



Friends of the Earth

Bromley

July 2010 No. 271 Newsletter

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

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Susan Fallman and others
from *Transition Town Sevenoaks*

Becoming a Transition Town

Tuesday 6th July
7.30pm.

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

Battersea – World Centre for Sustainable Technology ?? Update on pages 11,12

Diary dates:

July 4th (Sunday)	Keston Countryside Day – CANCELLED (see below)
July 6th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's July meeting: Transition Town Sevenoaks
August 3rd (Tues)	Bromley FoE's August meeting –spkr to be confirmed

Keston Countryside Day CANCELLED

Keston Countryside Day on July 4 has been cancelled by the organisers, Keston branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Bromley FoE was one of the organisations who were due to have a publicity stall there but the organisers found a reduced take-up by other groups who normally join the occasion. CPRE, who have run the event for several years, hope to re-instate it next year

Call for more renewable use – Bromley FoE resolution to conference

Following a suggestion from Richard, Bromley FoE has put forward for consideration at the local groups annual conference a resolution for adoption as FoE policy. It calls for a campaign to be launched to persuade the Department of Energy to instruct public bodies to use renewable energy in their buildings, the programme to be supported by legislation or directives to ensure compliance.

The theory behind the proposal is that the greatest gains in the battle to deduce carbon emissions are still to be made by addressing the basics like encouraging renewable use where we have control over energy use such as in public buildings and in our own homes.

Speakers wanted

Do you have any suggestions for speakers at our monthly meetings?

Please contact Sheila Brown if you do, sheilabrown336@msn.com

Next Newsletter - copy details:

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

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

Friends of the Earth Regional Gathering, *Sheila Brown*

These regional gatherings are held twice a year, and those for London, the South East and the East of England take place in London. Other regional groups meet in different parts of the country. It is a smaller and more localised version of the Annual Conference and provides an opportunity to network and to get updates on FoE's work.

The initial plenary session looked at the implications of the election for Friends of the Earth. There are uncertainties – but fears that spending cuts will have an impact on environmental initiatives and that David Cameron's pre-election green agenda may prove merely to have been "good mood music." The Queen's Speech was felt to have been the least detailed for some time, and we also saw the largest intake of new MPs.

We were now too facing a degree of climate scepticism that has crept in after the positive progress we'd seen before.

There are three national priority campaigns: the Food Chain campaign is gaining momentum, and there is a big push for Get Serious – both of which we have been working on in Bromley. In addition there is the International Climate campaign.

The next session was something new – Lightning Talks. People from different groups talked for five minutes on a chosen subject including "Creative Campaigning" (dressing in a polar bear costume), "Successfully engaging vs 'accosting' the public" and

"Campaigning against supermarkets", to name but a few. I had been persuaded to talk on how we attract people to meetings, as Bromley is highly regarded due to our healthy attendance numbers and the fact that we always have a speaker, whereas some local group meetings are just a handful of people meeting in a pub.

There was an afternoon session on campaigns. The next step in the Food Chain campaign is to lobby the MPs who names have come up in the Private Members' Ballot to present a bill of their choice; we are urged to persuade them to choose a Sustainable Livestock Bill that supports planet-friendly farming. (See FoE's website.)

Local Campaign and Issues Networking Surgeries gave us the opportunity to chat with staff or local group members about specific campaigns or issues, and there was also an opportunity to add an 'oil handprint' to a banner in support of the Tar Sands campaign. The day ended with a group photo and the opportunity to network more over drinks at a local pub.

Certainly the interaction with people from other groups is one of the most valuable and enjoyable features of these occasions. The day was very well thought out and put together and the organisers are to be congratulated on such a full and varied programme.

Britain to lead way to cut emissions

Britain is ready to push for a groundbreaking new EU deal to tackle climate change.

The Lib-Con coalition is understood to be broadly supportive of seeking a new European agreement to cut carbon emissions by 30% by 2020. The European Commission is launching a feasibility study on going it alone to adopt the target. The current 20% target is predicted to cost the EU £48 billion to reach, and increasing it to 30% may add £33 billion to the bill.

Andy Atkins, FoE's director, has commented that the proposal shows the EU is on the right road but isn't driving cuts far enough - 40% by 2020 is the minimum level required if we're to have a chance of making a serious impact in reducing climate change.

