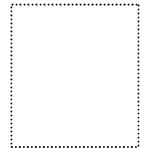


Friends of the Earth Bromley

Newsletter

December 2011
No. 288

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



December Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Informal Seasonal Festive Evening

Nancy Sloan will share with us something of her year in Japan and Sue and John Bocock will tell us a little about their recent visit to China, followed by seasonal foods and our famous non-alcoholic punch

Tuesday 6th December - 7.30pm.

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER.
Contact details inside front cover.

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St Mary Cray country market is on December 7th – see page 14

Diary dates:

Dec 3 rd (Sat)	Climate Change March, London – see page 7 for more info
Dec 6 th (Tuesday)	Bromley FoE's December meeting. An informal evening with Festive Fayre and tales of the Orient
Dec 7 th (Wed)	Country Market – Orpington New Village Hall, 9am – 11am (see page 14 for flyer for the event)
Jan 3 rd (Tues)	Bromley FoE's January meeting. Illustrated talk by Patrick Phillips and Robert Shembri from Bromley Parks Department; followed by Bromley FoE's AGM.
Feb 7 th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's February meeting

Bromley FoE's AGM - Your chance to shine!

January's group meeting is also our annual general meeting – and it gives you the chance to make an impact on the work we do. Officers and campaigners are up for election and it would boost the amount of campaigning we do if you would join them in taking on a task. How much time you spend, or what job you would like to take on, is entirely your decision; no one pushes you to do more than you wish.

Bromley FoE looks like having a busy programme in 2012 and you extra support would ensure that we keep the environment well to the fore in the crucial days ahead.

Please talk to Ann, Sheila or Ray about thoughts and ideas you may have to add your efforts to the work already being done.

You will find it very satisfying!

Christmas meal – in the New Year ??

Thank you for your feedback about the suggested pre-Christmas dinner. The majority decision has been to wait until after Christmas and have a Sunday lunch at Croft Tearoom. At our December meeting we will try and fix a date after 22nd January, when the Tearoom re-opens.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by WEDNESDAY 14TH 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 – from Anne Clark

Richard Priestley came from Herefordshire to give his positive outlook on Global Problems & Solutions, in ecological sustainability and social justice.

As a matter of being intelligent or suicidal, the politicians, environmentalists and businessmen are not talking to each other. They must. While the world is being ruined (i.e. oil sands, and drilling) for the last drop of oil and fossil fuel!

There must be a future outlook: an energy transition. How much energy do we need in a certain area? We need a serious intelligent discussion not the short-sighted suicidal approach.

Varese in Italy has 100% renewable energy, using mainly wind turbines, encouraged by a forward-thinking mayor and Denmark where many wind farms are community owned, also has 100% renewables, using wind & biomass etc. for electricity and heating.

Jutland hopes to reach that point. More employment is being created and old shipyards being used now, and everyone working together to accomplish non-reliance on oil and gas.

Wildpoldsried in Bavaria is utilising community resources with solar, methane etc. and putting any extra energy back into the grid.

In Vauban, Freiburg, energy saving houses are built, walking and cycling are encouraged, rather than car use. They export surplus electricity.

Seville has its first solar powered city, including power-towers (reflective mirrors). Obviously sun is needed, but they have thermal storage.

Another area was Güssing where they once were buying in fossil fuel, sensible use of agriculture, forestry, and the sun, meant they were able to make money, with wood chip, methane and a new business in making a type of petrol. Anaerobic digestion, and encouraging pastures, maize, large energy-producing solar barns, meant that houses don't have to have their own boilers. Even air conditioning uses solar power. The costs are more or less the same but employment has increased from what was a decline.

So with Oslo running buses on methane made from sewage, underground storage tanks utilising solar heat in Germany, local food only being used in Milwaukee to save on unnecessary transport, energy efficient planning is needed. Recyclable zero carbon & hydrogen cars? Fusion still in its experimental stage.

Crystal Palace Transition Town

After the break, Lynnette introduced us to the Crystal Palace Transition Town which was a small community based group at the moment, but new members are encouraged. Using green space to grow vegetables and encouraging local shops and restaurants to conserve waste. The steering group meets monthly, has a newsletter and a website. Project groups discuss food growing, energy reduction, transport, waste, etc. and are committed to Fairtrade.

Biggin Hill info, from Ray Watson

Victory – or not?

There was a major surprise for Bromley residents from the government inquiry into aviation even before the consultation period had finished: Biggin Hill Airport admitted in its submission that it was no longer demanding a change in its lease to enable it to run scheduled fare-paying passenger flights.

