



**Friends of
the Earth**

Bromley

Newsletter

June 2009

No. 258

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



June Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Helen Rimmer
(FoE, Underwood Street)

FoE's new Food Chain Campaign

Tuesday 2nd June

7.30pm.

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE. Contact details inside front cover.

Midsummer Barbecue on Sunday 21st June – Book at our June meeting

Diary dates:

June 2nd (Tues)

Bromley FoE's June Meeting (*postponed from February*)
– Helen Rimmer on FoE's Food Chain campaign; livestock and sustainable farming, ahead of ...

June 20th (Sat)

Bromley FoE stall in Bromley High Street on the Food Chain Campaign. 2pm – 4pm outside Caffe Nero.

**Never an Opportunity Lost
(A dedication to Dave Davis)**

' A man for all seasons ' -
Seasoned and wordly-wise through knowledge
A self-taught avid reader
Sparking theory into practice

Never a campaign missed
Never an opportunity lost

Fists clenched in determination
On the beaches at Dunkirk
On many a May Day march
Striving for justice and equality

For a sustainable solution
For a world free from war and nuclear pollution

This idealist force is now at peace
May our memories of him nurture and increase

Ann Garrett Ashley (April/2009)

Midsummer Barbecue (Vegetarian)

Where? Cudham Environmental Centre

When? Sunday 21st June, 2-6pm

How much? £12.50 per person

Everyone welcome. Bring a friend.

Please make sure you book your place at the June meeting.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE.**

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

May meeting report, from Anne Clark

A very knowledgeable and enthusiastic Richard Priestley burst into a discourse on Global Problems & Solutions.

Beginning with global warming, habitat destruction, and world hunger, he suggested that there must be a new collective outlook, a new politics, new economics and global social justice. The need to reduce carbon emissions from the current 387ppm (parts per million) to 350ppm. We are going the wrong way about it with coal fired power stations planned for here and Germany.

He didn't intend to be pessimistic but we could be doing so much better. Bethnal Green for instance is only 15 metres above sea level which could be serious when the ice melts! Thanks to protesters, coal-fired power stations could be shut down, but not until we have something else. Sizewell B&C are susceptible to sea levels too.

Why not expand on the huge Desert Technology (Sahara)? CSP (concentrated solar power) generates electricity in the deserts using mirrors. This form is actually growing 35% a year. Energy is transmitted by a HVDC grid. Two built in Spain (PS10 & PS20) supply power to Seville @ 100% solar with 24 others under construction. In Nevada there is a Solar 1 built in 2007, occupying 300 acres and one is being built outside Mumbai, India. Giant reflectors are also in Australia & California.

Water: You can combine CSP with desalination and get clean drinking water from sea water. There are

seawater 'greenhouses' - like polytunnels, which have water trickling down cardboard-like walls to condense, be captured and used as clean water. This is used in Oman to grow vegetables & could have larger possibilities. Tree crops could be used such as the INGA which gives a fertile mulch and boosts fertility when grown amongst Maize. Other trees also survive desert areas as does "poly-cropping. Vanilla is grown in 'Inga' alleys.

Wind power and hydro-electricity are backed in Scotland and experiments are being made (by Google) in high altitude jet streams with kites, to turn turbines.

Wave power must be encouraged with pump storage systems in the N. Sea and sea turbines off Ireland, with something off Hale in Cornwall. This power wasn't backed here as it has been in Portugal. 'Alvin Smith' pump water 100s feet in the air for power on the way down.

Small electric cars are useful, plugging batteries into the grid. Hydrogen power cars were invented by some chaps in Herefordshire, & even shipping has started going 'green' with special "foils"---- used in San Francisco Bay.

Houses are slowly converting to solar power although some not able to or are too expensive. In Germany whole water heating in some new housing has been taken care of by complete solar roofs, with a communal water tank underground.