War's lethal legacy

Environmentalists are becoming increasingly concerned that some the thousands of wrecked ships around the globe, many of them along Britain's coastline, are ticking time bombs. Most of the vessels, many from World War 2 are not just navy ships but are oil tankers and supply ships with aviation and diesel fuel on board. They are beginning to spring leaks as they corrode, and starting to cause marine pollution.

Such is the concern about war wrecks that the Maritime and Coastal Agency and the Ministry of Defence have just completed compiling a database of every ship wrecked in Britain's coastal waters since 1870, and each will be individually risk assessed.

Get Serious Campaign Stall

Grateful thanks to all who gave their support on May 29th. As it rained we gained quick permission from The Mall precinct management to hold the stall near Argos. This is certainly a useful stand-by if the weather is bad. There was a steady flow of interest and we got 30 cards signed in total. These were given to FoE at the Regional Gathering on June 5th.

Demo against Shell (see also Ann's poem on page 9)

On May 15th I supported a demonstration in New Addington at a Shell petrol station which was part of an Amnesty International day of action. We wore boiler suits, held placards, gave out cards and collected signatures on a petition which was handed in to Shell that day. This was to highlight the serious oil pollution of the Niger Delta region and detrimental effects on the local population from not just the ruin of the land, but the increasing ill- health of people from the burning of gas flares. Permanent thick dust lies on public buildings and houses and strong smells permeate the air. All this is causing breathing problems and cancers.

Together with the present Mexican Gulf BP oil pollution tragedy, surely this is a warning that an economy based on oil is highly and increasingly dangerous, and that it is vital for governments to invest in renewables as a matter of extreme urgency.

June meeting report, Ray Watson

A danger that won't go away

Have worries about pesticides in food faded? Emphatically not, said Linda Craig, director of the charity Pesticides Action Network UK told our June meeting. She acknowledged that the subject was not as forcibly at the front of people's minds as it used to be but, she claimed, the dangers were still prevalent.

Pesticides Action Network is one of 600 similar bodies throughout the world, all autonomous but geared up to sharing knowledge and taking in part in joint activities, whether trying to get banned harmful chemicals used by farmers, or spreading information to growers in developing countries who sell crops to Britain.

The network, she said, had three objectives: To eliminate dangerous chemicals still in use particularly those used in developing nations; campaign to reduce farmers' dependency on chemicals; promote sustainable and ecologically sound alternatives.

By way of example, Linda showed a slide of a Tanzania farmer spraying crops without protective clothing or a mask, and, possibly, using a chemical banned in many countries but not his. That may lead to poisons appearing in his crops which may be sold to western markets, and it may well seriously affect his health which, in turn, would reduce his income, conceivably preventing him paying school fees or feeding his family.

Nearer to home, the pesticide problems in UK and Europe were more likely to be associated with toxic

spraying causing the decline of the bee population or the poisoning of birds. In the UK, Governments over the years had kept to the principle that they would not ban a substance unless it was proved harmful when the procedure should be for the manufacturers to prove that the chemical was safe.

Linda went into detail about her organisation's campaign to halt the use of insecticides in the production of cotton. She claimed that 25 percent of all insecticides are used in the process of growing the crop and turning it into clothing and other fabrics. The key was to educate farmers to use organic methods while, at home, encouraging the consumer to buy only organic cotton. She said there had been a great success with a campaign to advise the fashion industry as to why it should use only organic cotton.

Turning to food, Linda said that there was too little research into the effects of pesticides on what we eat. Her advice was to eat products that were certified as organic or Fair Trade or to join the growing movement to grow your own. She quoted grapes, potatoes and oranges as carrying higher levels of pesticides whereas 'old' crops like cabbage and cauliflower seemed to have less.

She called on consumers to demand that the Government and supermarkets to be stricter in knowing the source of food products so farmers could not get away with excess spraying. Indeed, she thought

/continued on next page

Letter from Bob Neill, MP, to Ann Garrett re EDM 851 (see text below)

Thank you for contacting me about EDM 851. While I agree that sectoral targets are worthy in themselves, a suitable methodology for achieving this has not yet been identified. I believe we would be much better served putting in place the suitable policy mechanisms necessary to promote renewable energy generation and improve on energy efficiency.

There no doubt that low-carbon and renewable energy technologies are the way of the future. We now have an opportunity here in Britain to rebuild our economy on more sustainable foundations, rather than a housing boom or an over-reliance on the financial services sector.

Our policy green paper, The Low Carbon Economy, sets out our plans to build the British economy on the back of new, high-tech green industries, intelligent energy generation and transport and energy efficiency in our homes, schools and businesses.

