celebrate. The question is: is it enough? Can we change the world just by buying different products?

The case of Nestle highlights some of the limitations of the Fairtrade approach.

In 2005, Nestle, one of the most boycotted corporations in the world, launched its own brand of Fairtrade coffee. The company enjoyed some positive headlines and continues to benefit from its association with the Fairtrade brand. But the reality is that Nestle's Fairtrade offering, Partners Blend, is just one of its 8,500 products. It doesn't even represent a significant proportion of Nestle's coffee sales.

According to The Independent, Fairtrade accounts for less than one per cent of Nestle's global coffee buying. Effectively Nestle has cashed in on a growing market, while committing to safeguard farmers' interests on only a tiny portion of its product range.

The truth is that despite the impressive growth of Fairtrade, it is still limited to a small number of goods sold in a handful of rich countries. For most developing world producers, selling onto global markets means dealing with large corporate buyers whose main concern is maximising profit by keeping prices low. Even companies that source some of their product lines along Fairtrade principles may carry out the bulk of their trading in ways that are harmful to poor communities.

And it's not as if the rules governing global trade as a whole are becoming more ethical. In fact the ongoing push

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Clear the air – wind myths

"Windpower is unreliable and needs backup from other sources."

Wind can be accurately predicted, giving a clear guide to how much power is likely to be available. The National Grid says wind power does not pose a major problem in balancing the UK's electricity supply.

"Wind turbines are dangerous for birds."

The RSPB says wind farms do not pose a big hazard for birds unless poorly sited. The RSPB warns that climate change poses the most serious threat to birds and wildlife and it supports the development of wind energy.

"Wind turbines are a blot on the landscape."

Public opinion surveys generally show around 80 per cent support for wind energy. Given the choice between a wind farm, a coal-fired power station or a nuclear plant near your home, which would you choose?

"Wind farms bring down house prices."

Studies show that wind farms do not have a long-term effect on local house prices; prices may fall during the planning stage when there is uncertainty about the development. Improvements have overcome initial problems with noise, provided the turbines are appropriately located.

"It takes more energy to build a wind farm than it will ever generate."

According to npower, the average wind farm will pay back the energy used in its manufacture within three to five

by the EU and other rich nations to force free trade measures on the developing world will mean more and more of the world's poor being subject to the price fluctuations, product dumping and unequal power relations of the global marketplace.

The Fairtrade approach has done little to increase public understanding of the reasons why most products are not fairly traded. While many people have a sense that fair trade is a 'good thing', they also remain blissfully unaware of how the global trade system is stacked against poor and developing countries.

Wouldn't it be great if every product in the supermarket was ethical? If you could be sure that everything you bought was fairly traded, sustainably produced and helped to lift a family out of poverty? Changing consumer habits and increasing Fairtrade sales has helped to point the way to such a system, but it can only take us so far.

So while we buy our Fairtrade coffee, wines and bananas, let's also recognise that if we want trade justice, we are going to have to go much further and tackle the major injustices in the global trading system. In other words, ethical shopping is only part of the answer. In the end we need a political solution to a political problem.

Find out more: www.wdm.org.uk/trade
www.fairtrade.org.uk

months. Given an expected lifespan of 20 years, that's 19 years and seven months of carbon-free energy.

WDM asks: Climate Refugees – Who is Responsible?

Warmer oceans due to our changing climate are creating powerful typhoons in the Philippines that threaten millions of lives. But, says Tim Jones, WDM's policy officer, there is still hope.

Francisco, a poor fisherman, sits on a beach in the Albay region of the Philippines. I ask him if he has noticed any changes in the weather in recent years. Francisco replies, "People emit this smoke in the west but it affects us here. We will leave when the next typhoon comes, but we will come back. Where else would we go?"

The Philippines, a country of 85 million people, lies close to the equator in the Pacific Ocean. Typhoons have always been a part of life in the archipelago. The Albay region, on the eastern edge of the archipelago, often bears the brunt of the most devastating tropical storms.

Many Filipinos have noticed a big change in their climate in recent years. Scientists have confirmed their observations: the number and intensity of typhoons in the Philippines have increased in recent years. Typhoons are caused by the energy contained in warm oceans. As the sea gets warmer, typhoons are expected to get more destructive.

In December 2006, Albay was hit by Typhoon Reming, one of the most devastating on record. Professor Virgilio Perdigon from the local Aquinas University says, "What used to be considered big typhoons are small compared to the supertyphoons we are now suffering from."

The most striking feature of Albay is Mount Mayon, a huge volcano dominating the skyline. The destruction brought by Typhoon Reming caused some of the mountainside to give way, crashing through part of Legazpi City and burying more than 700 people.

Overall, it is estimated that 1,500 people lost their lives to the typhoon. Thousands more saw homes and livelihoods destroyed. The damage to coconut plantations caused the local food-processing factory to shut and it has never reopened.

Bernadette Aviso, who works with a local organisation assisting those affected by typhoons, says, "It is the supertyphoons which did this. And the supertyphoons are manmade."

We cannot just adapt

Damage from typhoons is not the only impact of climate change being felt in the region. In much of the Philippines, land close to the beach is public land, and therefore tends to be where the poorest communities live. Sea level rise could lead to thousands of people being forced to leave their homes. And, warmer air temperatures are already causing yields from rice, the staple food, to fall.

The local government in Albay is actively seeking ways to limit the impacts of climate change. Mangroves have been planted to protect farmland from salt water polluting the land as a result of rising sea levels.

