



August 2015
No. 332

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:
email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

August Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

All Our Yesterdays – Look how far we have come

Judy Palmer, Dan Sloan and Rob Clark

*Looking back on some of Bromley FoE's
campaigning highlights of the 1980s and 1990s*

Tuesday 4th August – 7.30pm

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST*****

Contact details inside front cover.

Turn the clock back at our August meeting

Diary dates:

- Aug 1 (Sat) **Progressive Bromley Film Co-op**; Film 'The Sell Off' (about saving the NHS); 6 pm for shared food and social time, 7 pm film; Friends Meeting House, Bromley
- Aug 4 (Tue) **Bromley FoE's August meeting**: Judy Palmer, Dan Sloan and Rob Clark look back at Bromley FoE's campaign successes
- Aug 6 (Thurs)
Aug 8/9 **Hiroshima day Ceremony (70th anniversary)** – see below
- Aug 31 (Mon)
Sept 1 (Tue) **LUSH store, Bromley** – combined event to promote the Bee Cause (LUSH is on the upper level of Intu/Glades)
- Bromley FoE stall** at Cudham Village Fete
- Bromley FoE's September Meeting**: Tom Chance on Road Traffic and Air Pollution

Hiroshima Day Ceremony, Thursday August 6th at 12noon

At the Hiroshima Cherry Tree in Tavistock Square, London WC1. Speakers include Cllr Lorraine Revah, Mayor of Camden; Bruce Kent; CND Vice-President; Jenny Jones, Green Party; George Binette, Chair of Camden Trades Council; Sheila Triggs, WILPF; Rev S Nagase, Monk at Battersea peace Pagoda.

The ceremony will include a two minutes silence in memory of the victims of nuclear weapons and of war generally. Participants are invited to bring flowers to lay beneath the tree during the ceremony.

A slogan for FoE?

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history" – Ghandi (As discovered by Ray Watson)

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by *** **SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST*****:

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.

**A number of articles in this newsletter have been shortened **

because of limitations of space.

July meeting report – Ray Watson

Combating the threat of TTIP

A straw poll conducted before our July meeting unsurprisingly revealed that Bromley FoE members were unaware of the threat posed by the TIPP – the transatlantic trade and investment partnership. And with good reason: it is very complex and it is being negotiated by the US and the European Union in almost total secrecy, even though it is likely to affect every corner of our trading activities.

Not for the faint-hearted! But nothing daunted, BFoE decided to take the lid off the subject and bring in an expert from national FoE's central office. Enter Sam Lowe, FoE's lead campaigner on TTIP.

Sam revealed that negotiations began two years ago and only in recent months has been put under the spotlight when organisations such as FoE became aware of the potential dangers to the UK of barriers coming down and opening the doors to American corporate might. The matter has now become a key political issue throughout Europe -- in spite of the difficulty of finding out what exactly is going on. Indeed, the EU has slapped a 30-year ban on the release of negotiation documents and the US has banned their release for five years.

Sam Lowe said that the primary aim of the pact was not to increase trade by lowering tariffs as these are already low; it was to reduce barriers that restrict profit-making opportunities for big corporations even though this might create problems in areas like the

need to water down legislation on labour rights, the use of toxic chemicals, food safety and the NHS.

The pact, if agreed, would allow American companies access to public services in Europe such as telecommunications, post, energy, transport and finance, among others. Nor would environmental measures be protected from US pressure to relax rules.

As regards the NHS, with its huge spend on services, Sam said that it would be obliged under the trade agreement to open to US companies the right to bid for clinical contracts. Indeed, the NHS has already asked to be exempted from the TTIP.

Sam sensed that the negotiations were already having an effect on trade between the EU and the States. He quoted the example of a Swedish company suing the German Government for billions of euros for loss of profits caused by the German policy of ending nuclear power by 2022.

This, said Sam, was an extremely important development because the pact would grant giant transnational companies to sue individual countries for losses as a result of public policy decisions.

He also foresaw problems where countries would be reluctant to pass new laws for fear of being challenged under the terms of the pending agreement.

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July meeting report, *continued* + THE STAR LETTER

Answering a wide range of questions, Sam agreed that there could be advantages in the agreement but these had to be measured against possible job losses and other factors.

He added that the full picture was not yet clear as it was difficult to get the full facts of what was being negotiated. However, he noted that TTIP in the last year had faced powerful opposition from many and varied groups in Europe who saw it as anti-democratic and feared that it would be signed off by pro-business governments.

