



Friends of the Earth

Bromley

February 2011 No. 278 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
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February Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

“Sustainable Earth” project

Sustainable Technologies

Future scenarios and the boundaries of imagination

Bromley FoE member John Bocock shares his ideas

Tuesday 1st February - 7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

In this Issue:

Diary Dates	2	What's in a name	9
January mtg rpt	2	Social impact	10,13
2010 revisited	3	WDM on food prices	11
Transport info	4,7	FoE on air pollution	12
Campaigns info	5,11	FoE on warm homes	13
Airport protest	6	CAAT – This is not OK	14
Airport – wake up	7	Bromley FoE contacts	15
An idea for articles	8	Non-members section	16
Allotments	8,9		

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY. Contact details inside front cover.

Visit Chislehurst Geothermal energy project, Saturday 19th February – page 2

Diary dates:

Feb 1st (Tue)

Bromley FoE's February meeting

John Bocock – "Sustainable Earth" project

Feb 19th (Sat)

Visit to Geothermal energy project at Christ Church, Chislehurst; then Chislehurst Ponds, followed by pub lunch. Meet in the car park of Christ Church, Lubbock Road, Chislehurst. Contact John or Sue (020-8464-5990) for time.

March 1st (Tue)

Bromley FoE's March meeting: Update on the Food Campaign with Oliver Hayes from Underwood Street

March 19th (Sat)

Bromley FoE Campaign stall: Bromley High Street, 2pm

January meeting report – Ray Watson

The group's January meeting was an unusual one. It featured a late Christmas.

The normal December meeting at which we have our annual social evening, vanished under the snow so the socialising was put back to January. Not that that deterred anyone from attacking the food and drinks provided by members. Indeed, it seem to inspire some to take part in well-received poetry readings suggested by Ann. In all, a good, light-hearted start to the New Year.

However, we did get down to business. Our annual general meeting heard reports of successful campaigning and attendance at events during the year, together with a reminder that 2011 will see us campaigning on the new energy bill newly-placed before parliament, while the food campaign and the get Serious climate campaign will continue.

There was also an appeal for members to write to Bromley Council to oppose plans to expand Biggin Hill Airport (see December Newsletter for the details).

All the officers were re-elected except for the treasurer post which Debbie is taking over from Ivy, who received a gift in recognition of her six years in the job. Thanks were given to those who worked tirelessly on campaigns and on driving the group forward.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY:**

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

It's not all gloom! - Here is what we achieved in 2010

It's not all gloom! Here is what we achieved in 2010

- Organised 11 monthly meeting – one snowed off
- Brought in 10 speakers
- Ran campaign stalls at 2 fetes
- Held four High St stalls
- Got dozens of campaign cards signed
- Took a stand at Bromley's Countryside Day
- Sent delegates to local groups conference
- Organised 4 'planning ahead' meetings
- Supported Marinet's 'save our seas' campaign
- Ran two Traidcraft stalls
- Had a visit by FoE's chief exec
- Enjoyed a walk by the Cray River
- Attended FoE regional meetings
- Received Press coverage for our campaigns
- Produced 12 Newsletters
- Recruited some new members
- Distributed council recycling info
- Raised funds via an auction evening
- Sent a resolution on energy to conference
- With other groups, opposed airport expansion
- Supported the sustainable food campaign
- Checked wildlife in a school's grounds
- Launched 'Get Serious on Energy' campaign
- Attended Bromley Council's planning seminar
- Supported St Mary Cray local action group
- Monitored Crystal Palace park development
- Supported Bromley Civic Society actions

Yes, we made a difference!

Transport info, Ray Watson

France leads the way

It was Paris that pioneered the self-service cycle hire scheme to reduce car traffic in the city – something that has been followed by London and other large cities. Now the French are at it again, this time with environmentally-friendly electric cars.

Like the bikes, the battery-driven Bluecars will be stationed throughout the capital and available for hire for short periods. From the autumn there will be 3000 of them at 1000 locations, each vehicle capable of running 150 miles before re-charging becomes necessary. Speed-wise they will reach up to 80 mph.

The project is aimed at the 58 per cent of Parisians who do not own a car as well as attempting to drive polluting cars off the road.

And the cost? About £40m, but income from drivers will offset part of that. Hirers will have to pay a subscription of about £10 a month, plus £5 for the first half-hour and £3 for the next.