Please be assured that we are committed to this issue and will explore new and innovative means to tackle one of the great challenges facing our generation.

Text of EDM 851 - That this House: **Welcomes the provisions** of the Climate Change (Sectoral Targets) Bill which would require the Secretary of State to set long-term targets for energy efficiency in the domestic and non-domestic sectors, for renewable energy, for microgeneration and for other low carbon sources of energy generation in order to satisfy all of the UK's energy needs, provide for

security of supply and also help achieve carbon reduction targets; **Notes that the Bill** would also require a strategy to be drawn up and implemented by the Secretary of State in order to achieve those targets; **Believes that such an approach** will provide an immediate, flexible, realistic and cost-effective way of delivering the stated objectives of energy policy which would also create jobs and help regenerate the economy.

June meeting report (cont'd)

supermarkets were more likely than the Government to re-act to public pressure because they mostly were aware of the growers of products they were selling and, therefore, could act faster.

Answering questions, Linda said that the dangers associated with GM had not gone away. There were large markets for selling GM seeds, fertilisers and other chemicals to farmers and the giant chemical companies would not give up easily. Indeed, they had had major successes in Latin America. A high level of vigilance was necessary, she warned.

In the second half of the meeting, plans were laid for promotions at summer events and we heard from Tamara and Ann about their experiences as candidates for the Green Party at the national and local elections. They emphasised the difficulty of competing against the larger parties' publicity budgets and the difficulty of getting the local press to carry stories about the smaller parties.

Croydon's Transition Initiative (sent to Ann Garrett by Jim Clugston)

We thought we would introduce ourselves. We live in New Addington, near Croydon, Surrey and we are setting up a local Transition Initiative.

As local people, and being aware of local issues and needs we feel we are in the ideal position to implement local TT. To this end we are setting up "New Addington's Garden Village Eco Project". Although this is a full scale Transition Initiative we felt the name better describes our area and needs.

Our first event will be a stall at the NA Carnival [Editor – I presume this is the *New Addington Carnival* – see below] and we are also trying to set up a Community Gardens Scheme. As you might imagine we are still organising ourselves and would welcome any advice or helpful suggestions!

We shall be registering with Transition Network in due course; we can be contacted at
NAGardenvillage@yahoo.com.

Regards in peace
Jim for New Addington's Garden
Village Eco Project (NAGVEP)

**This is how the Croydon Advertiser
looked forward to the New
Addington Carnival, Saturday 19th
June / Sunday 20th**

The biggest community events in New Addington have merged for a fun-filled weekend in June – but organisers still need your help.

The New Addington carnival is returning after seven years' absence and it will be joined by the multicultural

event People's Day, which has been a growing success for the last two years. Fun activities will include handmade foods from different countries, performances by gymnasts, a football tournament, paintballing and traditional woodcarving. The New Addington People's Carnival has also been awarded a £3,000 grant from Grassroots – a government initiative to support communities.

Carnival committee chairman Kirsty Pearce said: "It's fantastic news and eases the pressure a little. " Now we can make more plans, starting with joining with People's Day."

The grant puts the committee more than halfway towards the £5,000 target it needs to gain charity status. If this is obtained, the committee will not have to fork out for costly road closures as charities are exempt from paying these fees.

To raise the money, members are hoping to hold a fundraising event to boost money and are currently looking for a suitable hall at a reasonable price. But in the meantime they want people to donate. There are collection boxes in Bloomin' Lovely florists and The Warehouse store in Central Parade.

People's Day will be held between 12 and 4pm on Saturday, June 19, offering tasty dishes from Ghana and West Africa, the Caribbean and India – all free of charge. There will also be cultural performances.

Zero Carbon Britain press release – The cuts we really should be talking about

A new report says Britain could cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2030, creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs and regaining energy security.

A new report published by the Centre for Alternative Technology, including input from thirteen universities, twelve research bodies and eight key industry players, highlights a path for a zero carbon transition by 2030. For the first time, comprehensive energy strategy has been produced that could reduce emissions to zero for all greenhouse gases and across all sectors.

“Zeroarbonbritain2030 shows how the right mix of wind power, hydro, solar, biomass - plus an intelligent grid to manage demand. We can ‘keep the lights on’ and supply the energy the country needs- with major win-wins across the economy.” **Paul Allen CAT.**

The report, aims to integrate thinking across a range of sectors and identify potential for 'Powering Down' through reducing demand and 'Powering Up' renewables to 100% by 2030 with no requirement for nuclear energy.