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May report – *continued* + Bluebell walk report, from Anne Clark

In Milwaukee, the US Will Allen produces from an organic farm in polytunnels, and with a change of President, the US could now lead Europe on environment issues.

Biochar is a charcoal-like material which promotes carbon capture. Very dark soils (terra preta) were discovered in the Amazon basin, going back to 450 BC, created by human kind but the race died out and procedure with it. It has recently been re-discovered.

Richard pointed out that many of the initiatives for ways forward were founded by amateur experts working in back sheds and we should put money behind these ideas. The UK seems to be dragging behind, but we must be positive. All in all, it was a very inspiring talk.

In the second half a report & appreciation of our late member and versifier, Dave Davis was made.

Then issues on a cheaper venue for the FOE conference on 12/13 Sept. now in Nottingham, the success of our last campaign (recycling) stall and future 'food & farming' one, Cudham Environmental Centre's invitation offer of a barbecue, future fetes, the Fuel Poverty Bill, animal feed EDM 845, the cancellation of the proposed development at Tweedy Rd. / Bromley College, future changes to the Glades and Civic Centre, a 76 bed hotel at Biggin Hill airport, FoE economies, the Crystal Palace Community Organisation, and lastly nuclear waste going through Orpington.

Bluebell Walk report

A beautiful afternoon greeted us as we walked from the Cudham recreation ground leaving behind a rural cricket match and took a path into the valley, where, in the past we had campaigned, backed and donated to the Woodland Trust, to buy & look after Blackbushe Shaw and surrounding meadowland.

Through trees and past hedgerows where John brought to our notice attractive slugs & snails (really pretty!), unusual fungi, butterflies, beetles and wild flowers. Passing gingerly round large badger sets, we came across a meadow strewn with primroses, cowslips, and orchids just coming into bud.

Carrying on up through the woods we came across the Cudham Environmental Centre where the new warden had laid on a tea of all sorts of sandwiches to suit all diets, salad, & not to mention the strawberry scones, fruit and welcome drinks. She gave us a printed instruction sheet and we set off to find the bluebells. Thank you for all your help Catherine (McCarthy).

Not sure of a couple of directions (or too busy talking!), we came across a woodland past a scout camp, and just a mass of blue, the little flower heads dancing in the sunlight and after a 'photo shoot' we proceeded down through the blue haze into the valley again. The blossom and bluebells seemed particularly good this year. The sun waned so we trudged sadly homeward and suggested making it a whole day next year.

Campaign Updates, *from Ann Garrett*

Farming and Livestock Campaign Stall

Just a reminder that this is on June 20th from 2.00 - 4.00 pm outside Caffe Nero in Bromley High Street. Thanks so much for all who've signed up to help so far - really grateful.

Safety Concerns re new Nuclear Power Stations

Britain's plans to build a new generation of nuclear power stations have been thrown into jeopardy by startling official safety fears. The nuclear regulatory body in Finland where the first of the reactors is being built has threatened to halt its construction because it is worried about safety systems, due to a design fault.

This is a big blow as the main selling point of the European Pressurised Reactor is that safety systems will be far better than the old reactors. This is particularly important as the new ones will produce as many times as much radiation that could be rapidly released in the event of an accident. Four of the new type are planned for the UK.

John Large, the nuclear consultant /expert, has stated that the safety issue news is extremely serious, and there is now the possibility that the Finnish construction could be called to a halt. This would mean that the UK regulator could pull the plug on the proposed UK reactors.

Nuclear Fusion

The urgency of the climate change debate and the renewed impetus to tackle energy problem has put fusion back on the agenda.

Dr Brian MacGowan, a British trained scientist has reported that this highly volatile process may be harnessed to provide us with a visible source of green energy sooner than previously expected.

Staff at the National Ignition Facility [NIF] in central California are confident that some time in 2010, they will create a fusion reaction by focusing 192 intense ultra-violet lasers on to a tiny golden pellet, recreating the energy of the sun for a fraction of a second, thereby paving the way to a carbon[-neutral future without global warming or nuclear waste.

