

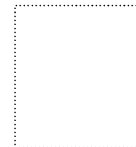


**Friends of
the Earth**

Bromley

December 2007 **No. 239/240** **Newsletter**

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



December Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Allotments have a Green future!

John Penney and Tom Douglas

Bromley Allotments and Leisure Gardens Federation

Tuesday 4th December

7.30pm.

It's our Christmas Social Evening as well.

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER. Contact details inside front cover.

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Don't forget – January meeting (and AGM) is on January 8th

Diary dates:

December 4th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's December meeting, Allotments have a Green future + Christmas social evening
January 8th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's January meeting – Roisin Robertson of Bromley Greenpeace on 'How we campaign' + AGM

January meeting has moved

Please make sure that you note that our January meeting will be on January 8th as Jan 1st is the New Year holiday.

Numbering the Newsletter (editor's note)

You may have noticed that this newsletter is 239/240 and you may even have wondered why. Well, last year there was no August newsletter and the numbering system no longer reflects the month – the remainder after dividing by 12 is the month shown on the cover, unless the remainder is zero in which case that's December. The balance is being restored and the January newsletter will be 241.

The New Year is approaching – so – It's time to join in!

Work by volunteers has meant that Bromley FoE has achieved some considerable campaigning successes in recent years. But, with a little more help, we can achieve much more -- and this at a crucial time when we need to get more government action on the environment.

So, how about volunteering at our annual meeting in January to take on a task, however large or small? Even if you have only a little time to spare. No one will force you to devote more time than you have available.

Whether you are an old hand or a new member, you can make a difference by helping in a campaigning role or assisting with running the group. Choose what you want to do.

If you wish to discuss options or get more information please speak to Ann, Sheila or Ray. The more help we have, the more we can do to protect the environment.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

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

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.

November meeting report, Anne Clark

Solar enthusiast Peter Foreman gave us an insight into Solar Energy and Power from Deserts.

In the late 1980s, America began experimenting with Concentrated Solar Power (CSP), which concentrates sunlight onto mirrors creating heat to raise steam to drive turbines and generators as in a conventional power station.

For the last 15 years they have been using power from a plant in the Mojave desert in California, with others being built in Nevada in southern Spain and Australia. If we did the same in North Africa or the Sahara desert, it could provide jobs and supply energy to Europe or even the world. The electricity would need to be transmitted through a highly efficient grid system (HVDC).

Solar heat may be stored in melted salts for generators to continue production on cloudy days or at night. CSP can be used to generate hydrogen and the Trans-CSP report calculates it becoming one of the cheapest sources in Europe. Every square kilometre of desert could provide the equivalent of 1.5 million barrels of oil.

Transmission on the supergrid (EUMENA) should lose only 15% in travelling and possibly only 10% to London. However, waste heat can be used for such things as desalination of sea water and air conditioning. Horticulture is also a possibility in the shade areas under pipes, troughs, etc.

These cheaper technologies are available now and it just needs the political impetus to get it going. The OPEC cartel oil areas would still be ideal for new plants for when oil runs out, and we still have not found a safe answer to nuclear waste.

Questions ended the enlightening talk, such as the problem of sandstorms, the safety of glass and the possibility of the reflection process affecting the climate. China was mentioned and also cost and investment. An umbrella group of scientists has been formed across Europe and North America called the Trans- Mediterranean Renewable Energy co-operative (TREC) and to find out more contact Dr Gerry Wolff, TREC-UK, www.trec-uk.org.uk.

After the break various items were discussed, after we tore ourselves away from the Traidcraft stall. The LDA plans for Crystal Palace have been returned to Bromley planning department, and houses are apparently planned near two of the gates to the Park.

Bromley Town Centre has a plan to extend the Glades and maybe build on land at the Civic Centre and even maybe moving the Pavilion Leisure Centre. The Blue Circle site is still under discussion and there is to be a briefing of environmental groups by the government on November 29th.

We were reminded of the Climate Change march in December 8th and can meet in Parliament Square by the new statue of Nelson Mandela at 12noon.