Traidcraft result

The meeting also featured a stall for Traidcraft, the organisation that helps small and impoverished overseas farmers. The group was praised by Margaret Elves of Traidcraft for its

efforts in support of the organisation, having raised £90 from selling grocery and confectionery goods during the evening.

She took the opportunity to reveal that the organisation, now 35 years old, was experiencing a crisis over lack of finance.

There were two reasons, she said: first, that many people thought the battle to help poor farmers had been won, which it clearly had not; second, people were buying Fairtrade goods in supermarkets and the small farmers cannot cope with demands from the big stores. Plus, she added, Fairtrade was a different organisation.

Margaret said that steps were being taken to ensure the consumer was not confused by the two set-ups and new plans would be announced in the autumn.

THIS MONTH'S STAR LETTER

A long-standing, but now former, member of Bromley FoE writes –

After approx 20 years of Bromley FOE membership, I am moving away from the area (to N. Yorkshire), so I haven't renewed my membership. I just wanted to let you know how good I think the newsletter is: I always find it very informative, not just on local issues, but for keeping me up to date on national FOE campaigns (it is far better in this regard than Earth Matters), and on the campaigns of other organisations.

Comment from the editor: the more info there is from other organisations the less I have received from Bromley FoE members !!

Global Justice Now on TTIP *(see also July meeting report)*

The EU-US trade deal: How TTIP could cripple local government

Behind closed doors, EU and US negotiators are busy hammering out a new trade and investment deal called TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) that could be disastrous for local and regional government. This deal could threaten public services, set up shady arbitration panels capable of overruling the UK court system and undermine regulations such as health and safety standards. All of this means that TTIP is a threat to local democracy, affecting the freedom local authorities have in decision making when these affect the interests of large US corporations.

TTIP: the basics

Many grand claims are made about TTIP. It is supposed to bring £10 billion of growth to the UK by 2027 and create millions of jobs. Unfortunately, analysis by a number of academics has shown that these claims are unlikely to be reflected in reality. Similar claims were made before the adoption of NAFTA between the US, Canada and Mexico. In the end around a million jobs were lost in the US alone. Any economic benefit of TTIP will be miniscule while the costs could be enormous.

But perhaps the most damaging myth about TTIP is that it's an ordinary trade deal. It's not. Trade deals are focussed on reducing tariffs and quotas for exported goods. TTIP will do little to reduce the already low tariff barriers between the US and the EU. Instead, it will focus on so-called 'non-tariff

barriers to trade' like environmental, health and safety regulations. In reality, TTIP isn't about free trade but about increasing corporate power and undermining the capacity of governments, both local and national, to regulate legitimate areas of public policy.

How TTIP undermines local government

The current debate around further devolution in Scotland, Wales and regions of England means that it looks likely that local authorities will win further powers across the UK.

TTIP could hinder these plans. More and more of the NHS is being contracted out to the private sector. Under TTIP, any local authority that makes a decision to take services back under public control could cause the UK to be taken to international arbitration and be sued for billions of pounds. Also, there could be "ratchet clauses" that prevent governments from rolling back privatisation once it has taken place.

TTIP could also affect existing powers granted to local authorities such as planning. The decision of Lancashire County Council to deny planning permission for fracking in the local area is the sort of decision that would be harder to make under TTIP – first because such a decision could be challenged under ISDS, and second because of the pressure to 'harmonise' energy regulations.

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Global Justice Now on TTIP, *continued*

The provision of local public services and procurement could also be affected. Current EU laws allow for environmental and social considerations in awarding contracts.

For example, local governments can decide to buy only fairtrade or organic produce. Local authorities are also allowed to ensure that procurement benefits small and medium-sized businesses in the area – for instance a number of cities, including Manchester and Glasgow, have become Sustainable Food Cities, and are trying to use more locally sourced, sustainable food in the public sector.

This sort of law might not be possible under TTIP because the European Commission, keen to access US local markets by getting rid of “Buy America” schemes across the Atlantic, has said it wants TTIP to open local procurement to greater competition. This means that procurement could be constrained far more by price alone – giving US multinationals more access to markets at the expense of the local economy and the environment..

Even if certain local government services are supposedly excluded from the deal that is no guarantee that good law firms won't find a way round. For example, a state government in Canada lost an ISDS case to oil firm Exxon Mobil despite the fact that a relevant exemption had been negotiated within NAFTA (North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement).