Some complex equipment will be needed and at least 100 more experiments, but if all this is successful and safe it might well be answer to our energy crisis. Staff at the NIF appear very confident.

Learn, influence, and enjoy! - FoE Conference

At the FoE local groups annual conference you can learn a lot by meeting fellow activists, you can influence the policies of National FoE - and you can have a very enjoyable weekend.

The date: Saturday and Sunday
September 12 and 13. The place:
Nottingham.

If you would like to attend on behalf of Bromley FoE please talk to Sheila or Ann.

Visit to Elizabeth Greenwood's Garden, from Sue Boccock

On Sunday afternoon, May 3rd, eleven of us were given a most informative and enjoyable tour of Elizabeth's garden in Chislehurst.

She was brought up during World War II and is consequently used to "make do and mend", recycling and using second hand items. Her bungalow and her two small gardens either side are worthy examples of what can be achieved on a comparatively small plot. Her philosophy encompasses three main areas: 1) Water conservation, 2) Energy conservation 3) Waste and Recycling,

1) **Water conservation**

Elizabeth has 12 water butts of varying capacity, from 80 to 350 litres, enabling her to store a total of 1,800 litres of rainwater and each down pipe is connected. Water is used for the garden, car wash and to flush loos. Indoors, her washing machine is only used approx. every 10 days when there is a full load. Elizabeth doesn't own a dishwasher or a garden sprinkler.

Outside in the garden, she grows fruit, veg. and flowers. She tries to select plants which can cope with dry conditions, only watering in the evenings when it is cooler. She mulches, using her own compost (well-rotted leaves and shredded materials), uses evergreen ground cover, also gravel and pebbles. Her water meter was installed 10 years ago and her average daily water consumption is 60 litres. This is less than half the national average.

2) **Energy conservation.**

Elizabeth installed the following relatively cheaply. All her lighting is either low-energy bulbs or fluorescent. Some are on time switches. She is very careful not to leave lights on in unoccupied rooms and never leaves her TV or computer on standby. She keeps her fridge/freezer full. Each radiator has an individual thermostat, ensuring closer and more exact monitoring of temperature. Her hot water tank is well insulated and her smokeless fuel stove in the large sitting room boils the kettle, cooks stews and makes toast. She also has solar wind up torches and radio.

More expensive in outlay is her solar water system. It was put on the south facing roof in 1993 giving large amounts of hot water for a good six months of the year (April to October). This has resulted in a negligible summer gas bill and a marked effect in winter months. In January 2007 Elizabeth had seventeen photovoltaic panels fitted to the roof, using a 50% grant from the Energy Saving Trust. Her electricity bills have been almost halved and she is able to repay some of her capital costs by "exporting" some of her energy to her supplier.

Throughout her bungalow Elizabeth has double glazed windows, which help to keep heat in as do the three radiators on her exterior walls by being insulated with polystyrene foil. The front door has an attached porch and there is a utility room at the back

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Garden visit, *continued*

door which also acts as an insulator. In 1996, the cavity walls were filled in. Her loft is insulated to a very high standard as required by the Energy Saving Trust to qualify for a grant. With all these measures to reduce and conserve energy, it is important to ensure adequate ventilation and consequently Elizabeth has had small grilles fitted above her patio doors. The windows in both her loos have mesh to enable inflow of air but not of insects!

(3) Waste and Recycling

She has a paper shredder which is used for confidential items and these are then composted as is 90% of her garden waste. She makes full use of the council's alternate week collection of the black and green boxes. She aims to avoid buying over-packaged items and uses cloth bags for her purchases. She supports her local charity shops for clothes, household goods and even for some presents. In her garden, three of the twelve water butts used to contain olives, one came from a whiskey distillery and another is a fifty year old beer barrel, which was home last year to a family of Great Tits.