Letter re Crystal Palace Park, and reply

Bromley FoE has joined many local groups in protesting about a proposal for houses to be built on park land at Crystal Palace. The argument from the London Development Agency is that the revenue from the housing is needed to put the rest of the park back into top shape. We disagree, and Ray Watson sent this letter of protest to the LDA:

The Letter -

I am writing on behalf of Bromley Friends of the Earth to object to the proposal to build on land at Crystal Palace Park.

Open space in this part of London, with its crowded suburbs, should be protected at all costs. Building on the land would be an irrevocable loss to the area.

In addition, the development would add further traffic to an already busy road system, and create additional air and noise pollution.

Further, the development (plus its associated extra air pollution) would prove a potential threat to trees in the area.

Please take these points into consideration as part of the public consultation process.

A good start to Christmas

Thanks to Sheila for setting up a Fairtrade stall at the November meeting. There were plenty of choice items and the profits went to a good cause. **Thank you Sheila**

The Reply –

Dear Ray

Thank you for your comments, which will be included in the consultation.

There are two proposed sites for housing as part of the LDA's masterplan for Crystal Palace Park. These housing sites will form part of the outline planning application. The LDA is committed to not exercising these options if other sources of funding can be found. Also the funds from building can only be used for the landscape improvements for the Park and not the major projects such as the tree top walkway, glass houses, etc.

One of the proposed housing sites (Sydenham Gate) is not on parkland. Presently, buildings occupy the site, including the St John's ambulance, One O'clock Club and the disused Park Maintenance Station. The Sydenham Gate proposals are not in Metropolitan Open Land and create no precedence for building on parkland. The proposed housing will follow the old line of Victorian Villas that was bombed during the war. This area has not been part of the Park since the construction of the villas in 1870.

The second site would mean relocating the caravan club (7 acres) out of the Park. This mostly concreted area would be reincorporated into the Park with 1.1 acre of it potentially used for housing. This is an exceptional circumstance where building of housing would actually increase the amount of parkland in a Park.
/continued on next page

Reply to Crystal Palace Park letter, *continued*

The masterplan would increase the amount of publicly accessible parkland by approximately 40 acres.

The plans envisage a saving of 70 mature trees that would otherwise be felled. The increased maintenance budget for the Park will result in a three fold increase from the present budget by the London Borough of Bromley. This will allow more spending on tree doctors and tree pinning allowing these the trees that have bleeding cancer or health and safety concerns to be retained.

The masterplan envisages an increase in the number of trees in the Park by approximately 500. All the trees that are felled will be replaced. Two thirds of the trees that are going to be felled are self seeding sycamores under ten years of age and will be replaced with local species. A majority of the new trees will be mature or semi mature trees, the species include ash, oak, beech, elm, plane, birch among others.

The masterplan has been drawn up with the Ecology Consultancy who have aided the landscape architects at each stage of the process to ensure that the masterplan enhances the ecology of the Park. The phasing strategy of the Park (over 15 years) ensures that works are sympathetic to the wildlife. We have worked with local groups such as the Bromley Green Party and the Ridge Wildlife Group to ensure that wildlife corridors are incorporated in the plans. We have also worked with local Bat enthusiasts to make sure the lighting strategy does not harm the Bats in the Park.

The present car parking will be reduced from 750 spaces to 450 spaces as it is never at full capacity. The tarmaced parking will be replaced with a semi porous materials and trees and bushes dispersing its impact. The transport survey shows that there will be only five extra cars an hour on the surrounds roads from the masterplan.

If you have any more questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me. The plans will be available on the London Borough of Bromley's website as the process enters its statutory consultation phase. This includes the ecology, transports and tree reports.

Crystal Palace Park Consultation Team

Planning ahead!

Bromley FoE has made its views known to local MPs on the changes to the planning process which are now being discussed in Parliament. All three support our view that the change would significantly reduce the influence of local residents in opposing developments.

We have followed up by asking the MPs to attend a parliamentary briefing on the planning bill organised for the end of November by several environmental campaign groups including national FoE.