What can local authorities do?

The Local Government Association in England has already made severely

critical noises about TTIP, saying that the deal is “currently unsatisfactory” and insisting on the removal of ISDS. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities has also expressed its concerns about TTIP.

Individual local authorities can also make their voices heard by passing resolutions critical of TTIP. A number of councils, including Lancashire, Flintshire, Brighton, and Oxford have already done this. Councils can also write to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills [and the devolved government of their country if applicable] outlining their concerns.

The full briefing can be obtained from <http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/> or by phone on 020-7820-4900.

WILPF Centenary 2015

Jeannette Mitchell writes: At the end of April 1915, 1,200 women from 12 countries met in The Hague, Holland to protest against the massive destruction caused by the war and to present an alternative analysis of the causes of war. They argued that the use of military force to resolve international disputes should be replaced by mediation and arbitration.

Although 25 of the 180 British delegates were granted passports only 3 women reached the Congress because all merchant shipping in the North Sea and the Channel was suspended on the 27th April.

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Forward Thinking - New Plastic

Greenhouse gases continue to pollute the planet, but Newlight Technologies have decided that rather than looking at carbon emissions as pollution, they could be used as raw material. A biocatalyst reassembles the carbon, hydrogen and oxygen molecules found in the air to create plastic products, such as chairs. It is hoped this method will be cheaper than making plastics from oil, and of course it's better for the environment too.

Resin That Could Capture Carbon

There is also another proposed invention that could be very effective in reducing emissions. Scientists are experimenting with a synthetic resin to make carbon capture and storage practical. This would be a thousand times more effective than capturing carbon dioxide than trees. The alternative strategy is to take CO₂ directly from the exhausts of power stations and carbon intensive industries such as steel and concrete production, where the gas is much more concentrated.

Lincoln Locals Challenge Wind Turbine Plan

Proposals for a wind farm near the village of Nocton, eight miles south-east of Lincoln made up of 20 turbines, each 149.5 metres high, have been challenged by local people who are worried it would be noisy, damage property prices and threaten wildlife such as marsh harriers and lapwings. Their biggest concern is the damage it could do to the view of Lincoln Cathedral.

The opposition campaign has been boosted by the Government's new rules which will make it hard to establish onshore wind farms unless there is widespread local support and included in council's local plans.

I think most environmentalists would agree that offshore wind farms are preferable, but is the climate situation too serious to be over-concerned about onshore farms? What do you think? This is always a controversial debate for FoE members and supporters.

Fracking Update

Anti-frackers are celebrating the major victory of Lancashire County Council's decision to refuse a planning application in June for drilling by Cuadrilla in the area after a courageous opposition campaign, which included a Bromley Against Fracking member.

However the focus of the fracking contest has shifted quickly since then to the picturesque countryside east of the Pennines. Third Energy, one of Cuadrilla's rivals have now submitted revised plans to carry out fracking tests in the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire. The testing in 5 separate zones between 2,000m and 3,000m below ground level would last 6 weeks. Local residents are on the case with huge concerns about the impact on the local environment.

Letter from Craig Bennett, FoE's new Chief Executive

Dear friends,

I first became involved with Friends of the Earth when, as a teenager, I saw Jonathon Porritt as the then Executive Director on BBC's Question Time and I decided that he was the only person on the panel making any sense. I joined my local group and the national organisation the next day and I've been involved with Friends of the Earth in one form or another pretty much ever since.

Now, many twists and turns later, most recently as our Director of Policy and Campaigns, I have the enormous honour of starting the most important job I have ever had, as Chief Executive.

I believe Friends of the Earth has long been an organisation on the cusp of greatness. I want to be the Chief Executive that finally leads us beyond that cusp.

We can change the state of our planet for the better. If we are truly committed to doing so, we need a Friends of the Earth that is visionary, bold, ambitious and unswerving in its leadership. We need a Friends of the Earth that is connected to the enormous potential of its international federation, and that is powered by a vibrant, broad, diverse and growing network of communities here at home. And we need to build new allies, welcome new friends and look, sound and feel much more diverse.

My ambition is for us to work together to transform Friends of the Earth and put us again at the leading edge of the environment movement; to become

more adventurous, more entrepreneurial, more well known, more accessible to more people and ultimately, more impactful.

I know we will rise to the challenge. I cannot tell you how much I'm looking forward to working with you to make it happen.