Many recycled items have made ideal plant containers, be they wood, ceramic or metal, for example a saucepan rack and glue pots. Her architectural salvage includes Edwardian cast iron railings, glazed ceramic "rope" edging and a Royal Wedding Commemorative rainwater head. Elizabeth has also provided opportunities which afford relaxation in the garden. These take the form of a gazebo, a tree house and a canvas

hammock which had belonged to her father as part of his RAF kit in 1943.

Our afternoon ended, seated at tables being served with delicious home made cakes and mugs of tea. It was an opportunity to reflect on what we had seen and heard. On our departure Elizabeth gave each of us an information pack including some of the above details and booklets about composting, water and energy saving.

Finally we wish to thank Elizabeth not only for a very enjoyable afternoon but also to congratulate her warmly on her well deserved two Environment Awards in this 25th anniversary year of Harris Hospis Care — a cause very special to Elizabeth. Largin, Elizabeth's home, has raised over £4,500 for Harris Hospis Care during its openings — a fantastic achievement.

Green Belt in danger

In a borough like Bromley with its acres of Green Belt and Areas of High Landscape Value we need forever to be on our guard to protect the countryside. To help you keep this in mind, note this figure from a CPRE article:

Between 1997 and 2005 45,240 new dwellings were permitted on Green Belt land. That is a warning as to the way planners and politicians are thinking!

There are 14 Green Belt areas in England, covering 6452 square miles. London's Green Belt is the largest at 1786 square miles. Let's keep it that way!

Transport info – Ray Watson, transport campaigner

Bikes – by the million

Cycling is often seen as the unglamorous end of the transport market – but it should not be underestimated as a contributor to reducing CO2 emissions by getting people out of their cars.

To get some idea of its impact note the statement from Halfords that it has sold over a million cycles a year for two consecutive years. Obviously, other stockists add to that figure. And, as people tend to retain their cycle for a good number of years, the movement to bikes is a powerful one.

Halfords, the UK's largest cycle retailer, says sales have been driven by the need to economise, the desire to keep fit and by recognition of green issues.

Meanwhile, the Government, as part of its effort to boost the economy, has said it will spend several million to promote cycling and also to make it safer by improving road systems.

BAA takes a knock

A drop in air passengers for 11 straight months has been recorded by BAA, owner of Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted and four other major UK airports. Which permits environmentalists to give at least a little cheer for the amount of air pollution saved through fewer flights taking off.

Latest figures show that traffic through Gatwick was down nearly 18 per cent in March, while Stansted declined nearly 16 per cent and Heathrow 7 per cent. Added to the falls in January and February this translates into a

decrease of almost three million passengers in the first quarter of the year.

European airports are reporting similar percentage declines.

Nationally, UK air passenger traffic reached a peak of 238.8 million in 2007, dropping to 234.2 million last year, its first decline since 1991. But do not get too excited by this fall. The Dept for Transport says traffic will recover when the recession ends.

Scrap the car scheme?

So, who will benefit most when the Government introduces the car scrappage allowance for those dumping a car at least nine years old in favour of a new vehicle?

Chances are it will not be those who currently run old cars because they are just the people who cannot afford a new vehicle. Plus, the allowance will probably contribute no more than half the cost of a new small vehicle.

Nor will the environment benefit much. Old cars may be less efficient on carbon emissions, but those buying subsidised vehicles may well negate any emissions gain by using the allowance to buy a car with a larger engine.

There is a further factor. The scheme will certainly add to the number of cars on the road. That has proved to be the case in Germany where a scrappage allowance of £2273 has been in operation for some months.

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Transport info *continued* + MP pledges support for EDM 845

More cars are not what we want when the Government is struggling to meet CO2 reduction targets.

In Germany over 600,000 cars have been bought with the cash premium, probably rising to two million in a full year. Suggestions there that the plan might finish or the premium reduced at the end of the year brought such protests from the motoring lobby that the Government rapidly backtracked.

So, to return to the question: who will benefit from the scrappage scheme? Look no further than the carmakers. For that is what is what scheme is all about. It is a subsidy for an industry that adds to the cost to the country of the effects of climate change.

