

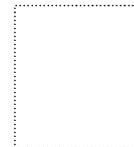


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

April 2010 No. 268 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: r.watson865@btinternet.com; website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



April Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Ralph Palfrey

“Ravensbourne Riverways”
*A journey along all the local streams
which feed the Thames via Dartford Creek*

Tuesday 6th April
7.30pm.

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 18TH APRIL. Contact details inside front cover.

Fancy a house with ground-source heating? See page 5

Diary dates:

April 6th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's April meeting: Ravensbourne Riverways (see below)

April 8th (Thurs)

FoE South East Network meeting – Pommelers Rest, 196-198 Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 2UN, 7.30pm
Bluebell walk in Cudham. More details at the April meeting or phone John /Sue Boccock, 020-8464-5990.

April 25th (Sun)

May 4th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's May meeting: Alistair Baillie (LB of Bromley) on How Bromley will cut its carbon footprint
Patrick Holden: chair of the Soil Association, on Food Supply in the 21st century – Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks

May 12th (Wed)

June 1st (Tues)

Bromley FoE's June meeting: Pesticides Action Network (to be confirmed)

April Meeting – Ralph Palfrey

Ralph Palfrey is a great walker and photographer. He organises and leads walks, both locally and throughout the southern counties. His illustrated talk will take us along all the local streams which feed into the Thames via Dartford Creek.

In response to a donation from Bromley FoE, we received this letter –

I am writing to thank you on behalf of national Friends of the Earth for your very generous donation of £30.00. Please pass on our appreciation to the other members of Bromley Friends of the Earth.

Such thoughtful donations enable Friends of the Earth to maintain a high public profile for its national campaigns and to win important victories for the planet and its people. We have been working for over 30 years to protect our environment, taking a stand against the pollution of our land, air and water and promoting the careful use of the Earth's resources.

Friends of the Earth continues to work toward a cleaner, healthier, safer, and more sustainable environment, now and for the future. This kind gesture will help us to continue our work.

Friends of the Earth could not be effective without the support of its local groups, so thank you once again for your kind donation and good luck with all your campaigning in the future.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 18TH 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, *Debbie Witherick*

St. Mary Cray Action Group: environmentally friendly social enterprise – a winning combination in St. Mary Cray!

Our three speakers in the first half of the meeting were John Breach, Jim Cook and Carole Wells from the St. Mary Cray Action Group. The three gave an inspirational talk about the tea room and country market they have set up, bringing the slogan 'Think Globally, Act Locally' to life in St. Mary Cray.

Carol told us how her frustration at the lack of any nice tearooms in the local area and her desire to get involved in some sort of social enterprise led her to set up the Croft Tea Room at 263 High Street, St. Mary Cray. The original building on the site was demolished and replaced with an eco-building, incorporating, amongst other environmentally sound initiatives, heat recovery and composting systems. The tea room sells (with the exception of a few branded products) only food sourced from within a 30 mile radius. The tea room is a Community Interest Company, which means that any profit made must be used to benefit the community.

Carole was keen to sell in her tea rooms some of the locally made cakes she had seen at a market in Orpington, but was sorry to find that the market had closed. Enlisting the support of John and Jim, a Committee was set up with the aim of establishing a 'Country market' in St. Mary Cray. There is a national Country Markets organisation and also regional organisations; West Kent Country Markets were able to

offer the committee support in several key areas such as finance, legal and product labelling. The market was launched in September 2009. It is located at Vernon Hall and runs between 9.30 am and 11am on a Wednesday. Their key supplier is a vegetable and fruit farmer in Swanley, but they have approximately 30 producers, ranging from jam and cake makers to crafts.

The market operates as a co-operative. Anyone can sell at the market, although producers of food products must obtain a food hygiene certificate from the London Borough of Bromley. This provides a small business opportunity for local people. The running of the market relies on volunteers, and whilst the three said that more volunteers are always needed, they did say that they had not found it difficult to find volunteers only too keen to have an outlet for their energies.

Financially the market did well initially, but has struggled over the winter with fewer customer numbers. The team's key challenge is to increase visitor numbers to the market. With this aim they are considering adding to the range of produce sold, for example bread, cheese and meat. This would allow market customers to meet the majority of their shopping needs at the market. The challenge is to find local suppliers for these products.