We'll have many opportunities to talk in the coming months. But I'd like to start now. If you have a moment, I'd really like to hear from you what you think we do well when we're at our best, and what we don't do so well when we're not at our best. I'd also like your thoughts on what you think my number one priority should be for Friends of the Earth right now.

Please email a few sentences on that (try to keep it fairly concise) to my colleague Fiona, at localgroups@foe.co.uk saying what you think the top priority should be. I'll look at the main themes coming through and let you know what I've heard.

Here's to the future.

Craig Bennett, Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth

If you have strong views on the direction of travel for FoE, why not take up Craig's invitation to tell FoE what they are? As it says above - Please email a few sentences on that (try to keep it fairly concise) to my colleague Fiona, at localgroups@foe.co.uk saying what you think the top priority should be.

Ode to the Pagodas poem – Ann Garrett

Ode to the Pagodas poem – Ann Garrett

Several of us in Bromley FoE and Civic Society have campaigned over a long period of time (which included attending a public enquiry) to oppose plans for the demolition of the Japanese pagodas, maze and surrounding gardens in Queens Gardens, Bromley, to make way for new chain cafes. This poem is a lament on what is now taking place (go and see it!) and includes previous pleasurable memories.

Ode to the Pagodas

The bulldozers bash, grind and crunch
Sounds of deadly demolition reverberate
across Queens Gardens,
disturbing the peace of picnickers and readers
seated in the sun

Once we sat by the Pagodas
A Japanese-themed area truly treasured,
observing the butterflies, bees and celandines
as children ran in and out of the maze nearby

Now the developers have taken over
The demolition dust settles on the grass
An Intu-themed corporate café culture will
spread its chains where the Pagodas stood

Only a verge of daisies left
and a few lumps of stone and wood

Ann Garrett [May 21st 2015]

WILPF Centenary, *continued*

The Congress elected an international team of 5 envoys who travelled back and forward across Europe meeting with 24 influential leaders, including Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, Presidents, the King of Norway and the Pope.

The women urged the political leaders to set up continuous mediation by

neutral countries, but not one leader would take the first step and the war continued unabated.

The women met again in Zurich in 1919 and with the formalisation of a constitution the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was established.

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Summer update from Campaign Against Climate Change

It's been a while since we got in touch, and this email is full of news - we hope you will find it inspiring and useful!

To Paris and beyond...

Have you got Sunday 29th November in your diary? A huge protest will be taking place in London on the eve of the crucial UN climate talks in Paris. It will be a weekend of unprecedented climate action, with mass mobilisations in Paris and other major cities around the world. In the UK, demonstrations are also planned in Edinburgh and Cardiff. Across the globe, protestors will be united with one voice, calling for a strong climate deal, a fair deal and a one that faces up to the reality of climate science.

As well as the UK protests, many people will travel to Paris. Transport will be organised mainly for the last weekend, 12th December. This is because we need a show of strength from the climate movement if there is a weak, inadequate deal. After Copenhagen, dashed hopes weakened the climate movement. Not this time - the message from civil society, is "whatever happens, we fight on for the climate".

The Campaign against Climate Change will be working with many other national organisations and campaigns in the UK to make these events as big as possible. Our Time to Act on Climate Change campaign continues: a particular focus for CCC will be mobilising locally - building local networks for the future as well as getting a significant turn-out for the protests this year.

We had some fantastic local meetings in the run-up to March 7th, bringing together people beyond the 'usual suspects' of environmental campaigners. In some areas, such as Manchester and Brighton, plans are already taking shape for local meetings and other activities in the autumn. Let us know if you would be interested in being involved in mobilising for Paris in your area - if you get in touch now we can start thinking about organising speakers for autumn meetings.

There are also regular planning meetings in London, the next planned for 21 July. Check the CCC website for details. And there is also a student working group taking shape - again, let us know if you would like to be involved! Finally, watch this space for news of travel for cyclists to Paris.

Roads, runways, fracking and renewables

Who decides what gets built and whether it will be good or bad for the climate?

It's been an emotional rollercoaster in recent weeks. There has been what feels like a relentless stream of bad news: first, the removal of subsidies from onshore wind, then the Airports Commission report heralding a likely government U-turn on a third runway at Heathrow. The 'emergency budget' this week was a shameless kick in the teeth for clean energy and the climate, with tax breaks to oil and gas companies confirmed alongside a shocking £3.9 billion tax grab on

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CACC Update, *continued*

renewable energy over the next six years. In a side-swipe, vehicle excise duty was also 'reformed' to remove incentives for less polluting cars, and set aside to build new roads.