When it comes to supporting either the environment or the car manufacturers, the carmakers will nearly always win, especially in Germany home of Europe's largest auto industry. Sadly, that also applies at the European Union where Friends of the Earth and others fight a continuous battle to stop the powerful car lobby from watering down green legislation.

Bromley FoE member Graham Hemington has twice written to Orpington MP John Horam seeking his support for two motions currently going through the Commons.

The first was Early Day Motion 845 on deforestation and climate change. The MP replied: 'I understand the concern that has been expressed over the sustainability of imported animal feed, notably soy. It is important that imports of food, animal feed and, indeed, feedstock for bio fuel are fully traceable and do not come from areas where their production has led to damaging environmental and social impacts.

'I am therefore happy to show my support by signing EDM 845'.

Graham's second letter was about the Fuel Poverty Bill. Mr Horam replied that he understood that high energy bills were a serious problem for millions and he forecast that the number of people living in fuel poverty would increase.

He added: 'I strongly support this Bill and shall certainly vote for it on the day if needed. I have also written to Gordon Brown in relation to this matter.'

EURO ELECTION DAY THURSDAY JUNE 4TH

Don't forget to vote, either with your postal vote or in person at your local polling station.

The votes will be counted on Sunday 7th and the results announced on Sunday evening.

New food strategy for Southwark + Changing the Food Chain

Editor's note – Both these items are taken from the latest Southwark FoE newsletter

A new food strategy for Southwark could transform the way we get our food in the borough. But it needs our support.

Jenny Jones of the London Assembly, Green Party and a Southwark Councillor gave an interesting talk to Growing Southwark and guests last month about a proposal for a Borough Wide Food Strategy.

The following motion has been passed by the Council – please read it and if you support it please email the Leader of the Council, at nicholas.stanton@southwark.gov.uk The more the motion is supported, the more likely it is that the resources and manpower needed to turn it into reality will be forthcoming.

1. That council assembly:

a. notes the vitality, vibrancy and diversity of Southwark's food industries and cultures.

b. notes that the production, processing and manufacturing, transport, storage and distribution, sale, purchasing, preparation, consumption and disposal of food within and beyond Southwark has significant implications for health, environmental, economic, social/cultural and security issues across the borough.

2. This assembly therefore invites the executive to undertake the development of a borough-wide food strategy with a view to:

- a. improving the health and reduce the health inequalities of people living and working in Southwark;
- b. reducing poverty and deprivation;
- c. reducing the negative environmental impacts of Southwark's food system;
- d. supporting a vibrant food economy;
- e. celebrating and promoting Southwark's food culture;
- f. enhancing Southwark's food security;
- g. encouraging health eating in schools.

3. This assembly asks the executive to report back to council assembly within six months on progress in developing the strategy.

Changing the food chain

Southwark Friends of the Earth will be starting their summer of campaigning at Nunhead Cemetery Open Day this Saturday with the launch of the new Food Chain campaign.

This is a new campaign focusing on the way in which most meat and dairy products are produced. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the environmental and social impacts of the intensive livestock system, and to call on the Government through MPs to support good food, thriving farms and a healthy planet.

Factory farming uses massive amounts of soy as a key ingredient in animal feed. Most of this comes from huge soy plantations in Latin America. Vast swathes of land have to be

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News from MARINET

Please note that some of the contents of this item appeared in last month's newsletter.

Marine Reserves (Marine Bill) Campaign.

This is our key national campaign, designed to ensure that the kind of marine reserves included in the Bill are such that they act as a management tool for the whole UK marine ecosystem, and are used by Government to help to rebuild our fisheries.

Key to this is having highly protected (no-take) marine reserves in the Bill, selection of the reserves using scientific criteria, and selection in such a way that they form an ecologically coherent network. Currently, the Bill has none of these features.