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Climate Refugees – Who is Responsible? *(continued)*

Hundreds of families from some of the areas most vulnerable to typhoons have been re-housed. One new settlement has been created ten miles away from the coast and Legazpi City. Supported by the European Commission and United Nations, smart new houses have been built. But people living in the settlement have to commute into the city to find work, some have lost the small plots of land they used to farm, and many are dependent on foreign aid.

The local government is considering moving the whole city of Legazpi, 190,000 people, to the site of the new settlement. Virgilio Perdigon says that the principle of moving out of a dangerous area is sound, but it is difficult to get right and doubtful whether Albay will have the resources to do so. "We have measures to adapt. But we cannot just adapt. We need mitigation (cuts in emissions). We will get tired of constantly adapting more and more."

Virgilio continues, "The UK is eight time zones away from the Philippines, but whatever you do to the atmosphere will be felt over here. So we plead to the UK government not to push through new coal power stations, as the effects will be felt not only in the UK but by poor people here in the Philippines."

Disaster is not inevitable

Those affected by climate change in the Albay region are among thousands of communities across the world already suffering because of the greenhouse gases we emit. And the stark injustice is that the average

British citizen emits as much carbon dioxide in one month as the average Filipino does in a year.

In its recent report, *Climate Evictions*, the World Development Movement has shown that if current UK government policies are replicated across the world, Britain will be responsible for creating 10 million climate refugees by 2050. Like those in Albay, millions of people worldwide will be forced to abandon their homes as sea levels rise and floods and drought increase.

But there is hope. The most drastic impacts of climate change are not yet inevitable.

In the UK, fantastic campaigning by World Development Movement members, local groups and others has persuaded the government to increase its target for reducing emissions to 80 per cent by 2050, and to take aviation emissions into account.

The decision on a new coal power station at Kingsnorth in Kent has been delayed, and the political pressure generated so far has led to a new department for Energy and Climate Change being created. Now we need to double our efforts to get Britain back on track to becoming a low carbon economy - saying no to coal and yes to renewable energy and reducing energy use - and to get the UK to play an effective part in securing a new global deal to tackle climate change.

We owe it to the people of Albay to keep pushing the UK government towards policies which give greater hope of a safer climate in the future.

CAAT – Please write to your MP about UKTI

Please write to your MP expressing your concerns about UKTI's (UK Trade & Investment) new role in arms sales, and asking him or her to raise them with the Minister of State for Trade & Industry. This allows us to raise awareness among parliamentarians as well as reaching the Minister – who is obliged to reply to letters passed on by MPs.

What to do

1. If you don't already know, find out who your MP is by entering your postcard at Up My Street or by calling the House of Commons on 020 7219 3000.
2. Write to your MP at the House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA telling him or her of your concerns and asking that they be raised with Mervyn Davies.
3. We've included some key points you might like to write in your letter below. While a letter in your own words will have the most impact, any contact from a constituent will be noticed by an MP-
4. Please take 30 seconds to let us know which MP you have written to, so we can keep track of the impact of the campaign. This will help us in our lobbying, and in making the campaign even more effective.

Key points

UKTI Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) was set up in April 2008 as a group within UK Trade & Investment, the Government unit that promotes UK exports. UKTI now has more than 160 civil servants dedicated to helping private companies sell arms. This is a shocking use of taxpayers' money, and one that should not be

supported by a responsible government.

UKTI DSO has already supported the sale of arms to repressive regimes, including to countries listed by the Foreign and Commonwealth as being 'major countries of concern' on human rights. It is also increasing international instability and the likelihood of conflict by promoting arms to countries involved in conflict.

Military exports make up only 1.5% of total UK exports, with arms export employment accounting for 0.2% of the UK workforce and just 2% of manufacturing employment. Yet UKTI DSO support for military exports is totally disproportionate as it employs more staff than those engaged in all of the organisation's other industry-specific trade promotion.

The money saved by reducing or ending the UK arms trade could be invested in other industries such as renewable energy, which would create new, highly skilled jobs. As well as being more sustainable, this would contribute to, rather than threaten, UK and international security.

The UK government should close down UKTI DSO and stop its functions. As my MP, please write to Lord Mervyn Davies, Minister of State for Trade and Investment, urging him to use his powers as the Minister responsible for UKTI to see that this is done.

Campaign Against Arms Trade, 020 7281 0297, www.caat.org.uk.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

email – sheilabrown336@msn.com

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

email – anncgarrett@yahoo.com

Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Secretary:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

email – raywatson@iclway.co.uk

Treasurer:

Ivy Smith 01689-872642

Press Officer:

vacant

Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

Outings organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 020-8464-5990

email – johnbocock@hotmail.com

Walks Arrangers:

temporarily vacant

Versifier:

Dave Davis 020-8650-5692

Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

Newsletter Editor:

John Street 020-8460-1078

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Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

Campaigns –

Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details below

Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352

tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

Peter Gandolfi

famgando@hotmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson or Sheila Brown on the numbers shown above.

Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

Reuser Column
Don't throw It away - Reuse It!

If you have any items to sell, or anything that you require, please send details to the Editor. Items will be displayed for three months, the number in brackets after an item indicating for how long it has appeared. Could you please contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the newsletter.

Any donations to Bromley FoE generated from this column gratefully received!

Non-members' Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth, BFoE, then hello. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators, Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

Membership Application/Renewal* Form (*please delete as appropriate.)

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email raywatson@iclway.co.uk.

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £8 annual subscription. I also enclose a donation (optional) of To help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

Do you have any hobbies or interests that may be of use to the group?

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