



**Friends of the Earth**

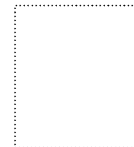
**Bromley**

# Newsletter

**May 2009**

**No. 257**

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

Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

**Richard Priestley**

**Global Problems, Global Solutions**

**What an ecologically sustainable and socially just world might look like in 2030**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

7.30pm.

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by **SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY**. Contact details inside front cover.

**SUNDAY MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> – Visit to ecological garden in St Paul's Cray – BOOK NOW**

**Diary dates:****May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sun)**

**Group visit** to Elizabeth Greenwood's ecological garden in St Paul's Cray. £5 per person. Booking essential; contact Sue Bocock if you wish to attend.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

**Bromley FoE's May meeting** – Richard Priestley on "Global Problems, Global Solutions" (see below)

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tues)**

**Bromley FoE's June Meeting** (*postponed from February*) – Richard Hines on FoE's Food Chain campaign

**June 20<sup>th</sup> (Sat)**

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

**Dave Davis**

Sadly Dave Davis passed away on April 10th. He was involved in the early days of Bromley Friends of the Earth, and over the years wrote many challenging poems as our versifier, linking politics and environmental concerns.

He supported campaign stalls when his health permitted and often contributed thoughtful, stimulating opinions during meetings.

His cheery presence will be greatly missed and we offer our condolences to his family and friends.

**Table and tent wanted - Eyes open! -**

Bromley FoE need a lightweight fold-up table to display our material and we need a substantial gazebo-type tent for use when we display our wares at summer fetes and other events. Again, the tent should be able to be folded away (and easily erected too, if possible!)

If you see in a shop items that might suit please advise. Or, even better, if you have something you wish to dispose of please get in touch. The contact for this is Anne Clark (0208 289 8483).

**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY.**

**by post** to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS

**by phone** to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: [johnstreet@gn.apc.org](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons

**DAVID JAMES DAVIS: 1923 – 2009; an appreciation by Alun Murinan**

Dave Davis, a lifelong campaigner for peace and socialism died at the age of 85 following a long illness. Dave was born in Gloucestershire and during the Second World War served in the Royal Navy on motor torpedo boats.

A qualified electrician working in and around the cities of Bristol and Gloucester, he moved to south east London some 30 years ago where he worked as a caretaker for a housing association.

Dave was an active member of the Communist Party of Great Britain for almost 50 years until its dissolution in 1991. During that time he stood as a CPGB candidate or acted as an agent, in council elections in Gloucestershire as well as being actively involved in many local, regional and national campaigns.

With the demise of the CPGB, Dave had brief flirtations with the Democratic Left and the Labour Party before finding his home in the SWP (and Respect for a brief four years) where he remained until his death.

I first met Dave in 1987 when we were waiting for the start of the 'White Poppy Peace March' up Bromley High Street on Remembrance Sunday. We were early and the only people there, so we got talking and our conversations and political activities continued from that day.

In addition to his work in the SWP, he was active in ex-Services CND and our local Peace Group, and for some years chaired the Bromley branch of the British Pensioners' Trade Union

Action Association. Coronary bypass surgery a few years ago did not stop him marching, selling papers from street stalls and participating in numerous campaigns in the Borough and beyond. Despite being very ill with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, he accepted the nomination as the Left List candidate for the Bexley & Bromley constituency in the 2008 GLA elections.

Dave enjoyed reading and apart from politics, his other favourite subjects were astronomy and Egyptology. He also liked painting and was a member of an art group and occasionally displayed his work at local exhibitions. His talent for writing poetry earned him the post of 'versifier' (poet-in-residence) for Bromley Friends of the Earth with his poems regularly appearing in their magazine.

Dave did a lot for my political education, including signing me up first for *7 Days* (CPGB) then the *Socialist Worker*. His zeal for the cause meant that our local W H Smiths had the *Socialist Worker* on sale, supplied by Dave, who used to check each week that the papers had been put on the stands. He will be sadly missed by many people in London and the West Country and with his passing many progressive causes have lost a valuable comrade.

Dave is survived by one of his sisters and his niece. The funeral will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00 p.m. at Beckenham Crematorium. Donations in his memory can be made to one of the many groups campaigning for peace and socialism.

## April meeting report – Darwin’s Bees – *Graham Hemington*

How could a complex structure like a hexagonal honeycomb be made by bees? How could they make all the necessary angles and planes or even perceive when they are correctly made?

English Heritage asked John Williams (beekeeper) to repeat Darwin’s experiments on honeycombing as part of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> year since the publication of “The Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection.”

In addition to his own studies of honeybees, Darwin turned to several beekeepers for help, including his close friend and parish priest, the Reverend John Innes. Although he disagreed with Darwin’s theory of evolution, Innes gave him specimens of honeycomb to examine and helped him fill a glass-sided beehive for an experiment, probably with a swarm of his own bees; this enabled Darwin to study comb building at close quarters.