“We have the lifetime of this parliament to break Britain's fossil fuel addiction. The BP fiasco underlines how important it is that we act now. If we do, we can enjoy greater energy security and a more sustainable, dynamic and resilient economy. If we don't we will lurch from one energy and environmental crisis to another on a downward spiral. “Andrew **Simms, policy director of New Economics Foundation.**

Key priorities of the report include:

Transport:

63% reduction in energy use for transport could be achieved by:

- A switch from petrol / diesel powered vehicles to electric / battery powered vehicles.
- Rail and bus services replacing domestic and short haul flights.
- Two- thirds reduction in long haul aviation using kerosene fuel produced from coppice in the UK.

Buildings:

50% reduction in heat and electricity demand could be achieved by:

- Insulation of all of Britain's un-insulated cavity walls and lofts.
- Using natural construction materials such as wood, straw and other natural materials will lock away CO2.

Land Use:

- Britain can grow most of its own food whilst still producing biomass for heating, electricity and transport fuel.
- Land can be used to mop up residual emissions through sequestration.
- 80% reduction in livestock products that generate 82% of greenhouse gases in the agricultural sector. Non-livestock products generate more food and have a higher nutritional value.

Policy

The report:

- Emphasises the urgent need for an international agreement
- Explores different policy options for emissions reduction including cap and trade, carbon tax and tradable energy quotas.

Zero Carbon Britain 2030- *concluded*

Zero Carbon Britain 2030 is the Centre for Alternative technology's visionary report, grounded in the latest climate science and devised from extensive research by leading experts in climate change. ZCB2030 explores just what it is Britain must do to meet the scale and speed of the challenges defined by the most recent climate science.

Due to be released on the 16th of June this new report follows on from the 1st edition released in 2007. It provides political and economic solutions to the urgent challenges raised by climate science. Paul Allen external relations director at CAT said: "The climate science demands we must take action to reduce our emissions, the technology says we can, it is now time to say we will."

ZCB2030 faces and explores all the different sectors of society that effect our emissions from land use and transport to aviation and imports- showing how we can power down and power up to meet the reduced energy demand.

Sir John Houghton, former chair of the IPCC says of the report: "The authors of ZCB present a timescale for action that begins now. I commend their imagination with their realism, their integrated view and sense of urgency."

Rob Hopkins from the Transition Town movement commends ZCB 2030: "It is a move towards entrepreneurship, resilience, connectedness and stability. It offers a return to scale, a bringing home of the impacts of our actions, and a shift to a world that we

can hand on to our grandchildren with relief and pride."

More on Zero Carbon Britain 2030

A great many solutions to climate security are the same as solutions to energy security and to long-term economic recovery. A flagship of a new economic approach, ZCB 2030 will show how we can re-focus the ingenuity of the finance sector on the actual challenges at hand. Rather than residing precariously at the end of the peaking pipeline of polluting fossil fuel imports, Britain can head an indigenous renewable energy supply chain powering a lean, re-localised economy. Every field, forest, island, river, coastline, barn or building holds the potential to become an energy and revenue generator, with different technologies appropriate to every scale or location.

Zero Carbon Britain 2030 clearly illustrates how the parallel de-carbonisation and re-vitalisation of the UK economy would work, creating a single document of immediate relevance to policy-makers everywhere.

Zero Carbon Britain 2030 is published by the Centre for AlternativeTechnology (www.cat.org.uk) and is available as a free download or 384 page full colour book priced £39.95 (ISBN 978 1 902175 61 4). It can be purchased from CAT Mail Order (01654 705959) or from any high street or on line book retailer.

Two thirds want GM to be kept off their plate - new opinion poll

Two thirds of people in the UK want GM crops to be kept out of the food chain, a new survey has revealed (June 15). Friends of the Earth and GM Freeze are urging the Government and supermarkets to listen to public opinion and take action to protect our food and farming from GM.

The GfK NOP survey for Friends of the Earth and GM Freeze also revealed that:

- less than 40 per cent were aware that GM is currently creeping onto their plates via imported GM animal feed being fed to animals in British factory farms;

- while there is currently no requirement for retailers to identify animal products containing GM to consumers, 89 per cent of those surveyed wanted these products to be clearly labelled;

- 72 per cent would pay extra for non-GM food.

The survey comes as Friends of the Earth and GM Freeze have learnt that that US- owned food retailer Asda has abandoned its commitment to GM-free eggs and poultry. The campaigning groups are calling on Asda and other supermarkets to respond to public opinion by pledging to keep GM out of the nation's meat and dairy.