John Horam (Orpington) replied that he was hopeful of attending and Jacqui Lait (Beckenham - and shadow planning minister) agreed to send a representative. Bob Neill (Bromley & Chislehurst) did not reply.

Thumbs up for giving a lift

Surprisingly, Britain is just getting round to introducing car-pooling, something that the US has had for years. After all, it cuts costs and of course reduces emissions. And more than that it is claimed that having a companion ride to work with you reduces stress because the driver is more likely to stay calm when a passenger is present.

The Office of National Statistics has worked it out that if two drivers share a car just once a week, then there would be 15 per cent fewer cars on the road, plus savings to the motorist for petrol and parking that might well amount to £1000 a year.

Car-sharing comes both informally via an agreement between two friends, neighbours or colleagues or as a structured scheme where a car club provides the vehicles. Probably less than 30,000 UK drivers are currently members of car clubs spread over 30-plus towns and cities, but the system is growing all the time with local councils beginning to provide authorised parking spaces for car club vehicles.

Bromley Council is not one who does so at present but Bromley FoE will approach the council to see what can be done.

Another US-led innovation that has been around for years is the creation of special lanes for cars with more than one occupant—and a hefty fine for those who disobey the rule. Perhaps they should be installed in Britain, especially now that photo technology has improved so much that

cheats' number plates can be photographed.

So advanced in fact that the camera can also detect the driver who props up a dummy in the passenger seat, apparently a frequently used trick.

Shouldering the burden

And here is another 'first' to look out for. Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly has approved a national scheme to allow motorists to use the hard shoulder when a motorway becomes congested. This follows a successful pilot on the M42.

FoE's line is that while this is preferable to building more roads, it is still motorway widening by stealth as it increases road capacity.

The Ministry has also published a local transport bill that will enable local authorities to introduce road-pricing schemes similar to the London congestion charge. Ten councils are looking at such schemes following the success of the London scheme.

On the right lines?

Little noticed maybe, but the Lib Dems have just revamped their transport policy – some of which echoes demands from environmentalists.

Their transport spokesperson, Susan Kramer, says the party will oppose new runways in the south east and she announced taxes on planes and heavy lorries, with the revenue generated used to expand the rail network, in particular high-speed rail schemes that provide an alternative to air travel.

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Biggin Hill Airport Ltd – Winning hearts and minds

Recent ad in the News Shopper

Air ambulance service at Biggin Hill

If you have the misfortune to fall ill or have an accident on holiday, then the chances are you would be flown home via London Biggin Hill Airport to one of our local A&E hospitals, like Princess Royal or Queen Mary's at Sidcup.

The air ambulance service has a permanent base at the airport, standing by to use our special ability to facilitate fast take-offs and landings – and immediate transfer to the relevant hospital nearby.

The service also flies urgent medical supplies, including transport organs, in and out of the airport.

We are very proud of this role at Biggin Hill, and do everything we can to help it perform as efficiently as possible.

After all, whilst it benefits South London as a whole, it is the residents of the Bromley area who stand to gain most from having such a vital medical transport link on their doorstep.

Recent diary item in Bromley Times

Aspiring Paris Hiltons can bring their poodles back on their laps when they fly through Biggin Hill airport. PropStar Aviation are running services through the wartime airbase for travellers who want to bring their pets on holiday in Europe with them.

A spokeswoman for the company said: "Going outbound to Europe with a pet isn't a problem but coming back to Britain is. There are only a number of

places in Britain which are accredited by DEFRA. That is why we have to go through Biggin Hill when bringing animals back from France or Germany."

Airport Director Peter Lonergan said: "SkyPets is a service offered by Biggin Hill which has been set up to offer a swift and friendly service with pets and their owners in mind. People who have used the service so far have commented how more hassle free the operation is here both for themselves and their pets, compared to the big airports."

Transport info - *continued* Billions spent for what?

It may be necessary to help cut emissions by planes, but the new rail link to the Continent, marked by the opening last month of the St Pancras terminal, has cost billions just to speed the journey time to Paris by 20 minutes, bringing it down to 2 hours 15 minutes. That may be a sad commentary; however there are other redeeming features.