As social enterprises the two projects have been a huge success, helping to bring back a centre to St. Mary Cray

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Transport info – Ray Watson, transport campaigner

Moving ahead on transport

Once in power, the hard facts of life can make even a politician change his mind. Mayor Boris Johnson appears to be doing just that in order to reach his target of reducing CO2 emissions in the transport sector – one of the worst polluters.

His London Transport Strategy consultancy document makes firm commitments on subjects like road charging, ensuring a major role for the agency Transport for London together with other policies on which he was decidedly lukewarm before he became mayor. It is easy to see why – the need is to cut CO2 emissions by 60 per cent by 2025 from a 1990 base.

Indeed, the document comes up with some novel ideas, some minor like using low energy bulbs in the capital's traffic lights to major schemes like opposing Heathrow expansion.

On the Heathrow question, the mayor says noise and air quality problems make further expansion 'untenable' and he calls for a re-appraisal of usage of other airports in the South-east – a call that might once again bring airports like Biggin Hill into the forefront for expansion. He also commends efforts to switch travellers from internal flights to rail.

Overall, the mayor is relying on three strategies to reach the emissions target:

- Development and use of low-carbon vehicles
- Improved operational efficiency of vehicles to reduce journeys

- Carbon efficient travel behaviour – massive investment is under way to improve the attractiveness of walking, cycling and public transport.

The mayor says he recognises that the long-term costs of inaction are much greater than the shorter-term costs of action.

The good news is that recent policies have already reduced car travel by six per cent, cycling has more than doubled and public transport use has risen dramatically, particularly buses which have seen a 40 per cent increase in patronage.

A factor here is the growth of car sharing clubs which now have a membership of 60,000 in the capital. The mayor pledges to support expansion of car clubs.

He also gives his backing to greater use of electric vehicles, which, he says, generally convert energy at 90 per cent compared with 20 per cent for internal combustion engines. To this end he aims to install 25,000 re-charging points by 2015 and he calls for one in five parking spaces to have a battery charging point.

Mayor Johnson comes out in favour of 'park and ride' schemes, especially in outer London. However, FoE does not support these on the basis that it would be better to improve secondary shopping/business centres rather than adding to the congestion already experienced by town centres such as Bromley.

/continued on next page

Transport info, continued

Pay-as-you-drive

A big change by the mayor is his guarded support for road charging – he has praise for the London congestion charge introduced by his Labour predecessor but also says he is likely to scrap the western extension to the scheme, which he says has produced little benefit in reducing traffic and has hit the local economy.

His view is that road pricing has a major role to play in changing travel habits but that ‘any schemes must be carefully designed to fit local conditions if they are to be effective and regarded as reasonable’.

He goes on: ‘The mayor may consider road charging schemes if other measures are deemed insufficient to meet the strategy’s objectives. The mayor will also consider imposing charges or tolls to support specific infrastructure improvements such as river crossings’.

In spite of rejection in places like Manchester and Edinburgh, FoE has always believed that pay-as-you-drive road pricing is a major card to play in getting people out of their cars.

Bikes lead the way

As previously announced, London’s cycle hire scheme is ready to roll. The transport strategy says that this will result in 40,000 extra daily cycle trips in central London. To speed the growth of cycling, the mayor wants local boroughs to ensure that new

developments provide spaces for cycle parking and changing facilities.

Note: Transport accounts for nearly a fifth of all of London’s emissions. Of this, car and motor-cycles cause 49 per cent, road freight 23 per cent, ground-based aviation 11 per cent, bus five per cent and national rail, tube and taxis four per cent each.

March meeting report, continued

and enhancing civic pride on the larger scale and providing valuable social interaction and small business opportunity at the personal level.

The ambitions of the three speakers do not stop here. There is much scope for expanding on their success in the area. Other areas being considered are working with Scadbury community gardens and possibly local residents to produce food ... a sound basis perhaps for a Transition Town???

Would you like to buy a house with ground-source heating?

You may recall the talk when Hilary Couch described the installation of ground - source heating at her Crowborough house. Her house is now for sale.

Contact Sheila Brown if you are interested.

Energy firms face opposition from Tar Sands campaigners

Environmentalists are very concerned that British companies are involved in the drive to exploit the Canadian tar sands. They are planning to turn the forthcoming BP, Shell and Royal Bank of Scotland annual meetings into a referendum on these controversial operations. The main issue is whether the continued expansion of oil sands production could aggravate climate change.