Given that the airport has been energetically pushing for this for 12 years or so, this came as a major shock – not least because the airport has always argued that it needed to expand operations. Indeed, its own figures showed that its aim was to carry 500,000 fare-paying passengers annually, something that would have had a devastating impact on Bromley residents through noise, pollution and traffic congestion.

Only strong opposition from residents and organisations such as Bromley FoE has prevented this happening.

The reason for the change in policy was, said the airport, because airlines were reluctant to move to Biggin Hill while there was still room for expansion at the mainline airports – Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Instead, the focus would be on developing executive business jet and air taxi services.

However, there was no celebration among the airport's opponents – after many years of campaigning residents have become wary of the continuous flow of expansion applications that the airport brings forward.

In the recent past too much time and energy has been required to ensure that the people's side of the story was heard by Bromley councillors, who, as head leaseholders, have to approve changes in the lease. There were worrying times when the council appeared to about to give way to the airport's blandishments at a cost to the residents.

So, what happens next?

The switch to air taxi services needs to be carefully monitored because the lease – as approved by the High Court – is clear that selling individual tickets is forbidden.

Further, the airport has continually sought longer operating hours and we may well see another application to the council on that front, based on the argument that business people need to start their day early and finish late. We have yet to see any evidence of that, but, even so, lengthening operating hours would have a considerable impact on local residents. The council may have to be reminded that its residents come first; they do, after all, own the airport, not the council.

It should also be noted that executive jets are not exactly green, given the fuel they use in proportion to the number of people they carry.

The airport's change of policy is welcome if it keeps large passenger jets away from Biggin Hill. But caution is still the watchword when it comes to having an airport close to the crowded suburbs of Bromley.

Transport info – from Ray Watson

Progress, problems and challenges

Transport problems and Bromley go together, so three members of Bromley FoE, Richard, Marina and Ray, went to City Hall to hear a presentation by Caroline Pidgeon, chair of the GLA's transport committee, entitled Keeping London Moving, organised by the Campaign for Better Transport . Ray reports:

If there is a transport problem in London, then Caroline Pidgeon and her committee home in on it, negotiate with all the various agencies involved in keeping London moving, and put pressure on them to solve it. But they are also deeply involved in transport policy-making, trying to convince Mayor Johnson and the agencies -like the all-powerful Transport for London - to change their ways. It leads to tough talking, especially when trying to keep green issues to the fore.

In itself, transport in the capital is hugely complex, with 24.8 million trips every day.

Caroline began with some positives. The tube is carrying more people than ever before – 1.2 billion last year, or 42 million more than the previous year. Bus usage is well up and now constitutes half of the bus journeys in the whole of the UK. Transport spending has not been savagely cut, with approval for major works such as Crossrail, Thameslink upgrading and tube modernising. Cycling in the capital had increased, though there were worries about a rise in accidents to cyclists.

On the downside, she said, there were several areas that needed urgent attention.

Bus fares were too high, having risen 55 per cent since the mayor was elected, and there had been recent cuts in services. This was unacceptable because it was the low-paid who needed buses most. Rail services were badly over-crowded and congestion meant that travelling by underground was unpleasant.

She also considered air pollution a major concern, with diesel-powered buses and taxis the worst culprits. Traffic congestion added to the problem.

Caroline turned to the challenges for the next year. The greatest, she said, was keeping London moving during the Olympic Games, when many roads would be not available for people to get about. She called for more urgency so that companies could make plans for staff travel and delivery of goods. There was also a potential bonus in that some ideas, such as lorries delivering at night, should be continued after the Games.

Another challenge was coping with the extreme winters that were now becoming commonplace because of climate change. She felt that many parts of the capital were not ready for severe winter weather. A key need here was to improve communications with travellers.

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Campaigns, Energy and Climate info – from Ann Garrett

Campaigns - Stand Up for Climate Justice (see also next page)

A march and rally will take place on Saturday December 3rd. Assemble 12 noon near St Paul's Cathedral, Millennium Bridge area. Rally outside Parliament from 2.30 - 3.30 pm. The aim is to highlight the importance of the climate conference in Durban. Ann Garrett will be at the rally with the Bromley FoE banner. Please join her!

Energy and Climate

Fukushima Radiation Concerns

A growing number of scientists say that the Japanese government's failure to act quickly after the disaster may be exposing many more people than originally believed to harmful radiation. Japanese leaders have insisted that the fall-out from Fukushima will not spread or form a health risk or contaminate the food chain.