The time saving is not just to Paris. By linking with fast continental services, places like Marseilles can be reached in 6 hours 47 minutes, Avignon in 6 hours 5 minutes, Zurich in 7 hours 20 minutes and Barcelona in 12 hours 13 minutes, thus opening up a whole new way to salve the consciences of holidaying environmentalists!

The sad thing is that so far there is no sign yet of the UK's commitment to feed into St Pancras fast trains from the provinces.

Climate info and Nuclear Waste trains, citizen's inspection – Ann G

December 8th Climate March

Assemble by the statue of Nelson Mandela in Parliament Square at 12.15 and then the march should arrive in Grosvenor Square by 2.30, where there will be speeches, music and stalls.

Climate Change Bill

Green campaigners have given a cautious welcome to the Climate change Bill in the Queen's speech. It will enforce the reduction of greenhouse gases by 60% by 2050.

The legislation is to be welcomed, but the government must be urged to go even further.

A report from think tank IPPR, the RSPB and the WWF has insisted that that 60% is inadequate and like FoE has emphasised that 80% should be the real target by 2050. This will mean that there is still a lot of work to do by pressurising MPs.

The World Development Movement Director – Benedict Southworth has warned that unless the Prime Minister toughens up on climate change, his credibility and reputation on Third World poverty will be seriously undermined.

There is some hope that the new independent committee on climate change will push for the increased target, and that it will also be rigorous in its monitoring process.

At the point of having finished writing this article the news has come through

that Gordon brown intends to lead the UK in reducing our emissions target radically as result of the worrying UN Report. Let's hope that this really impacts on the Climate Change Bill.

Citizen's inspection of nuclear waste trains for CND – Ann Garrett

Bromley and Beckenham peace and anti nuclear campaigners are very worried about the transportation of nuclear waste through London.

The train route passes very close to houses in the borough of Bromley, transporting waste from Dungeness to Sellafield for reprocessing.

Ann Garrett dressed in a radiation suit, carried out a citizen's inspection recently and handing out leaflets to railway customers starting at Grove Park Station informing them of the dangers of routing radio active nuclear waste so close to built up areas.

Ann Garrett said: "We are disappointed that the GLA has decided not to publish the Risk Assessment Study carried out by SERCO of transporting nuclear waste through the Capital, despite its inadequate remit." Ann was referring to the fact that this study excluded the not improbable possibility of a terrorist attack on a nuclear train.

"It is so important to have an Independent comprehensive study on this issue. This is the white elephant everyone seems to want to ignore, especially as we approach the Olympics events in 2012.

Letter on Green Belt policy from Bromley Common Action Group

Graham Bate from Bromley Common Action Group has written this letter and kindly allowed us to publish it here.

I have read policy paper NEB P07 28 and am astounded by the naivety of some of the underlying assumptions - particularly in view of your claim that your objectives include "England's natural environment will be conserved and enhanced."

What experience does Andrew Wood, Executive Director Evidence and Policy, actually have of the sharp end of planning in SE England?

The paper appears to suggest that Green Belt protection (ie PPG2) should be withdrawn from "underused or neglected" Green Belt. This will be the quickest way to ensure that all the remaining Green Belt in SE England becomes neglected - and thus becomes liable to lose GB protection and covered in concrete. What an incentive for developers to purchase GB land at knockdown prices, abuse and neglect it, and say "it is neglected land that is not worth Green Belt status - and Natural England agree with me" and then make a fortune from housing developments.

We have seen this increasingly happen in my part of Kent. A local long established Green Belt site, a pleasant grassland area with beautiful mature trees, is about to be covered in 800 dwellings - contrary to National (PPG2), Regional (London Plan) and local (UDP) plans, policies and guidelines. (The Secretary of State is about to make a decision on this Blue Circle site following the July Inquiry by

HM Planning Inspectorate). The same developers are now eyeing up adjacent sites and already have an application posted. Yet Brown and Blears and their predecessors have given promise after promise that Green Belt will be protected and Prescott (while DPM) gave a "guarantee" that Green Belt designation would INCREASE in London and the South East.