In 'Half Gone' a book by Jeremy Leggett (ex Science Director of GPUK) there is a succinct explanation of the problems with extracting oil from tar sands :

“To yield a barrel of oil by mining tar sand which is exposed at the surface, two tons of sand have to be dug up, from which the oil must be separated in giant washing machines, and then huge volumes of tailings have to be dumped into giant sludge ponds. But much of the tar sand is underground (in Canada 80%).

“To get that out requires steam injection of high temperature (up to 20 degreesC) and the use of solvents. Colossal amounts of water have to be heated, vast amounts of natural gas have to be used to do that, and it all involves major greenhouse gas emissions. The energy levels required to heat the water are such that carbon-dioxide emissions are more than three times greater than those of conventional oil production”.

Tar sands oil has soared up the investment, political and environmental agenda, since the Copenhagen climate change summit highlighted the need for a clampdown on the most carbon-intensive activities that are the biggest threat to global warming.

Greenpeace are planning a campaign on tar sands in the near future, so I will keep you informed of local and national campaigning.

Bromley FoE's Get Serious about Climate Change press release

'Bromley Friends of the Earth will be campaigning in Bromley High Street outside Caffe Nero from 2.00 - 4.00 pm on Saturday March 20th, to ask the Council to cut their carbon emissions at least by 40% by 2020.

This is part of the 'Get Serious' campaign for real action on climate change which will create jobs, slash energy bills, and boost the local economy. Continued inaction will lead to dangers of flooding and droughts, and could also leave many of the world's poorest people homeless within our lifetime.

Councils have a big say in how we power and heat our homes and also travel, so we need to take meaningful steps in reducing our carbon foot print. They need more funding to improve public transport, insulate more homes, and install green energy.

The group will be meeting local councillors, and need the support of the public during the campaign.

The Condensing Boiler – Friend or Foe?

Sheila Brown writes:

We have just had a new boiler installed (and no, we did not qualify for the scrappage scheme; our previous boiler was D rated and not even nine years old). We live in a house built to the typical 1930s template and the original boiler and others since were sited so that the flue was ducted up the chimney. This gave us the advantage of a warm chimneybreast up through the house, which seemed an eminently sensible idea so that we felt the benefit of the heat rather than it merely escaping into the atmosphere.

Boilers with the flue ducted up the chimney are no longer allowed. Our new boiler is a condensing boiler and has its waste ducted through a pipe to an outside wall. Now I am watching clouds of, I presume, steam puffing past the kitchen window.

The Energy Saving Trust's website tells us: "Condensing boilers get their name because they enter what is called "condensing mode" periodically. In other words, they start to extract heat from the exhaust gases that would otherwise escape through the flue, in the process turning water vapour from the gas back into liquid water or condensate.

"A condensing boiler captures much more usable heat from its fuel than a non-condensing boiler. Its high operating efficiency is made possible by the design of the condensing boiler's larger - or sometimes dual - heat exchanger.

"The heat exchanger makes sure that as much heat as possible is transferred from the boiler's burner - and as little as possible lost in gases through the flue."

The condensing boiler promises us savings in efficiency which will translate into our fuel bills, so that is obviously good news. But we have also been told that nobody knows how long this type of boiler will last, and whether the condensing system will result in corrosion and therefore not too long a life.

So is it environmentally friendly? Is it reducing our carbon footprint? Does anyone out there know the answer? I am sure the pigeons that used to warm their toes on our chimney and coo down at us are not in convinced that this is a good idea!

FoE – Tell us what you think

During 2010 FoE will be trying to understand what local groups need; what sort of support and information is needed, what sort of activities local groups undertake and value, how things could be improved.

There's an online survey at <http://snipurl.com/lgconsultation>.

There'll be a focus group meeting on April 24th at 26-28 Underwood Street (FoE HQ).

More info from localgroups@foe.co.uk.

Report of Transition Towns Talk, by John Breach

The event, on February 17th, was hosted by the team of four running the newly-launched Transition Town New Addington, near Croydon www.tnewaddington.co.uk - Sheila Kemble, John Kemble, Richard Griffiths and Jim Clugston. Various Greenpeace and FoE groups attended from the surrounding area including Croydon, Sutton and Bromley. The new group's website mentions a public meeting on 24th April 2010 in New Addington.

The main speaker was John Bristow of Transition Brighton and Hove which was formed in August 2007. He started by inviting a list of questions which the audience would like him to cover in his talk. The assembled list ranged from broad questions about the nature of the Transition Movement, the problems they faced in launching (and since), through to specific questions about their views on feed-in-tariffs for renewable energy generation and their relationship with specific businesses in the Brighton area.