Also, we want the reserve network to be sufficiently extensive to enable social and economic uses of the sea to be environmentally sustainable, and for an initial network to be established by 2012 (neither in the Bill so far).

We have been working hard to secure these amendments to the Bill (see attachment), and we have met widely with politicians, industry and conservationists. We are currently seeking to assemble a political alliance in the House of Lords for the Bill's amendment, and we are lobbying hard in the House of Commons via EDM 337 (see www.marinereserves.org.uk) to create a new UK Marine Act that will contain these essential features

Amazing as it may sound, we are the only NGO lobbying for highly protected

marine reserves and these related amendments in the Marine Bill.

Important ACTIONS for you to take:

1. If you have not yet done so, write to your MP and nearby MPs to ask them to sign EDM 337. This is crucial for our campaign's success - see details on our website

www.marinereserves.org.uk

2. Please consider making an extra donation to MARINET. As you know, we have no membership fee and members donate according to their means. We are standing by this principle. However as you can see, we are facing a serious financial deficit in our General Fund (which meets administrative expenses). So please can you make an extra donation to help us with these costs, thus avoiding the need to raid the Marine Reserves Fund

3. Write to Andrew Atkins at Underwood Street to ask that MARINET is part of the 5 Year Plan.

More info on MARINET at www.marinet.org.uk, email stephen.marinet@btinternet.com, or phone 01249 653972.

Re-User Item (1)

PP9 battery suitable for old radio. Free to good home. Our old Roberts radio has finally expired after several decades of valiant service.

Contact Sheila Brown on
01689-851605

FoE slam the car scrappage scheme's lack of green criteria

The Government's car scrappage scheme - which comes into force today (Monday 18 May 2009) - will undermine confidence in the UK Government's determination to tackle climate change and develop a low carbon economy, Friends of the Earth warned.

A well-designed car scrappage scheme could have played a small part in cutting emissions from the transport sector - but the Government admits that the scheme "is primarily designed to boost the automotive industry" and "was not designed as a green measure."

Scrappage schemes in some other countries don't allow motorists to part-exchange old models for gas-guzzlers - but there is no such restriction on the UK scheme.

Friends of the Earth's Executive Director Andy Atkins said: "This car scrappage scheme is a lost opportunity. A well-designed scheme could have played a limited role in cutting emissions from our roads - but, unlike some other countries, the UK scheme doesn't prevent motorists part-exchanging an old small model for a brand new gas guzzler.

"The motor industry has consistently opposed tough measures to tackle climate change - it should be should be forced to do much more to cut emissions, not given tax-payer hand-outs.

"The Government should be tackling the recession by cutting energy waste and developing our huge renewable

energy potential - this would create new jobs and business opportunities and help make Britain a world leader in developing a cleaner, safer future."

Notes to Editors

1. The UK car scrappage scheme has no environmental criteria. A government note on the scheme says that "the scheme is primarily designed to boost the automotive industry and restore consumer confidence; it was not designed as a green measure."
2. Friends of the Earth believes that a car scrappage scheme could play a limited role in reducing carbon emissions from transport, by getting some of the worst gas-guzzlers off the road. The subsidy should only be given for the purchase of the most fuel-efficient cars, with a real carbon saving between the car scrapped and the car bought; and it should be available to allow people to buy second-hand green cars as well as new ones.
3. Car scrappage schemes with environmental objectives exist in other countries. For example:

Portugal

The scheme applies to cars that are at least 10 years old. Drivers can get 1000 euros for scrapping a car that is between 10 and 15 years old, and 1250 euros for a car more than 15 years old. In each case, the new car purchased cannot emit more than 120g/km.

FoE says – two of FoE's latest press releases

Renewable energy schemes to get speedier connection

Commenting on temporary changes, announced today by Ofgem, that will see renewable electricity projects connected to the grid more quickly, Nick Rau, Friends of the Earth's renewable energy campaigner said:

"Today's Ofgem announcement is welcome step forward - but a long-term solution is urgently needed to enable the UK to meet its renewable energy target and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs."