I have several years experience at the sharp end of planning in this area. I know the way developers think, I know their profit potential on green field and particularly Green Belt sites, I know the pressures that are increasingly brought by Central Government on local authorities AND HM Inspectorate to override National, Regional and local policies and guidelines.

Your suggestion that GB protection should be withdrawn from "neglected and underused" sites will spell disaster for this area. It is often impossible to protect Green Belt land that is well utilised and very attractive let alone land that is neglected and underused. And the proposal in this policy paper will ensure that all GB land rapidly becomes neglected and underused.

I would welcome a response to the following questions:

How much sharp end planning experience does Mr Andrew Wood have - his pen picture on your web site indicates very little? How many Planning Inquiries has he attended and given evidence in? Has he ever drafted a UDP? Has he ever sat on a /continued on page 11

FoE – Change of Plans for the Big Ask

We have just heard some important news on the next stage of the Climate Change Bill. The Government have taken the unusual move of deciding to send the Bill to the House of Lords first, and then to the House of Commons.

What does this mean?

The finale for all your amazing Big Push work over the last couple of months, was intended to be the Second Reading in the House of Commons, which we expected to happen very soon.

The new timetable is that the Bill will now go to the Lords first, where it will receive its Second Reading on 26 or 27 November. The process in the Lords will be very similar, they will vote Yes or No on the Bill moving to the committee stage. Like the MPs, the Lords can not make substantive changes to the Bill at this stage - but they can make interventions about what they think are the big issues.

Next is the committee stage, and unlike in the Commons where the committee is a sub group of MPs, in the Lords the committee stage happens on the floor of the House, so all Lords can in theory get involved. It is at this committee stage that the Lords can vote to make changes to the content of the Bill.

The Bill then has a Third Reading in the Lords, and then will be passed to the House of Commons. The Bill is likely to have its Second Reading in the House of Commons in February. It will then go through the Commons

Committee stage, Report Stage and the Third Reading, before being passed back to the House of Lords.

So the overall timeline does not change, but the order in which the Houses will see the Bill, has. Why has the Government made this change? Well, every year a few Bills go to the Lords first - but this is usually for complex and uncontroversial legislation - so the Government's decision to send the Climate Bill to the Lords has taken us by surprise. This year is a particularly busy one on the Parliamentary timetable, so it seems the Government has decided to send some Bills to the Lords first.

How does this impact on our work with MPs on the Big Ask?

The last couple of months have seen a phenomenal amount of local groups work with MPs. This is brilliant, and the parliamentary team have been busy collating all the feedback. We are really pleased with what we have received so far - we look like we are in a strong position with a number of MPs stating their commitment to a strong Climate Bill.

However, as ever, we would love to have more. So if you have any feedback from your MP (letters, press releases, statements at public meetings etc) then please do send them to us. For MPs, there will now be a quiet period as the Bill will not reach the Commons until February next year, as the focus switches to the Lords for the next couple of months.

/continued on next page

Big Ask Plans - *continued*

Can we get involved in lobbying the Lords?

Obviously, lobbying the Lords is different to the Commons, because the Lords do not have constituencies, and so do not have to represent the views of their constituents. For this reason, we are going to try and do the bulk of the Lords lobbying through Martyn and Katie in the parliamentary team making direct contacts.

However, if you have a connection with a particular Lord (for example you know they are a local resident, or they used to be the MP for your area etc) and are keen to write them a letter, especially over the next fortnight, that would be very helpful. If you are interested, please contact Steve Shaw in the Parliamentary team - steve.shaw@foe.co.uk.

As we develop our plans for lobbying the Lords, we may well identify particular Lords that we would like to reach - if that Lord is from your area, we may get in touch to specifically ask for your help in writing a letter.

What next?

We are currently drawing up a plan for what activism will be most effective given this new timetable. For the moment - if you have any meetings planned with MPs, or press stunts, please do go ahead with them. The Parliamentary team have asked me to emphasise this very strongly - the work you have done so far will be invaluable when the Bill goes to the House of Commons, and any further events you have planned will be very helpful.