The bike hire scheme has been a big success, despite problems with theft and vandalism. Let's hope the Bluecar scheme is too. That might encourage our mayor Johnson to catch up with his French counterpart.

Green fuel in the air

There are some welcome moves by the aviation industry to improve its poor reputation as one of the worst -- and fastest-growing -- greenhouse gas delinquents.

Qantas, the Australian airline, aims to slash its carbon emissions by linking with a specialist company in the US that has the technology to produce 'green' jet fuel from waste. The intention is to build a £200 million plant in Australia similar to one planned for London, with BA as a major partner.

European airlines are keen to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels before a new EU scheme comes into force next year under which any airline flying in or out of the EU must cut emissions or pay a penalty.

The aim is for the London plant to turn 500,000 tonnes of household and agriculture waste into 16 million gallons of green jet fuel. This sounds highly laudable, but in fact BA says that this would power only two cent of its Heathrow fleet. However, it is a start.

Cycling scheme safe?

Bikeability – that is the name of the Government-funded training scheme for young cyclists. Like similar projects, it is in the spotlight when it comes to potential budget cuts. However, it has just produced some good news that might keep the Treasury knifemen at bay.

A survey found that no less than 98 per cent of parents were happy with the scheme and so were 96 per cent of children. Half of the children who had taken the training said they had cycled in the past week against less than a third of those who had not taken the course.

/final para on page 7

Campaigns info, Ann Garrett

Campaigns

Our next Bromley High Street stall will be on March 19th from 2.00 - 4.00 pm outside Caffè Nero, or Argos in the Mall precinct if it is wet. This will be part of a national FoE day of action focusing on recycling. This is important and easily understandable for the public, as it means their 'hands on' action is positive personal involvement. The Energy Bill and Get Serious campaigning will be on-going in the form of lobbying and writing letters. We have another High St Stall on June 11th and could by then be tackling a follow-up to the Food Chain, international agreement on climate change, or Decentralisation and Localism Bill campaigning !

Climate and Energy

Melting ice to blame for freezing conditions

Scientists have established a link between the cold snowy winters in Britain and melting sea ice in the Arctic, and have warned that long periods of freezing weather are likely to become more frequent in years to come. An analysis of the ice-free regions of the Arctic Ocean has found that higher temperatures there caused by global warming, which have melted the ice flows in the summer months, have paradoxically increased the chance of colder winters.

Some climate scientists believe that the dramatic retreat of the Arctic ice over the past 30 years has begun to change the wind patterns over the northern hemisphere. A study was carried out in 2009, and researchers used computer models to assess the

impact of the disappearing Arctic sea ice, particularly in the area of the Barents and Kara seas north of Scandinavia and Russia.

These facts are particularly useful when discussing the cold weather, and trying to influence local authorities and governments as part of our campaigning, as well as doing our own eco bit.

Solar plant will be the world's biggest

A US transnational company has announced that it intends to start constructing one of the world's biggest solar power plants this year. First Solar said the facility based at Ordos in the Inner Mongolia region, would be built in partnership with the state-owned utility company China Guangdong Nuclear Solar Energy Development. Plans for 2 gigawatts (2 billion watts) of generating capacity - the equivalent of two coal-fired power plants - covering 25 square miles, is to be built in stages through to 2020. The first stage is 30 megawatts. When completed it is expected to provide power for three million homes.

Wind farm bankruptcy

While it is good news on the US/China solar power front, there is a disappointment with one of the UK's wind farms. 120 jobs have been lost at Skycon's Campbeltown factory in Argyll after the firm went into administration recently. The union Unite has stated that this is a blow to the local economy, and will be negotiating to save the facility.

/final para on page 11

Your chance to join airport protest

There is a swelling of resentment in the borough against plans by Biggin Hill Airport drastically to expand its operating hours and number of flights during the Olympic Games. This would entail flights starting early in the morning to nearly midnight, seven days a week including public holidays and with jets carrying up to 75 passengers.

Residents associations, Bromley FoE and other groups have joined together in an organisation called Bromley Residents Against Airport Expansion (BRAAD) to co-ordinate opposition to the scheme. They are ensuring that Bromley councillors, who have to approve the plan, are fully aware of the facts; some believe the full impact of the application has not been given to councillors. Residents too, are disturbed that the council has given insufficient time for consultations and used the Christmas period to reduce that still further.