However, officials have been repeatedly proved wrong by independent experts and citizens groups that conduct testing on their own. A radiation expert at Nagasaki University has reported that 'radiation substances are entering people's bodies from the air and from food - it's everywhere'. The Government doesn't even try to inform the public how much radiation they're exposed to. Japanese experts and activists are now agitating for more testing in Tokyo and elsewhere.

Fuel Poverty on the Rise

Ofgem has revealed that the big six energy firms have increased their profits eightfold since last June which is

making more of the public really angry. These profits come as the government tells us that millions of households are living in fuel poverty. Energy bills have doubled in the past five years, while wages, benefits and pensions have not. Energy bills now include 20 per cent VAT which means that people in the UK are paying some the highest energy bills in the world.

The government now needs to act to cap these bills and provide an immediate fuel allowance for people on income support. Our present Final Demand campaign in FoE is vitally important in asking the government to launch an independent public inquiry into the Big Six's power over consumers.

Plans to cut Solar Power Funding

Business leaders, councils, environmental campaigners and unions are furious at Cameron's decision to cut funding for household solar energy.

This severely undermines his claim that the Coalition would be 'the greenest government ever', and will threaten Britain's booming solar panel industry. The state subsidy for the popular 'feed-in tariff' scheme is due to be halved and will mean the loss of at least 25,000 jobs.

Over 100,000 private and housing association homes have adopted it. Let's hope the alliance of so much opposition will help in putting pressure on the government to reverse the highly unpopular decision.

Campaign Against Climate Change says Stand Up for Climate Justice

Stand Up for Climate Justice

March and Rally in London, Saturday 3rd December. Assembles 12 noon at the North end of Blackfriars Bridge for march to Parliament.

7%

7% of the world's population produce 50% of the world's emissions
7% of the world's emissions are produced by 50% of the world's population

Bring your placard / t-shirt / cardboard cut-out / symbol for 7% to the demo.

12 noon (Saturday 3rd December)

Assemble for the Climate Justice March at the North end of Blackfriars Bridge on the sliproad West into Embankment. The march will leave around 1.00 pm. March in support of the tens of thousands mobilising in South Africa to demand climate justice at the Durban Climate Talks.

2.30 - 3.00 pm Climate Justice Rally outside Parliament. Demonstrators will split into two groups to represent the 7% versus the 50% (see above) and demand urgent action to achieve a Zero Carbon Britain by 2030.

This year the floods in Pakistan have returned displacing 5 million and killing hundreds. Last year's floods were the worst in living memory with 20 million affected and 2,000 killed. Last year also saw record breaking temperatures in Russia with wildfires and crop failures while this year we have seen the latest in a series of exceptional droughts in East Africa causing famine in Somalia.

The frequency and severity of weather related disasters is on the increase. Scientists tell us this is due to human-induced climate change caused overwhelmingly by the high emissions and high consuming lifestyles of richer countries like our own.

It's the poorest and most vulnerable around the world who have done the least to cause the problem but who are suffering the most. And all this is set to get worse. Yet climate change and the conversion to a low carbon economy are routinely dismissed as minor concerns.

Climate Refugee Vigil and symbolic "Climate Refugee Camp"

11.30 pm Friday 2nd to 1.00 am Saturday 3rd on the Thames foreshore near the Millennium ("wobbly") bridge.

Turn the desolate foreshore alongside the rising waters of the Thames into a 'stage' on which to bring the reality of climate change impacts on vulnerable people around the world home to the City of London, the heart of the consumerist carbon-burning economy that created those impacts in the first place.

If you come to this event please wear stout footwear and warm, windproof and waterproof clothing. Download a Foreshore Safety leaflet here. (A candle in a jar would also be good!)

More details and updates at <http://www.campaigncc.org/standupforclimatejustice>

Has Green Become the New Red in America? - by John Stewart

US bars aviation campaigner

John Stewart, chair of the campaign group Airport Watch and leader of the successful campaign to prevent expansion at Heathrow, was banned from entering America to take part in a series of meetings with US aviation campaigners. No reason was given. He was questioned by the FBI and deported. This is his story:

Has Green Become the New Red in America? - by John Stewart

I was denied entry to the United States on Thursday last week. I was coming to America for a series of meetings and talks organized by the Aviation Justice Express. I had been invited, along with Scottish community activist Dan Glass, to talk about the successful campaign which defeated plans for a third runway at London's Heathrow Airport.