All The Big Ask materials - like the postcards - continue to be valid and useful, and will continue to be so now until Spring 2008. But for now, it may be time to have a bit of a rest. We are likely to be asking you for help again with MPs in the new year, so we would like to give you a chance to have a well earned break from The Big Ask!

Letter re Green Belt policy – *continued from page 9*

LPA Planning or Development Control Committee? Has he ever fought a campaign to preserve England's natural environment?

How many of your Board have sharp end planning experience? Do they know how planning law works in practice?

Mr Wood states: "Much land within green belts appears underused or neglected. Greenbelt land has seen little environmental enhancement, despite government policy to encourage it." What government policy?

How will you stop landowners adjacent to the sites you wish to withdraw Green Belt protection from abusing, neglecting and under-using their land when they stand to make tens or hundreds of Millions of pounds from doing just that?

I would welcome an explanation of your "ambition to develop a holistic approach to green infrastructure irrespective of context."

Graham Bate, BCAG

FoE Press Release –

Proposed community owned hydro project being championed by High Peak FoE

Water power renaissance - UK's first community hydro scheme launches share offer

A new community-owned hydro power project is launching a share offer in New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire on Friday 23 November. Torrs Hydro New Mills Ltd is offering individuals, local businesses and social investors the chance to become members in a ground breaking renewable electricity project that will generate clean, green electricity and much needed funds for community development projects.

The launch of New Mills Hydro is the first stage of a project that will tap into the abundant supply of renewable water power in Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire. Plans are already underway to develop similar initiatives in Sheffield, Stockport, Halifax and Kirklees. It is estimated that there are at least 68 sites in Lancashire and Yorkshire which, if developed in a similar way, could provide enough energy to power 18,000 homes.

The money raised through shares in Torrs Hydro New Mills will go towards purchasing and installing a 70kW hydro power plant. The plant uses a modernised version of a 2,000 year old Greek invention – the Archimedean screw – to generate 260,000 kWh of green, renewable electricity every year. This is enough electricity to power up to 70 homes.

The hydro project, the first community hydro scheme in the UK financed through a local share offer, was initiated by Water Power Enterprises

(h2oPE), who will manage the project on behalf of Torrs Hydro New Mills. The scheme is supported by Friends of the Earth High Peak Group.

Torrs Hydro New Mills has been set up as an Industrial and Provident Society for the benefit of the community and will be run on a one-member one-vote principle. Money raised from the sale of the hydroelectricity will contribute to environmental and regeneration projects in the town. Shares cost £1 each, with a minimum shareholding of 250 shares, and can be purchased online at www.torrshydro.org.uk or www.h2ope.co.uk from Friday 23 November. The offer closes at 5pm on January 30th 2008.

Richard Body, Director, Torrs Hydro New Mills and High Peak Friends of the Earth coordinator said:

‘This is an exciting, groundbreaking venture. It’s a fantastic opportunity and we are confident that people of New Mills and further afield will be keen to invest and raise the £126,000 needed to fund the scheme. Every community has a role to play in tackling climate change and New Mills can do its bit by making the most of the clean, safe, renewable energy right on our doorstep. I see it as a social investment and am really happy to be helping the local community as well as the environment.’

Steve Welsh, MD of Water Power Enterprises, the developer, said:

“As a social enterprise, h2oPE’s aim is to set up small scale hydro power
/continued on next page

Rainforest News Today

Uganda Government Finally Scraps Mabira Rainforest Giveaway

In a major victory for Uganda's people, rainforests, environment and ecologically sustainable development aspirations; the Ugandan government has finally scrapped plans to allow Mabira rainforest, one of the country's largest and most important protected area, to be partially cleared for sugar production for biofuels.

This may sound slightly familiar, as on a previous occasion it was reported the plan was dead but it came back to haunt us. Statements by the government this time are from the Minister of Finance, other numerous sources and are more firm. Mabira rainforest will remain protected, and a precedent has been set that protected rainforests must not be cleared for biofuel production.