The consultation period ends February 18th and the council will meet after that date to make a decision.

The main fear of Bromley people is that although the application is said to be of a temporary nature during the Games, the airport will use it as a precedent to be made permanent. That would mean the airport would be able to take large-jet flights of

fare-paying passengers – something it has been attempting to obtain for many years.

Some councillors, and Jo Johnson MP for Orpington, have already spoken out, saying that the extra revenue that the council would receive as a result of increased use of the airport is outweighed by the new early-opening and later closing hours, extra noise, air pollution and traffic congestion that would affect residents.

There is also the question of safety at Biggin Hill, given its record of recent accidents, while some also point to the airport's offer to collect a £3 tax from some passengers and pass it to the council, saying the airport has not revealed how much that would yield. They argue that the airport must be desperate to use this ploy to influence councillors.

BFoE members are urged to send their views NOW to: Airport Consultation, Civic Centre, London Borough of Bromley. BR1 3UH, or email airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk

Editor's note – This article is in a larger font 'cos Ray asked for it to be.

Wake up to what's happening at the airport, Ray Watson

Residents can expect a disastrous increase in the size and number of jets taking off and landing if Bromley Council agrees to Biggin Hill Airport's Olympics Proposals.

Operating hours would be extended from very early morning to much later at night. And local residents could say goodbye to quiet weekends and public holidays, when the Airport's hours would be equally long. And more noisy helicopters would disturb local residents both in the early morning and late evening

Aircraft size would increase up to 75-seater jets (scheduled airline size) and not just the smaller business jets seating typically 10-20 passengers. Very recent near-collisions in the airspace above Biggin Hill could become fatal as airspace becomes increasingly congested.

There have already been many crashes, many fatal including that on 30 March 2008 in Farnborough resulting in 5 fatalities, one home demolished and other homes damaged. The aircraft had just taken off from Biggin Hill Airport and was trying urgently to return to that Airport. The crash site was just yards from the 3 Crofton Schools and the Princess Royal University Hospital.

Noise and air pollution would increase dramatically.

And we now learn the Council is expecting further Proposals from the Airport which, according to Mr Marc Hume, Director of Renewal and

Recreation at Bromley Council, would involve "*wider variations*" over and above the Olympics Proposals.

So the Airport's Olympics Proposals are very definitely the thin end of the wedge, and local residents could look forward to the Olympics Proposals – if approved – being made permanent or even extended to, for example, cover full-size commercial fare-paying passenger jets.

If you agree that the lease should not be amended for the Olympics – and hence nor for the "*wider variations*" secretly threatened, tell Council Leader Stephen Carr and also your local Ward Councillor. There's a letter from Cllr Carr on Bromley Council's website.

The consultation period has been extended until Friday 18th February. Comments can be e-mailed to airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk or made by writing to Bromley Council's Renewal and Recreation Department, Airport Consultation, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH.

Transport info, *continued*

Isn't that an indication that as they grow older these children will perhaps keep the bike handy rather than automatically jump into a car?

Response to Michael Payne's article from Judy Palmer

It was good to read Michael Payne's thought provoking article on not concentrating so much on global warming. I have always thought the group enjoys discussing, heatedly in many cases, the different aspects of being an environmental campaigner.

He raises some very valid, and frustrating, points which local campaigners are only too aware of, and from this newsletters point of view – how to capture and maintain people's attention - in a good, basically informative, simple fashion.

In the interest of adding to his list of suggestions, how about copying a local paper's idea of writing about an area of the Bromley Borough a month? The Borough covers 60 sq. miles and I would have thought that between the members of BFoE we could cover different parts of it very easily. I will put myself forward to do one of my area, in fact.

It was also interesting to read the various articles this month and find that they all linked in some way -

- snow stopping practically all movement of goods, people, transport, except walking to the local shops;
- various points made about the climate change campaign, stressing the need for green jobs locally;
- transport issues which are local;
- finding out that our Orpington MP does appear to be exploring, in some form, the borough he represents and maybe having his mind changed by his local constituents' viewpoints;
- the fact that the Localism Bill doesn't live up to its name;
- and then back to climate change and sustainable energy.

If we as a group can nudge people into appreciating what is on their doorstep, then the possibilities are endless. Back to local again!

Allotments – a whole new dimension in living the green life!

Gill Payne writes:

After a wait of about 18 months we became allotment holders this year which has added a whole new dimension to trying to live a green life.