However I never made it beyond JFK Airport. I was escorted off the plane by six law enforcement officers before being questioned for several hours by the FBI, the American Secret Service and immigration officials. I was then sent straight back to London. No reason was given.

I have now learnt via Fox News that I was alleged to have made some threats against President Obama. That never came up in the questioning. I can only conclude that this was simply an excuse to deny me entry to the country.

Just why are the authorities so keen to silence environmentalists? Has, as a new book by Will Potter suggests, green become the new red? Are they now seeing a green under every bed

planting seeds of revolution and sowing sedition?

The campaign against the third runway at Heathrow was the most diverse ever assembled anywhere in Europe to protest against an airport expansion. It included local residents, many of whose politics are far to the right of President Obama, politicians of all political parties as well as representatives of environmental NGOs and green activists, some of whom took part in non-violent civil disobedience. It was this coalition of interests, which I chaired, that persuaded Conservative-led Government, when elected, to scrap the plans for the expansion of Heathrow.

The aviation industry in the UK, perhaps in the whole of Europe, had never suffered such a reverse. Expansion at Europe's busiest international airport had been denied by a fiscally-conservative Government on the basis that the environmental and economic arguments didn't stack up.

If this process were to be repeated across Europe and the US, it would harm the corporate interests of the aviation industry. Potter argues in Green is the New Red that it is precisely to protect the profits of corporate interests that environmentalists are being targeted. He has written, "Much like the Red Scare and the communist witch hunts of the 40s and 50s, the Green Scare is using one word—this time, it's "terrorist"—to push a political agenda, instil fear, and chill dissent."

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Farming reform plans & Feeding the 5000, from Peter Gandolfi

Farming reform plans update

The first draft of plans to reform rules governing European farming (known as the Common Agricultural Policy or CAP) have been released. They contain some good news - a tribute to good campaigning, but need strengthening and improving. New campaigning actions will follow soon.

Currently, the CAP props up factory farming, contributing to: Rainforest deforestation, Climate-changing emissions and high food prices. (The CAP spends more than 50 billion Euros of taxpayers' money a year in Europe, and about 4 billion pounds a year in the UK. It steers the direction of food and farming practices across the continent as well as their impacts on other parts of the world.)

A large part of the problem is due to our importing of soy to feed factory farmed animals.

Friends of the Earth supporters have been campaigning hard to make sure the new rules are up to scratch. The plans released yesterday include some measures to: Support farmers to grow alternative animal feeds to soy, Encourage farmers to plant varied crops - good for wildlife, climate and soil, Limit funding for big farms - often the worst for the environment, Provide support for small farms - important to rural communities

But they're far too weak to make a real difference. And the plans don't address other key problems. In particular, the current plans don't do enough to: Reduce our damaging imports of soy,

Stop European farming's devastating impacts on developing countries, Help farmers shift to planet-friendly farming, Deal with rising food prices

Feeding the 5000 launch

The campaign aims to highlight the amount of food wasted in the UK and is supported by organisations including Friends of the Earth, FareShare, FoodCycle and Love Food Hate Waste.

From plough to plate, Britain wastes an estimated 16 million tonnes of food every year. That's enough to fill Wembley Stadium 16 times over.

Instead of ending up in landfill, or being burnt, much of this food could be eaten by people. Much of what can't could feed farm animals. The rest could be used for composting, or anaerobic digestion (where food scraps are treated to produce heat and gas).

Also by importing animal feeds like soy - instead of feeding farm animals our leftovers - the UK is driving deforestation abroad, destroying the livelihoods of local communities', damaging wildlife habitats and exacerbating climate change.

5000 free lunches (made from food that would otherwise have been wasted), were produced for the feeding the 5000 event on Friday 18 November in Trafalgar Square.

Friends of the Earth campaigning for an end to cold rented homes

Following a successful two year campaign by Friends of the Earth, the Government has included a new law in the Energy Act 2011 which will make it, from 2018, illegal for a landlord to rent out a property which fails to reach a basic standard of insulation and heating, unless it is improved to make it warmer and cheaper to heat – a measure which will also cut its carbon emissions. Here is how it happened...

Government figures show that at least 5.5 million households in the UK cannot afford to heat their home to a reasonable level – they live in fuel poverty.

Conditions are particularly bad in the 3.4 million homes in England (15% of all homes) rented from a landlord or letting agent. These privately rented homes are the worst maintained and are the most likely to lack basic insulation measures such as cavity wall or loft insulation. This increases fuel poverty by making these homes very difficult and expensive to heat.