"The UK has a first-class renewable energy potential - but a third-rate attitude towards developing it."

"The Government must take urgent action if Britain is to become a world leader in green energy."

"This must include a massive investment in a new electricity system that will allow us to generate more green power, more efficiently - and forcing Ofgem to make tackling climate change its top priority."

World's biggest offshore wind farm to be built off Kent coast

Commenting on plans to go ahead with the first phase of the London array offshore wind farm in the Thames Estuary, announced by businesses today, Friends of the Earth Executive Director Andy Atkins said:

"It's fantastic news that the UK will be home to the world's largest offshore wind farm. London Array will cut UK emissions, reduce our dependency on

fossil fuels and create hundreds of new green jobs.

"The UK has the best offshore wind resource in Europe - Ministers must ensure that more projects like this are developed so that Britain reaps the huge employment, business and environmental benefits of clean, green energy.

"This must include a new super-grid to ensure we get maximum benefit from offshore energy, and greater efforts to make sure that turbines are built in Britain - not imported from abroad. "

Southwark FoE – Changing the Food Chain - *continued*

cleared to grow the soy causing deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions and the loss of valuable wildlife habitat. Communities are often forced off their land and lose the ability to grow food for their families. The food on our plates should not be the final link in this destructive chain.

The Food Chain campaign aims to change the way that meat and dairy is produced in the UK. The aim is to stop the Government using taxpayer's money to fund big business-led factory farms, and instead support the use of home grown animal feeds and low-impact meat and dairy production.

This means: - Shifting subsidies away from factory farming. - Supporting farmers to grow their own animal feed. - Supermarkets offering fairer deals for everyone.

HOTI – forcing an incinerator to wait

A local campaign group are fighting to stop an incinerator being built in a deprived area of Hull. HOTI - Hull and Holderness Opposing the Incinerator - want alternative technologies to be used instead.

Friends of the Earth lawyers helped HOTI make a complaint to the European Commission. This said how the incinerator project breached European rules on fair competition. The Commission should now take action forcing the project to be made public to other companies. HOTI hopes that other companies will consider more positive alternatives to this type of incineration.

The impact of the incinerator on climate change was not properly

considered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or the Treasury. Using incineration to deal with our waste produces some of the biggest carbon emissions. This makes a large contribution to climate change.

HOTI is also voicing strong concerns about the impact on health of the local residents. Alternatives such as anaerobic digestion are better for local people's health and help prevent climate change. Legal letters have been sent by HOTI to both the Treasury and DEFRA.

This work by HOTI and our lawyers has forced the decision on the incinerator to be put on hold.

Latest news from CAAT

Stop Week 2009 - Join in!

Stop Week 2009 focuses on DSEi, the world's largest arms fair, scheduled to take place in East London in September. DESi is made possible because of the organisational support from the government's UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO). We want to use this week to shame the government for its support of the arms industry. **Stop Week** runs from Sunday 14 June to Sunday 21 June.

UKTI - Keep writing to your MP

Many of you have written to your MP about the special treatment that UKTI gives to arms sales and the devastating impact of this support.

Thank you so much. We've now had a reply to the first batch of letters and postcards from the Minister of State for Trade & Investment. But we need to keep the pressure building.

If you haven't written to your MP yet, please take a short time out to do so. We've suggested some key points you might like to make, and provided a template to download for those who are short of time.

And if you've already heard back from your MP and would like to respond, see CAAT's response to the Minister's reply for some inspiration. It's at <http://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/ukti/MP2.php>.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

Co-ordinators:

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Secretary:

Ray Watson 01959-571566
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Treasurer:

Ivy Smith 01689-872642

Press Officer:

vacant

Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

Outings organisers:

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Walks Arrangers:

temporarily vacant

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Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

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Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details below

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Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

Peter Gandolfi
famgando@hotmail.com

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 raywatson@iclway.co.uk.

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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