John outlined the history of the Transition Movement – a joint initiative by Rob Hopkins (a permaculture lecturer) and Ben Brangwyn, in Totnes during 2006.

The movement has spread rapidly around the UK and other parts of the world. It is a community movement, based on the principle that such groups are free to grow and change more easily than government or business. Rob Hopkins has written a book, *The Transition Handbook*, which details the Transition Town Totnes

experience and offers detailed advice for other movements to help them launch and become effective.

As well as deep concern about Climate Change the movement is characterised by concentrating on issues of resource depletion, especially Peak Oil – the theory that at some point in the near future, oil production will plateau and then fall.

This will have huge impact on modern societies because of our heavy dependence on oil for many aspects of life – including transport, food production and distribution. This dependency means we have very low resilience to rising oil prices or fuel shortages. The movement seeks to increase our communities' resilience by reducing our dependency on oil by re-localising the economy and growing food locally.

However they realise they cannot do it alone. A key principle is to work with the key sectors of society, including the community itself, business, national and local government and the science/education community. In May 2009 the national organisation held its annual conference at Battersea with excellent speakers. It was attended by Ed Miliband, who described himself as a "Guest Listener" and applauded the community-based initiative.

Brighton and Hove followed the model adopted by other Transition groups and formed sub-groups ("Action Groups") based on the key areas of Food, Energy, Buildings, Transport,

/continued on next page

Transition Town talk, *continued* + Transition Town Sevenoaks

Transition Town talk, *continued*

Resources, Livelihoods (how people earn a living). They also had a “Heart & Soul” group, concentrating on the psychological issues around the significant lifestyle changes required to de-carbonise the economy. Some of the sub-groups had been successful (organised events, got things done) – others less so.

There were also some conflicts between those groups who had vastly different outlooks – for example the scientific/technical team did not share much common ground with the Heart & Soul group.

Brighton has a population of about 250,000, so an effective transition to a low carbon economy would require a network of smaller groups based on the various communities in the area. There was some discussion with the audience as to whether New Addington considered itself to be Croydon, London or even South-East England.

The Transition movement has attracted a wide age range but has so far failed to attract hard-to-reach groups or non-greens. Diversity is very important part of a successful organisation.

John also described the precautionary principle as he saw it applying to climate change and the lifestyle changes required to prevent it – why take the risk?

Transition Town Sevenoaks

Neighbouring Sevenoaks has become a Transition Town. We are hoping they will come and speak to us in July. This came about through many local ecological groups getting together with a view to reducing Sevenoaks’ carbon footprint.

They have run many events, including a very successful Insulation Day.

There is a Food Group, and they are trying to get a grant for running a food market and gardening advice centre.

Sevenoaks Chronicle and the local Vine magazine have given them lots of publicity.

The big thing coming up is Patrick Holden, Chairman of the Soil Association talking on “Food Supply in the 21st Century” at the Stag Theatre on Wednesday, 12th May. Admission is free!

Patrick Holden
Chairman of the Soil Association

“Food Supply in the 21st Century”

Stag Theatre – Sevenoaks
Wednesday 12 May, 7.30 pm

as part of Sevenoaks
Transition Town movement

Admission Free - All are welcome

FoE's on the proposed High Speed Rail Link

Commenting on the Government's announcement of plans to build a new high speed rail link, Friends of the Earth's Executive Director Andy Atkins said:

"A new high-speed rail link could play a significant role in tackling climate change by providing a real alternative to short-haul flights and long-distance car journeys - but these proposals are forecast to have a minimal impact on cutting carbon emissions, and may even lead to an increase.

"Major changes to Government transport policy are required to ensure that this huge project plays its part in a low-carbon future.

"Ministers must scrap plans for new runways and roads and ensure that rail travel is the most cost-effective and convenient option for long-distance travel throughout the UK and into Europe.

"Because the new trains will only be as green as the power source that fuels them, we urgently need to develop a low-carbon electricity grid by investing in the UK's vast renewable energy potential.

"The new rail link must not come at the expense of other low-carbon transport schemes like buses, existing rail services and measures to encourage walking and cycling and Government funding for these must be protected.

"The impact on communities and the environment must be minimised - and the Chilterns must be properly protected."