As long-term vegetarians it is amazingly satisfying to cook and eat the veg you have nurtured but having an allotment provides other opportunities for re-using and recycling in new and inventive ways.

Apart from creating more and ever more ambitious compost heaps – we'd long since run out of space in our own garden, we are recycling the cinders from our open fire to firm up the paths and are using the middles of loo rolls as starter, compostable flower pots.

An old shower curtain has been given a new lease of life as a poly tunnel and old curtains sit on the top of the compost box.

/continued on next page

What's in a name, *John Street (newsletter editor)*

Judy Palmer's letter (see opposite page) proposes a series of articles that might even "nudge people into appreciating what is on their doorstep."

Naturally such a series should have a series title. Several were suggested, including All About My Patch; Know Your Borough; Global Village - Think globally - act locally; Local Snapshot.

However, the editor has decided to exercise his editorial *droit de seigneur*, at least to start with, and so the series will be titled "All Around My Patch."

For those who don't quite make the connection that I made, or perhaps aren't interested in folk-rock from the 1970s, All Around My Patch should be imagined as an extension of All Around My Hat, recorded by Steeleye Span and available on the LP / CD Spanning the Years. At the time (1975), it was the highest chart placing ever for a traditional song. It's an amalgamation of the traditional songs Farewell He and All 'Round My Hat.

So, It's fare thee well cold winter, And fare thee well cold frost. And I like the idea anyway, even if some of you think it's a but too frivolous for something as serious as life today.

However, whatever the title of the series, here's the important bit – the invitation to you to join in.

London has always been said to be a collection on villages. Here we bring you a series about the various villages and areas that make up the London Borough of Bromley.

We invite readers to write in about their local village or area. Maximum 500 words as a Word (.doc) file or as an rtf file to the editor, please.

If we receive an overwhelming response to this, we might have to instigate a queueing system. If you would like to write 500 words on Queueing theory made simple, please contact the editor.

Allotments – a whole new dimension, *continued*

When we needed a muddy boot scraper one was improvised from scrubbing brushes, a broom handle and some off-cuts of wood.

The roof of our allotment shed was built from some donated salvage on site and this year we replaced our Xmas tree with an IT installation – IT as in "interesting twigs" picked up around the allotment.

Having an allotment has been a really positive experience – not to mention the 117lbs of potatoes we grew and have very nearly consumed. The digging cancels out the calories.

Any other practical or creative ideas will be gratefully received!

“Social Impact” – The view from Down Under, Sheila Brown

In lieu of a Christmas card, I received the following email from a friend in Australia who has been studying “Social Impact” and is newly converted to thinking we’ve probably accepted for some time. Nonetheless, she has some good ideas, and the zeal of the newly converted, so I thought I would share this with you.

“As you may or may not know, this year I’ve been studying in the area of **social impact** – looking at solving the world’s problems in more sustainable ways. I’ve been blown away by entrepreneurs and projects that have for example developed nutrient enriched yoghurt to halt malnutrition; introduced smart cards as a banking system in isolated areas of Malawi; produced drugs and medical aids (i.e. hearing aids) at prices the third world can afford; developed and distributed solar energy for those without, and so I could go on and the impact on those they serve is literally life changing with implications for economies and well being that simply cannot be measured.

It’s had a big impact on me and ostensibly will help me change my actions for good. So rather than a sending cards this year, I’ve decided to pass on some of my ‘impact’ and ask my friends to consider creating some social impact themselves. If you get the opportunity this year, why not consider:

- Buying yourself either or both a reusable takeaway coffee cup (and remember to take it with you when you are out and about and likely to order take away coffee)

and a stainless steel water bottle to save all those plastic water bottles that add to our waste issues.

- Providing a Loan (not give – loan but you could reinvest) to a microfinance project to lift others out of poverty. *Two Australian websites are mentioned.*
- Buying Fair Trade (and Rainforest Alliance) products - beyond coffee and tea and take more notice of the products you buy to check the company is playing its part to reduce not contribute to global environmental challenges and helping to solve social problems.
- Buying a box of organic vegetables grown close to where you live.
- Watch what you print (remembering one ream of paper = 5.4 kg CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water); buy recycled paper.
- Buying a portion of green energy - most companies are offering this now.
- Plant Trees and buy carbon credits - plant what you can and pay the carbon tax when you next fly - watch your footprint and see how you can reduce business travel.
- Buying a book on Ethical Travel and get planning to go.