We decided that waiting for landlords to voluntarily improve the worst insulated properties wasn't an option and that the Green Deal (the Government's flagship policy on energy efficiency) alone would not be enough.

The Warm Homes campaign was born – its aim to make it illegal to rent out a property which is so cold and expensive to heat that it is a health hazard.

In 2010, over 30 organisations including consumer groups, children's

and older people's charities, health and environmental groups, councils, and housing and tenants' rights campaigns were brought together by Friends of the Earth, the Association for the Conservation of Energy, and Citizens Advice to demand a new law to ensure a minimum standard of energy efficiency in private rented homes from 2016.

We showed that improving the worst insulated rented homes (those with an energy efficiency rating of F or G) could have considerable health, climate, economic and consumer benefits. Friends of the Earth commissioned research from Consumer Focus showing it would:

- Lift 150,000 households out of fuel poverty
- Save an average of £488 from the annual energy bill of the homes improved
- Save almost 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

We commissioned research from the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health revealing that cold rented homes were costing taxpayers dear, with the NHS spending an estimated £145m annually treating the illnesses caused by people living in the worst insulated rented homes.

Breakthrough! Government responds to our pressure

In May 2011, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Chris Huhne MP responded to the growing pressure from our campaign by announcing that new legislation would

/continued on next page

FoE – An end to cold rented homes *(continued)*

be included in the Energy Bill: “From 2018, the rental of the very worst performing properties - those rated F and G - will be banned through a minimum energy efficiency standard.”

The legislation would for the first time establish the important principle of mandatory improvement of existing homes. Landlords could be fined up to £5,000 for failing to improve the worst insulated properties. This would be a significant step forward in energy efficiency policy in the UK.

“This legislation will protect many vulnerable families from fuel poverty and high energy bills in the future. The Government has made it clear that renting out dangerously cold and draughty homes is unacceptable - landlords will have to improve their properties or face prosecution.” Dave Timms, Friends of the Earth’s Warm Homes campaigner.

However the legislation was not perfect. Instead of starting in 2016 in line with the Government’s legal target to end fuel poverty, the Government delayed the measure to come into force in 2018.

The legislation also contained a worrying loophole, which needs to be closed so that properties must be brought up to the minimum standard rather than simply having some improvements made and then being rented out even if they are still below the minimum standard.

Joining forces to demand a stronger Energy Bill

In the final stages of the campaign, we combined our aim of winning a minimum energy efficiency standard for the private rented sector, with our push for a step change in local council action on climate change (our Get Serious about CO₂ initiative) – together these demands formed a joint campaign to strengthen the Energy Bill overall.

Around the country Friends of the Earth local groups joined with other organisations including Stop Climate Chaos to organise packed public meetings putting pressure on MPs to back our demands on ‘councils and climate change’.

In the House of Commons we tried to get the Energy Bill amended to remove some significant loopholes in the minimum energy efficiency standard for private rented homes and to bring forward its introduction to 2016.

In the end fourteen Liberal Democrat MPs rebelled against the Government to vote for our changes. The vote was lost, but in the very last debate on the Energy Bill in the House of Lords, under pressure from independent peers agreed that the 2018 date wasn’t fixed and if rapid improvements weren’t seen in rented homes the regulations could start sooner.

Further information: Dave Timms, FoE, Climate and Energy Campaigner, 020 7490 1555, dave.timms@foe.co.uk

FoE's Change Your World - Final Demand campaign

We launched the Final Demand campaign this month — check our website at www.foe.co.uk/finaldemand to see how it went.

Our energy system is broken

Six big companies control 99 per cent of the household energy market — British Gas, EDF, E.ON, npower, Scottish & Southern and Scottish Power — and they're keeping us hooked on ever more expensive fossil fuels, leaving people and the planet out of pocket.

We need your help to take down the power of the Big Six and clear the path for the energy future we really need. Consumer bills are rocketing — doubling in the past seven years — and energy companies made a profit of nearly £9bn last year.

Less than eight per cent of our electricity is produced from renewable sources. The energy companies are routinely making bumper payments to their shareholders rather than investing in the new sustainable technologies we so desperately need.

We want to change how we think about energy in the UK. The scale of the challenge means that we're not just calling for the environmental measures we know we need — we must change the very framework in which we're operating.

The Final Demand campaign

The Big Six energy companies have had us over a barrel for too long. We need a public inquiry into their power over consumers and influence over politicians.

We need to make sure the Government doesn't cripple a scheme to support new clean domestic energy generated by small companies, homes, businesses and communities.