Then on the positive side, there have been victories for people power in Lancashire, where Cuadrilla's fracking bid was rejected by the council, and Wales, where the decision on a new opencast coal mine was delayed until August.

Amid all this it has gone almost unnoticed that the government has just changed planning regulations to possibly put a stop to onshore wind development altogether. This move makes a mockery both of local democracy and of climate targets. We will be working with our allies, particularly in the community energy sector, to defend clean energy from these attacks.

June events update

At the Mass Lobby of Parliament on the 17th June, organised by the Climate Coalition, over 9,000 people came from across the UK to meet their MPs. Some 330 MPs were lobbied on the day with others arranging meetings in their constituencies. You can check out this photo gallery to find out more about the day.

A few days later, we took our climate banners old and new along to the climate bloc on the End Austerity Now demo, joining campaigners from Friends of the Earth, Reclaim the Power and others to call for an alternative economic vision, with

investment in clean energy, warm homes and sustainable transport. Read more about the links between austerity and climate change.

And finally...

Building on all this, we have to rise to meet the challenges ahead, working with others in the climate movement. We couldn't do it without your support - thank you to those who donate money (really, every penny counts!) and your time. And please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions or to let us know what you are doing in your area.

WILPF centenary, *concluded*

Members of WILPF, including 8 women from WILPF Orpington, returned to The Hague in April 2015 to review their current work and to celebrate 100 years of women's campaigning for peace.

Over 900 women attended the Conference from 80 different countries. The Conference opened with inspirational speeches from 4 Women Nobel Peace Laureates: Shirin Ebadi (Iran), Mairead Maguire (Northern Ireland), Jody Williams (USA) & Leymah Gbowee (Liberia).

There was also a public demonstration where a large pile of tokens symbolising the billions spent on the military and the maintenance of violence was moved to health, education and the promotion of human rights.

For more information see:
www.wilpf.org.uk and
www.wilpfinternational.org .

What have Jubilee Debt Campaign had to say recently?

Reaction to David Cameron call for Greece debt relief

Responding to UK Prime Minister David Cameron saying that Greece needs debt relief, Tim Jones, economist from the Jubilee Debt Campaign said:

“The Prime Minister is right to finally admit that Greece needs debt relief. But he is wrong to suggest this is simply a crisis for the Eurozone, rather than all countries whose banks lent recklessly to Greece, which includes Britain. As well as calling for debt cancellation, the government should now support measures to recover the costs of it from the financial institutions, including UK banks, which benefited from the flawed bailout of 2010.”

Responding to UK Chancellor George Osborne saying that the UK wants €1.9 billion of Greek money held by the ECB as a guarantee on any new bailout loans the UK contributes to, Tim Jones continued:

“It is outrageous that the Chancellor is trying to get hold of €1.9 billion of Greek money unjustly held by the ECB. He is behaving with the same narrow sense of self-interest as the other European powers who have prolonged this crisis. If Britain loses money from a third bailout, it will be suffering the financial consequences of the government sitting on the fence in this crisis until now.

“No political solution to Greece’s debt crisis will be possible until politicians have the courage to insist the financial sector which benefited from the 2010 bailout contributes to the costs of the debt cancellation Greece sorely needs. Is there anyone in this continent

capable of showing leadership in this crisis?”

IMF leak shows ‘fatal flaw’ of Greece debt deal

Commenting on the IMF’s leaked Debt Sustainability Analysis on Greece, Jonathan Stevenson of Jubilee Debt Campaign, said:

“The IMF’s new analysis reveals the fatal flaw at the heart of Sunday’s ‘deal’ on Greece. By refusing to include debt cancellation, European leaders have made it almost certain that Greece will be unable to repay these new bailout loans, if they happen.

“Why throw €86 billion of good money after bad? Because European leaders are in a state of denial about where the Greek bailout funds went. It is their failure to be honest with their people that the bailouts mainly went to save European banks that lies behind the escalation of this crisis. Germans are pitched against Greeks, when in reality the people of all European countries are paying the costs of preserving the European banking system in 2010.

“That’s why a true resolution of this crisis must involve some attempt to recover the costs of the bailouts from the financial institutions which benefited in the first place. The question of the debt – and the political difficulties of resolving it – are going to keep coming back until this is addressed.”