/continued on page 13

WDM - Record food prices worsened by banking speculation

Current soaring food prices are being worsened by record levels of financial speculation, according to a leading UK anti-poverty group. Latest figures from the World Development Movement reveal that hedge funds, investment bankers and pension funds have poured over \$200bn into food markets since the financial crisis, betting on the rising price of food.

This huge wall of speculative money has now reached record levels according to the US commodities regulator. This has caused the market to over-react to shortages in supply or rising demand, pushing food prices ever higher.

This week the UN's food price reached a record high and food riots broke out in Algeria as the impacts begin to be felt around the world. Food prices have now risen above those seen during the global food crisis of 2008 when riots broke around the developing world and over 1 billion went short of food.

Many speculators are simply trying to avoid inflation by throwing money into food markets, betting on long term rising food prices and not reflecting the current state of global food markets. Much of this money has come from efforts to deal with the financial crash like the banking bail out and so-called 'quantitative easing' in Europe and the US.

The World Development Movement are campaigning to stop excessive speculation on basic foods. Regulations are being developed in the US and EU to improve transparency and reduce excessive

speculation, however these are under threat from intense lobbying by the financial services industry.

Murray Worthy of the World Development Movement said:

"Food isn't an asset; it's fundamental to human life. These markets exist to allow people to buy and sell food but are now being used to make huge profits for speculators, at the expense of producers and consumers. Profiteering by financial speculators is worsening this food crisis, further inflating prices both here in the UK and in the developing world."

"These markets need to be brought back under control, limiting excessive speculation by hedge funds and investment bankers, ensuring the markets are fully transparent. Stopping food speculation can help to avoid the levels of food inflation we've seen and help to ensure more people have access to essential food."

Campaigns info, *continued*

In 2009 Skycon acquired the plant from Vestas, another Danish-owned company, heavily involved in the wind turbine manufacturing industry, with a view to expanding the facility to capture and access the growing export market in the Britain and Ireland. This is certainly a case where the government could help fund part of the renewables industry and preserve and create new jobs.

FoE says – Gov't attempts to keep air pollution information secret

A freedom of information tribunal is being urged by environmental campaigners to reject Government attempts to keep secret sections of ministerial briefing papers on air pollution in London. The Government's appeal against a previous ruling to make the information public was heard in mid-January.

The information could have major implications for Government efforts to prevent the European Union prosecuting the UK for persistently breaching air quality laws. It has been requested by Simon Birkett, who is Founder and Director of Clean Air in London and represented by lawyers from Friends of the Earth's Rights and Justice Centre and barristers Gerry Facenna and Laura Elizabeth John of Monckton Chambers. A separate decision from the EU on its legal action is expected imminently.

In January 2009 Clean Air in London filed a freedom of information request asking for "a copy of any minutes, papers, correspondence or other material relating directly to any meeting that takes places between Lord Hunt (Environment Minister under the previous Labour Government] and Mayor Johnson." The sections of the documents which the Government has yet to release are believed to relate to the western extension of the congestion charging zone and air quality.

Despite two rulings in favour of Mr Birkett (by the Information Commissioner's Office in November 2009 and at an appeal heard by the First-tier Tribunal in May 2010), the

Government has continued to refuse to make the information public.

The Government is appealing for a second time (this time to the Administrative Appeals Chamber of the Upper Tribunal) - arguing that it was entitled to say, for the first time in the First Tier Tribunal, that the information is covered by 'legal advice privilege and litigation privilege'.

Simon Birkett, Founder and Director of the Clean Air in London, said:

"For two years successive Governments have fought to keep information about London's air quality secret - if only they'd put as much effort into meeting pollution laws. The Mayor estimates that the early death of some 4,300 Londoners in 2008 was attributable to long-term exposure to dangerous airborne particles - mainly caused by diesel-powered vehicles. This is a national disgrace. The Government must not be allowed to hide this information - the public interest for publication is overwhelming."

Friends of the Earth's Head of Legal Gita Parihar said:

"The Government's approach to this case makes a mockery of information laws. When the Information Commissioner's Office ruled that the Government's reason for refusing to make the information public wasn't valid, it came up with two completely new reasons for keeping these documents secret. Ministers must deal with freedom of information fairly and openly rather than trying to move the goalposts to protect themselves."