The Feed-in tariff is one of the few schemes that has challenged the dominance of the Big Six energy companies. It has also helped kick-start green energy and jobs in the UK. But the government is threatening to cut the scheme so it would only apply to the very smallest projects — leaving the Big Six unchallenged.

What can I do?

- Spread the word Help get as many people as possible to sign our petition calling on David Cameron to launch an inquiry into the Big Six and defend the Feed-in tariff.
- Bring it home Get your MP face-to-face with local renewable energy businesses and community projects to persuade them to support our campaign.
- Mobilise your allies. We need as many diverse groups as possible to call on MPs to break the Big Six stranglehold.
- Stunts/actions We launched with a spectacular stunt — saying thanks on behalf of the Big Six for all the cash we've given them. There'll be opportunities for you to do a similar stunt locally.

Get involved

Contact your Network Developer or glyn.thomas@foe.co.uk to sign up to the campaign.

Reply re light bulbs ++ Transport and John Stewart's story (both cont'd)

Reply to the comment in the Oct FoE newsletter on the disposal of low energy light bulbs, from Peter Gandolfi

I was surprised to read of the problems of low energy light bulb disposal in the last newsletter. I have seen these being collected with fluorescent tubes at the Waldo road site, and on the Bromley Council website, the Waldo Road site is listed as recycling low energy bulbs.

The advice that they contain 'only a little bit of mercury' is true, but it is an insidious central nervous system poison that builds up in the body and very dangerous.

The website www.recolight.co.uk gives the ability of entering a post code to give the location of nearby recycling centres of low energy light bulb. In the Bromley area these are:

Sainsburys, Walters Yard, Bromley and 76 Station Road West Wickham
Robert Dyas, 174-176 High Street, Orpington,
Homebase, Sevenoaks Way Industrial Estate, Main Rd , Orpington
BEW Electrical Dist, Unit 6-8
Crayfields Industrial Park , Main Road, St Paul's Cray

Transport info, continued

A third danger area was the quality of the environment in London; drastic, fresh thinking was required to reduce pollution, with much more urgency given to converting buses and taxis to electric power – a target of 2020 had been set for this. Charging points

around the capital were increasing, but not fast enough. Electrification would also be speeded by better technology improving battery life.

She added that reducing pollution would save lives – and would also save money because electric-powered buses and taxis are cheaper to run.

Finally, she predicted the main issues that will dominate next year's mayoral election: not transport but fares and the London economy.

Is Green the new Red, continued

There may be something else going on here as well. The Bush Administration promoted the practice of excluding people from the US because of their beliefs: ideological exclusion. Although the Obama administration has made some positive strides towards putting an end to the practice, the American Civil Liberties Union is arguing that it should retire it for good.

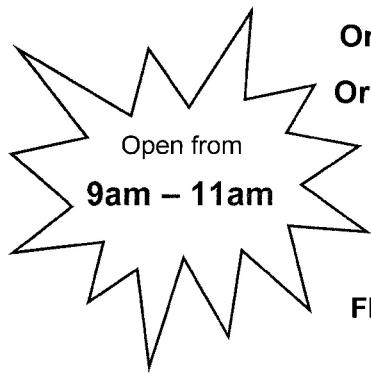
A reduction in flying in the US would hit the profits of the aviation industry. So a message which argues that flights should be curbed is one the American aviation industry doesn't want to hear. It would threaten its profits and corporate power. It doesn't want the public to know that high-speed rail could potentially provide a realistic alternative to many short-distance flights in the US. Easier to silence the messenger. But the message will be heard. The tour will go on. Dan Glass and myself will be skyped into the events we were due to speak at across the country.



Country Market



Wednesday 7th December 2011



Orpington Village Hall,
Orpington High Street,

BR6 0NN

FRESH MEAT

FRESH FRUIT & VEG

FRESHLY BAKED BREAD & CAKES

HANDMADE SOAPS, JEWELLERY & CRAFTS



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

www.stmarycraycountrymarket.co.uk

stmarycraycountrymarket@yahoo.co.uk

07771 502739

Traidcraft sale

Now that we are no longer running the occasional Traidcraft stall at our monthly meetings, an alternative source of fair trade foods is at the weekly stall at Bromley Parish Church (behind Primark). It takes place in the

Parish Rooms (the entrance furthest from the Market Square) each Saturday between 10am and 12noon. Coffee is served and there is a Traidcraft stall. Christmas cards are currently available.

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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.

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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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