FoE's food campaigner Kirtana Chandrasekaran said:

"Despite a huge PR push by the former Government, consumers are more sceptical than ever about genetic modification, and want to be able to

choose food that's guaranteed to be GM free.

"By abandoning its commitment to GM-free animal feed for chickens and sneaking GM onto its customers' plates, Asda is going against shoppers' wishes and funding animal feed plantations that are wiping out South American rainforests.

"People should tell supermarkets and their MPs to protect our food and farming from GM and support planet-friendly farming instead."

Pete Riley GM Freeze said:

"These results send a very clear message to government and retailers that any weakening of policies on the import and use of GM feed will not be welcomed by the public.

"They are demanding that there should be a clear non-GM choice and are willing to pay more for it.

"Despite the rhetoric from industry and government about the possible benefits of GM crops the British public appears to remain very sceptical.

"Proposals from the Food Standards Agency to spend hundreds of thousands pounds of taxpayers' money on a GM public dialogue in a crude attempt to shift public opinion on GM should now be scrapped".

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A World Centre for Sustainable Technology — Battersea —

An update from John Bocock

Do I remain convinced that this a project worth pursuing? The answer is an emphatic YES.

I have now spoken to a large number of people many of them the leading experts in their fields. Some of the conversations have simply been asking for brief comments some have been at lengthy discussions. The responses have ranged from the interested to the enthusiastic.

The major problem is how do you make subjects like soil conservation and reconstruction, organisms such as mites, worms, fungi interesting exciting? How do you develop enthusiasms for the physics of photovoltaics, or microwave pyrolysis or the manipulation of the genes of green algae to enable them to produce hydrogen?

The reality is that the numbers of young people entering the world of science are falling, that is except for countries like China where there is an exponential increase in the production of scientists.

The plans for the Battersea site currently awaiting planning permission make a heap about a metre tall. The estimated cost of the new development has risen from a modest three billion to five billion pounds. The original proposal for a small ecocity with a sustainable energy system and a controlled climate involving a 250 metre high convection chimney has gone. The current proposal for the site as a whole is for luxury flats.

Ken Livingstone's recent comment on the proposal: "Site the project in the East End where it could provide much needed jobs for local people".

I am not sure how much he is aware of the project being proposed by the Institute for Sustainability in conjunction with the Thames Gateway Project for what would be a large industrial estate for the sustainable industries. The site would include the Closed Loop Recycling centre, and would include the same organizations that would make major contributions to the Battersea site.

The essential difference between the functions of the two sites is that the later would be a high profile high visibility showcase, showroom, where these industries and their associated research institutions can sell their goods and their ideas to the world. Their neighbour will be the newly relocated American embassy. Hopefully under President Obama we will be seeing a much greater interest in the environment and the needs of the world in general.

From my contact with the First Secretary (Science and Technology) The Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China, I have little doubt that the Chinese would be interested in such a project. A little known fact is that the previous owners of the Battersea power Station site were the Whang brothers who have since relocated to Beijing but who still retain a financial interest in the new development.

/continued on next page

FoE has revamped its website

Friends of the Earth launches new website

Green campaigning charity Friends of the Earth is re-launching its website www.foe.co.uk today (Monday 14 June 2010) to boost its campaigning reach and bring in a new generation of activists and fundraisers.

Following a four way agency pitch, Friends of the Earth appointed a team of digital marketing experts from Strange (www.strangepcorp.com) to create the dynamic new website, which aims to maximise online reach and activism in the fight for a healthy planet.

Visitors to www.foe.co.uk will be able to find out how to put pressure on politicians for change locally, nationally or internationally, get involved in supporting the charity or make green lifestyle changes.

The new site is also integrated with social media channels like Twitter and YouTube, and provides all the latest information about Friends of the Earth's campaigning work on climate change and protecting our planet's natural diversity.

Friends of the Earth's Head of Communications Adeela Warley said:

"We decided to revamp our website to reflect Friends of the Earth's work in 2010 and beyond.

"The online world is a critical platform for us to communicate with people, get them involved in our campaigns and

raise funds in the fight for a health planet.

"Our new site is fast, exciting and easy-to-navigate, and we're really excited to be unveiling it today."

Strange was asked to redevelop the website and carry out extensive user testing before, during and after the build process. Following today's launch, Strange will continue to contribute to the development of Friends of the Earth's website.