Notes to Editors:

- A high speed rail line must play its part in making significant cuts in overall transport emissions. This will partly depend on how fast we decarbonise electricity generation and the amount of carbon spent in building the new line.
- It must attract passengers who would otherwise travel by plane or car. This will require the Ministers to look at other policies including the relative cost of car and air travel.
- Extra capacity that is created on the existing rail network after the new line opens must be used to provide more freight and stopping passenger trains in order to shift goods and people onto rail.
- It should be linked to the Channel Tunnel rail route and help replace flights by enabling through journeys to destinations in mainland Europe.
- It mustn't lead to funding cuts for other essential transport improvements like buses and conventional rail.
- New stations should be built in city centres - not out-of-town where they could encourage more road traffic and become hubs for development.
- Important wildlife habitats and the Chilterns AONB must be protected - impacts could be minimised by tunnelling.

Let's Get Talking – from FoE's Change Your World

There are plans afoot at Friends of the Earth to get even better at supporting activism. The first step needs you, explains Head of Activism, Neil Kingsnorth.

You know this don't you? Your voice matters. It matters when you're out on the streets campaigning, when you're lobbying a politician, when you're speaking to the press. It also matters within Friends of the Earth and this year, we need you to use that voice to talk with us as part of an important exercise.

I shared this news in Change Your World 79 (December 09/January 2010) when I wrote that 2010 is our opportunity to work together to make our support for grassroots campaigning as effective as possible. Whether you've been part of a Friends of the Earth group for decades or you're reading your first edition of Change Your World I'll bet that you have opinions on how things could work even better.

For the next few months we are running an important consultation with group members on our grassroots campaigning. We want to know what works, what could be improved and what you need. By the time you read this Change Your World, an online survey should give you a chance to answer important questions.

Later in the spring we'll be running face-to-face sessions around the country that will get us together and allow us to hear in more depth what you think. It is essential that we hear from as many local group members as

possible in this consultation. We can make changes based on your needs, but to make the best changes, we need to get a truly representative picture of the full range of different needs.

All group members are fully qualified to take part and all opinions and thoughts are of enormous value. So please do try to make time to complete the online survey and, if you possibly can, come along to a group discussion event.

We'll keep you posted throughout the year on the progress of the consultation and later on tell you what the findings were, and what we're planning to do as a result.

Dances of Universal Peace in South East London

Come and share in a unique experience that will help you to let go of the stress of modern life. The dances use very simple steps and chants from many different spiritual traditions of the world. There is a short break, so bring a drink or snack with you.

Dates: Sundays 25 April, 23 May and 20 June: 3 pm - 5 pm.

Venue: Friends Meeting House, 46 Ravensbourne Road, Bromley, BR1 1HN.

Cost: There is a charge of £4 towards hall rental.

For more information, contact Susan Harris 0771 722 1944 or email susanharris3@hotmail.com

Get Serious Campaign **Help councils promise to budget carbon**

From FoE's Change Your World: Get Serious About CO2 Campaigner Liz Hutchins gives the low-down on our new national focus for the campaign, local carbon budgets.

We're moving into 2010 on a wave of success for the Get Serious About CO2 campaign. Councils across the country have signed up to a 40 per cent target — from major cities to rural councils, and authorities led by all three main political parties.

Your local campaigns will continue to be the main focus and priority of the Get Serious About CO2 campaign. But there is a national element to the campaign that we're asking groups to take part in — but only if you feel able to in addition to your local work.

A new national focus

We have a new opportunity in 2010 to build on the strength of the campaign and drive nationwide change for councils and climate change. We have been lobbying at a national level for local carbon budgets — a nationwide system to ensure that every council area cuts emissions — the ambition demanded by the scientific evidence of what is needed.

At the end of January, Secretary of State for Local Government, John Denham MP, announced a pilot project of Local Carbon Frameworks. On announcing the new pilots, John Denham MP said: "I congratulate Friends of the Earth on their campaign which has helped build pressure from the grassroots upwards."

The new pilots are great news for the campaign. The Government has taken a very significant step along the way to introducing a system along the lines we have been calling for. Many of the pilots are in councils that have adopted the 40 per cent targets, they will be helped to develop climate change strategies and delivery plans, and will work in partnership with national government to make the emissions cuts needed locally.