FoE - Bat for Lashes joins Warm Homes campaign

Natasha Khan of Bat for Lashes (*Ed – no, I don't know either*) has spoken out about living in a cold, slug-infested student house as part of Friends of the Earth's new Warm Homes campaign, launched today. The musician is urging people to email their MP their own stories about living in a cold home at www.coldtimes.co.uk and demand Government action to stop draughty British houses making people ill and worsening climate change.

It comes the week before parliamentary discussion of legislation to help insulate the nation's homes begins.

Friends of the Earth is warning the Government's current proposal will do little to keep vulnerable tenants warm without a tough new law to stop landlords letting the coldest properties until they're improved.

Properties rented from a landlord or letting agency are most likely to be the worst insulated and a recent Friends of the Earth survey found half of these tenants were uncomfortably cold in their homes during the big freeze.

Natasha Khan, of Bat for Lashes, said: "We suffered the worst mould you could imagine in my student house. " Over our two-year let it got to the point where you'd have to dodge at least 20 slugs living off the moisture in the carpet - then inhale black mould spores if the steam from the shower got too much. "The cold, draughts and dampness were pretty extreme! " Everyone should get behind Friends of the Earth's campaign to protect

tenants in cold houses - it's time to heat our homes, not the planet."

Friends of the Earth's Warm Homes Campaigner Dave Tams said: "No-one should have to put up with renting a cold, damp home that makes them ill and costs a fortune to heat - £1 in every £4 we spend heating our homes is wasted because of shoddy insulation. " Stopping British houses leaking heat is one of the cheapest and quickest ways to fight dangerous climate change.

"We need a new law making it illegal to let the coldest, health-hazard properties until they're improved to a minimum energy efficiency standard - and greater support for landlords. Tell your MP what it's really like living in a cold home at www.coldtimes.co.uk to join the fight for warmer homes and a safer climate."

Social Impact, *continued*

- Get involved in on-line volunteering. Help others help themselves - from your computer.

Pass this onto those you choose in your circle so we can encourage others to make a difference for the future of our planet. And of course, I'd love to hear if this has inspired you in any way."

And in lieu of cards, I'm taking out a microfinance loan that I will reinvest once it's been paid off (giving 10% as a gift to running costs for the project)."

"This is not OK" – CAAT's new anti-arms trade campaign

2011 sees Campaign Against Arms Trade's (CAAT) new campaign "This is not OK." The simple slogan highlights the unethical basis of the Government's enthusiastic support for the arms industry and arms exports.

"This is not OK" is launched on 17 January, the 50th anniversary of President Eisenhower's farewell address, where he warned against the unfettered growth of the military-industrial complex.

In the coming year, CAAT will focus its anti-arms trade message on three separate but interlinked groups and organisations:

The Coalition government, its Ministers, and MPs from the main political parties, in and out of government.

UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), the government organisation responsible for promoting arms exports and organising and inviting foreign government delegations to UK arms fairs.

Clarion Events, the private company that owns and organises international arms fairs, including DSEi, Defence and Security Equipment International, the biennial London arms fair.

Throughout the year there will be public actions and demonstrations to bring home the message "This is not OK" to the public, to government decision-makers and to DSEi's organisers.

The climax of the campaign will be the DSEi arms fair which takes place in London docklands on 13-16 September 2011.

BAN BAE counter-recruitment campaign actions are creating waves in the press!

BAE Systems is the world's largest arms producer. Its weapons are sold indiscriminately around the world to customers in over 100 countries. BAE's customers have included Israel, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Indonesia. BAE trade with what the Foreign Office's Human Rights report classes as "major countries of concern" and have also faced legal proceedings for corruption and bribery. In March 2010 BAE was sentenced to pay a \$400 million criminal fine.

Following a wave of recent actions at graduate recruitment fairs at universities such as Exeter, Bristol, Edinburgh, Warwick, London and Southampton, which saw campaigners staging "die-in" protests in front of BAE's stalls forcefully removed by security staff, Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) is encouraging students to continue demonstrating everywhere that arms traders attempt to recruit.

CAAT has compiled a list of key dates when BAE are visiting universities. Find out more from the CAAT website.

Contact CAAT at Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ, 020 7281 0297, www.caat.org.uk.

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Letters to the Editor

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

Need a lift to meetings?

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

Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

Non-members' Section

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

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

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

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email r.watson865@btinternet.com.

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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