World Centre at Battersea – cont'd

Where do we go next? I have yet to meet either Prof Chris Rapley formerly of the Antarctic Survey and now Director of the Science Museum one of whose major interests is climate change. His predecessor Dr Lindsey Sharp was enthusiastic about the idea and had offered his help.

The other person is Tim Smit the Director of and inspiration behind the Eden Project. To quote Prof Sir Ghilliam Prance former Director of Kew Gardens and Scientific advisor to the Eden Project "If anyone could make it work he could."

Many years ago while a student at London University I went out to Africa to meet a hero of mine Dr Albert Schweitzer. His last words to me when asked what his advice would be to a young man starting out on life, was quite simply "follow your heart" Maybe this is what I am now doing.

Kate Hudson, chair of CND – Put Trident back on the table

Kate Hudson, chair of CND, writing on the Guardian website

Put Trident back on the table

If this government is so keen on a nuclear-free world, why will it not even re-examine its commitment to Trident?

It's hard to think of anything more symbolic of the cold war than nuclear weapons. So it was more than a touch bizarre to hear from defence secretary Liam Fox that "we need to say goodbye to the cold war" in the imminent strategic defence review, but that Trident will be excluded from consideration.

While Dr Fox promises a root-and-branch rethink in all other military areas, he has chosen to exempt the unused and unusable weapon that senior military figures have described as "completely useless."

When there are so many other calls on funding for the forces' needs – never mind any other public spending – it seems like a dereliction of duty not even to consider non-replacement. After all, the Tories presumably don't have the same hang-ups about appearing weak on defence, which often seem to inhibit the Labour leadership in this area.

Meanwhile, other developments were afoot that made me wonder anew if government departments inhabit parallel universes. Foreign secretary William Hague – almost simultaneous with Fox's speech – made a ministerial announcement on the recent nuclear non-proliferation treaty review

conference. He was "delighted" that the conference had successfully reached agreement "to pursue the goal of a world without nuclear weapons."

The UK, following Clinton's lead for the US, had announced the size of its warhead stockpile – 225 – in a bid to increase transparency and trust. A small step, but not an irrelevant one, in the global context. The UK also strongly backed a WMD-free zone in the Middle East, and has committed to re-examining its nuclear declaratory policy – when we will use them – as part of a wider process of reducing the significance of nuclear weapons in military postures worldwide.

So how do these seemingly contradictory policies – rearmament and disarmament – coexist? Oddly, the government thinks they are fully compatible – a position that the Labour government also held. So we continue in an Alice in Wonderland world where you get new nukes in order to demonstrate your commitment to disarmament.

It is hard to see how the Liberal Democrats fit into this illogical jigsaw. They had an eminently sensible election policy of including Trident in the defence review and considering all options, up to and including non-replacement. That has clearly fallen victim to the coalition agreement. But it is to be hoped that they will at least take up their promised concession of scrutinising the cost-effectiveness of Trident and continuing to argue for alternatives. I look forward to finding out how and when that process will take place.

The Hell of Shell – a poem from Ann Garrett

The Hell of Shell

The Niger Delta is an erupting volcano
Of noise, grime, and never-ending light

Huge gas flares burn next to villages
Layers of black dust lie on school buildings

Oily waste deposits seep through waterways
The constant hissing noise of gas heat
Drowns village music-makers
Their only sound a silent percussive agony

Dust and soot settles in people's homes
Acrid smells of burning penetrates hair and clothes
Infiltrates the meagre stores of grain

No meagre profit for the Nigerian Government
A six hundred billion dollar boost to funds

No meagre profit for Shell and its shareholders
The greedy grabbers of wealth in this burning hell

Ann Garrett Ashley [May 14th/2010]

Keep GM food off our plates - *continued*

According to a survey of 1,000 adults in the UK carried out by GFK NOP on Friday 4 to Sunday 6 June:

- 41% don't know that animals are fed on GM animal feed
- 66% would like to buy meat and dairy from animals fed non-GM diet.
- 63% want supermarkets to only supply products with non-GM feed
- 89% want clear labelling of GM fed animals
- 72% would be willing to pay a premium (2p per kilo) for non GM feed

3. This result shows how public opposition to the use of GM ingredients in animal feed has increased since an identical poll in 2006. Then only 50% of people opted to avoid GM feed.

4. Asda revealed in an e-mail to GM Freeze that they can no longer assure customers that the animals used for their poultry meat and eggs were not fed a GM diet.

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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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