However, we think the Government should improve on Local Carbon Frameworks by adopting local carbon budgets which limit the amount of carbon emitted in a council area and:

- Are set in line with the current science (so that the targets are tough enough)
- Apply to every council
- Are backed up by financial and technical support for councils

Get noticed

Your local work on the Get Serious About CO2, campaign has already had a huge impact. We think that if local councillors back our calls, that would add force to our arguments. So we've produced new resources. Using our lovely new local carbon budgets briefcase (pictured), we're asking you to convince your councillors to back local carbon budgets, and to communicate this support to your MP.

In the run-up to the General Election, we also want to convince the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties to back local carbon budgets.

Hungry for Change – a Soil Association campaign

This letter was sent by the Soil Association to Graham Hemington.

I am writing to ask your support for our new Soil Association campaign to develop food systems fit for the 21st Century based on three vital principles - sustainability, security and resilience.

At present the world's increasingly intensive and industrialised food systems are deeply unsustainable. They rely on high inputs of chemicals, fossil fuels, global sourcing and vast centralised processing and distribution contracts. Frighteningly, a handful of corporate multi-nationals have a vice like grip on both the means of production and distribution.

These issues are powerfully explored in a new film, *Food, Inc.*, directed by Robbie Kenner and narrated by Eric Schlosser and Michael Pollan, which is now on nationwide release in the UK. We are delighted that we have been nominated the official charity partner for the film.

Our campaign

We want to use the film as a platform to launch a major public campaign. Our objective is to enable a radical transformation of our food systems. We want to provide leadership, mobilise public opinion, promote new models of sustainable food systems and critically, harness the power of public opinion to drive change.

Our campaign will deliver change in three areas:

1. Campaigns to influence change

Promoting public awareness of the precariousness of our current food systems and the urgency of the need for change. We will ensure that government puts into place policies that will enable a transition to sustainable agriculture. For example, exploring schemes which reward farmers for their role as carbon stewards based on the evidence of our recently published soil carbon report and encouraging a UK ban on all imports of GMO livestock feeds.

2. Practical action in communities

Key staple and indigenous foods produced and distributed as near as possible to the point of consumption building on our CSA and box scheme programmes. We want to develop a support programme to enable cities, towns and regions to devise 'food plans' which support the transition to sustainable agriculture and build resilience into their food systems. We also want to develop a farm based education and training programme to enable a whole generation to acquire food and farming skills.

3. Building a movement for change

We want to create an informed body of public opinion driven by our members and supporters. We want to transform our local groups into hubs for local activism and expand our network of 105 demonstration farms. And we want to upgrade the Soil Association website to include

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Hungry for Change *continued* ++ CAAT on BAE and UKTI DSO

educational tools and links that support learning and understanding about food.

How you can help

- Be the change — take direct action from the ground up. Change your relationship with your food through sourcing your food from local and organic farmers and growers near to where you live. Build links with like-minded citizens in your community.

- Watch the film. Few films have captured our agenda as well as Food, Inc. so book tickets for you and your friends by finding your local cinema at www.foodinanutshell.co.uk/cinemas - if there is no cinema listed close to you, contact your local cinema and encourage them to show the film.

- Spread the word. When you see the film, could you hand out our campaign leaflets to people as they leave the cinema? Please e-mail lisametcalfe@soilassociation.org for more details. Or follow the campaign's progress on Facebook and encourage your friends to join.

- Make a donation. Help us to rebuild resilient food systems for future generations. Our aim is to raise £750,000 every year for the next three years to support this campaign.

I believe that against all the odds there is an unprecedented opportunity to transform our food systems from the ground up harnessing the power of individual

citizen action to deliver the change. This is the spirit of our time and it is the antidote to the disempowerment we feel when confronted with the inaction of governments and corporations.

Info from Campaign Against Arms Trade

CAAT puts BAE deal on hold

On 5 February, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) announced a plea bargain with arms giant BAE which, if implemented, would let BAE off the hook. CAAT was shocked and outraged at this shameful settlement.

Now we are taking action. Through our lawyers, CAAT and partners The Corner House have applied to the High Court for a judicial review to examine the basis of the settlement. In the meantime, we have been granted an injunction to stop the settlement going ahead. We will keep you informed of new developments.

Election Watch

As the general election gets closer, CAAT will be calling on its supporters to put the arms trade on the agenda for all parliamentary candidates and for the next government.

Danger! Unsafe structure

UKTI DSO - it stands for United Kingdom Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation. It's a terrible acronym for a terrible institution. That's why we are designating it as an unsafe structure and calling for it to be demolished.

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www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

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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 r.watson865@btinternet.com.

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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