More info on JDC at <http://jubileedebt.org.uk/> or 020-7324-4722 or by emailing info@jubileedebt.org.uk.

The wrecking crew get to work

This article comes from Peaceline, the newsletter of London Region CND

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York broke up at the end of May after nearly 4 weeks. The treaty came into force in 1970. It commits the 5 'official' nuclear weapons states, including Britain, to get rid of their nuclear stockpiles. In return, the other 184 signatories agree to be 'non-nuclear weapons states'.

A draft agreement was drawn up in May. This "overwhelmingly reflected the views and interests of the nuclear-armed states ... It contained no meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament and even rolled back some previous commitments."

South Africa's disarmament ambassador Abdul Minty asked "What does this mean for the commitments made ... to eliminate nuclear weapons? Why is it that only the security of the 5 [nuclear weapons states] requires nuclear weapons, whilst no-one else needs [them] for their security?"

But even the draft wasn't adopted and there was no Final Agreement. The draft proposed to convene a conference on a nuclear-free Middle East by 1 March 2016 whether or not Israel, the only nuclear-armed state in the region, agreed. The US, Britain and Canada blocked this.

The 1995 Review Conference had agreed to work for a Middle East nuclear weapons-free zone. The US Britain and Russia were to be guarantors of it.

15 years later, the 2010 Review Conference agreed to convene a meeting on a nuclear-free Middle East by the end of 2012. But in November that year the United States declared that it was cancelled. So that two of the 'guarantors' of the idea of a nuclear-free Middle East - the U.S. and Britain - are key to blocking it.

Meanwhile, the US Deputy Defense Secretary told Congress "nuclear weapons remain the most important mission we have. This is our number one mission. We are going to pay for [new nuclear missile submarines] no matter what."

Russia's President Putin said that US actions in eastern Europe were its most aggressive in 25 years and he announced plans to buy more than 40 intercontinental nuclear ballistic missiles this year in response.

Officials of Nato, the world's only and dominant military-power bloc, in which nuclear weapons play a "unique and essential role", said it was preparing to re-evaluate its nuclear weapons strategy in reply to growing tension with Russia.

Meanwhile the British government is continuing with its own nuclear modernization programme.

In reaction, by the end of the Conference 107 states had signed the new "Humanitarian Pledge" which commits them to working to "stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons".

FoE comments on Green light for fracking and Air Pollution

FoE on Green light for fracking under National Parks

Reacting to new draft regulations on fracking published today by the Government, Friends of the Earth energy campaigner Rose Dickinson said:

“It is outrageous that the Government has given the green light to fracking under national parks and appears to be doing nothing to stop fracking in drinking water protection areas. This comes just after the Government’s own report found that even indirect exposure to contaminated drinking water can pose serious risks to health.

“With fracking halted in Scotland and Wales due to the high risks, banned in New York State due to the ‘significant’ threat to health, abandoned in much of the South East of England and now rejected in Lancashire, it’s clear that there is overwhelming opposition wherever fracking is proposed.

“The sooner Government gets serious about renewables and energy efficiency, the safer we will be - and the quicker we can get on with addressing the urgent risk of climate change.”

FoE on air pollution deaths - Call for urgent action as new report reveals 9,500 deaths in London because of air pollution

Reacting to news that London air pollution is estimated to have killed almost 9,500 people in 2010, Friends of the Earth’s London Campaigner Jenny Bates said:

“It’s a scandal that thousands of people die early every year because of London’s filthy air. It’s time to stop tinkering around the edges. A bold and urgent action plan is desperately needed to tackle London’s illegal air quality.

“A transport revolution is required to clean up the capital’s vehicles, cut traffic levels and improve public transport, cycling and walking. Building more roads and airport capacity would only make matters worse.”

FoE on - London Assembly urges action on diesel air pollution

Welcoming today’s report from the London Assembly Environment Committee calling for tougher action to tackle air pollution in the capital, Friends of the Earth’s London Campaigner Jenny Bates said:

“Thousands of Londoners die prematurely every year as a result of our illegal air pollution. It’s a disgrace that a first class city should have third rate air quality.

The London Mayor and Government must take urgent steps to help end the scandal of London’s filthy air by tackling traffic levels and ensuring that our vehicles are cleaner.

More must be done to encourage people to leave their cars at home, and greater investment is needed in better public transport, cycling and walking facilities.”

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Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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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