The "Save Mabira Rainforest Crusade" represents a historical moment in Africa's modern environmental movement; as Ugandans used cell phones and Internet technologies to organize street protests. Ecological Internet has been extremely pleased to lead an international support campaign for Mabira protestors, as nearly two million protest emails were sent by 11,000 network participants (YOU!) from 111 countries. This was the most participation and total messages ever.

Sadly, perhaps the biggest factor in the victory was the recent severe flooding throughout Uganda and neighbouring countries which were widely reported to have been exacerbated by deforestation. We at Ecological Internet very much desire that seeds from the Mabira rainforest

go forth to restore rainforests, development opportunities and peoples' hope. Please continue to take action and to forward messages to grow our reach and effectiveness.

FoE Press Release on Hydro project – *continued*

projects that benefit both the environment and local communities. The Torrs Hydro New Mills scheme does just that. I hope this will be the first of many such schemes where local communities can help tackle climate change and also reap tangible local benefit. New Mills is a test case for our approach, but we're confident of success."

Friends of the Earth Climate Campaigner, Nick Rau said:

"This project is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a huge potential for renewable energy in the UK which is going to waste. The Government needs to do much more to support the development of the renewable industry if we are going to make the most of it. They can make a start by strengthening their proposed climate change law – a strong law would give business the confidence they need to invest in renewables."

Re-User Item (2)

Anne Clark is offering a 26" Leaf / Lawnsweep for £650no. Hardly used

Contact Anne on 020-8289-8483 if you are interested.

from CAAT's November email bulletin

CAAT wins dramatic victory in High Court

In a landmark ruling on 9th November, the High Court gave the go-ahead for a judicial review of the Government's decision on BAE's Saudi arms deals.

CAAT, along with our allies The Corner House, will now be able to take the Government to court in the new year. At that hearing, our lawyers will argue that the Government broke the law by cutting short a Serious Fraud Office investigation into BAE.

This is a great success for CAAT's Control BAE campaign. It is now more vital than ever that we continue to call for the reopening of the investigation. Many thanks to everyone who's playing a part in the campaign!

Clare Short to speak at CAAT National Gathering 2007

Clare Short, former Secretary of State for International Development, and Paul Ingram, Senior Analyst at BASIC were due to headline the CAAT annual conference on the 24th November.

2007 has been a year of success for CAAT's campaign to end the arms trade. Join us at our 2007 National Conference to discuss where we go next in our campaigns and how we end the arms trade for good. As well as hearing from Clare Short and Paul Ingram on their perspectives on the government's attitude to the arms trade, we will have a variety of workshops and discussions, to share ideas, develop your skills and learn about arms trade campaigning.

Whether you're new to the issue, or a long-term campaigner, we will have sessions to suit you.

Bribing for Britain

A new booklet written by the author and trade unionist Tim Webb has been published by CAAT. It pulls together the major events and players in the Serious Fraud Office-BAE-Saudi Arabia story, provides the necessary background and analysis, and presents it in one accessible, highly readable account. The booklet is available online at

http://www.caat.org.uk/publications/corruption/Goodwin5_web.pdf or can be ordered from the CAAT office: enquiries@caat.org.uk

CAAT London Group Meeting

The London CAAT group meets on the third Monday of each month at 6.30pm. Please come along! Meet in The Driver, 2-4 Wharfedale Road, London N1 9RY (just down the road from Housmans radical bookshop at number 5). For more information about the group or the protest, please contact Robin Yu at londoncaat@riseup.net

January meeting - Don't forget

Our January meeting is on January 8th the SECOND Tuesday this time, as January 1st is the New Year bank holiday.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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vacant

Programme Organiser:

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email – johnbocock@hotmail.com

Walks Arrangers:

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Versifier:

Dave Davis 020-8650-5692

Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

Newsletter Editor:

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Merchandising:

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Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

Campaigns –

Transport:

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Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Trade Justice / FairTrade

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Diana Hurd 020-8402-7586

Waste (Recycling):

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Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352

tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Bromley FoE web site:

temporarily unavailable – apologies

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

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If you need a lift to Bromley FoE meetings or outings, let the editor know and we will publish your request in the newsletter.

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 also 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 £6 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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