Darwin also asked five naturalists with interest in bees (Waterhouse, Bevan, Tegetmeier, Lubbock and Huber) for suggestions. Some were helpful but he often rejected others because he thought they were inaccurate or not well thought through, e.g. the design of every comb is sketched out and the first rudiments laid out by a single bee, said Huber.

Darwin’s own observations led him to describe the bees’ construction work as “... a sort of balance struck between many bees, all instinctively standing at the same relative distance from each other, all trying to sweep

equal spheres, and then building up or leaving ungnawed, the planes of intersection between these spheres.”

John put it another way: think of a circle surrounded and touched by six circles of the same size. When pressure is exerted on the six circles towards the central circle, the latter changes to a hexagon, i.e. a honeycomb.

John has provided an observation hive with bees at Down House and samples of honeycomb for visitors to see. His specimens are the result of his repeating Darwin’s experiments at his own apiary just three miles from Down House.

### **Fuel Poverty Bill**

*Graham Hemington writes:* Please support this Bill. It would introduce three measures: an energy efficiency programme to bring existing homes up to current efficiency levels, social tariffs to limit vulnerable households’ exposure to high energy bills and reinforcement of the legal duty on the government to act to end fuel poverty.

The Second Reading in the Commons started on March 20 with an obligatory minimum of at least 100 MPs present. The House was still debating at the end of the day’s session and so the debate was adjourned until June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please write to your MP asking him / her to attend the continuing debate on June 12<sup>th</sup>; note that this day is a Friday, a day when MPs are often away at their constituencies, so a special effort is needed to persuade them to be in the House.

## Friends of the Earth – current situation

This is an extract from a longer document circulated recently. Contact Ray Watson for the full version.

### **Recap on financial position**

Our financial situation is serious. We have to find savings of approximately £2.5 million a year for the next four years to stay within our anticipated income. For context, annual gross income in 2008 was approximately £10.5 million. If we don't do this we would have a steadily increasing deficit year after year. Most other NGOs and charities are also facing significant financial difficulties. However, in our case, we have to act faster and more decisively, because our low reserves give us very little financial buffer. The Friends of the Earth Board has always believed that the money raised for campaigning should be spent on campaigning as it is received - our cause is so urgent that for many years we have had an agreed policy of keeping small reserves. This means that in a tough economic climate we have to respond very quickly to changes in forecast income.

### **Necessary steps**

As the savings necessitate job cuts and affect a number of our staff directly we are legally bound to consult formally with them and their union. No other consultation is permitted. Situations like this are covered by the Involvement Framework, linked to the Partnership Agreement. The apparent sharing of elements of the proposal beyond staff only makes matters worse in giving a partial and, in our view, unhelpfully negative view of draft plans. Given this situation we're more keen than ever to share with you the

full plans but it's simply not possible yet.

We have identified a number of areas where we will work 'smarter' in future, for example, managing our knowledge so that it can be widely and easily accessed by staff, local groups and others to support all our campaigns. More broadly, we are focused throughout this process on how to maximise our campaigning, activism and fundraising in ways that preserve what is most important for our future.

**It is the responsibility of the Board** and Andy and James to ensure the long term stability and effectiveness of Friends of the Earth;

While we see a need for some organisational change, this will be within the framework already set by the present strategic plan, aimed not just at cost savings but also at making the organisation as effective as possible to deliver that plan;

The Board of Friends of the Earth, more than half of whom are local group members selected to their roles by local groups, continues to oversee this process;

We see the absolutely central role that you play in Friends of the Earth and we fully intend to continue supporting your campaigning at every level in the future;

### **Yours sincerely**

Andy Atkins, Simon Counsell, Mike Smyth, Dave Coleman (Executive Director, Board Chairs and Chair of Activism Committee respectively).

## Transport information – Ray Watson, transport campaigner

### **Electric cars – the wrong route?**

The Government is planning to subsidise electric cars to the tune of £250million and – rightly – claims that this will be a major contribution to cutting CO2 emissions; 35 per cent of all Britain's carbon output comes from domestic transport and 58 per cent of that is from cars.

So, should we approve of the scheme – one that will also see the motor industry receive £100million to speed research into electric powered vehicles?

Well, consumers will certainly welcome the chance to receive up to £5000 of the purchase price for buying any car that is primarily electric powered, though they will have to wait two or three years for the project to start.

However, there is a strong argument that this money would be better spent on improved public transport that would give much-needed immediate CO2 reductions rather than the speculative nature of the electric car scheme. After all, the car makers have yet to improve the quality of the batteries the cars run on and a comprehensive network of recharging points is not yet under way.

Further, consumers still need to be convinced that electric cars are as useful as today's conventional models. And is putting more cars on the road a sensible idea when it will inevitably bring calls for more road building?

Then there is the point that it is not all a carbon reduction gain because generating electricity to power the car

batteries and also to manufacture the vehicles carry a cost in CO2 emissions.

Thus, the jury is still out on whether this is a wise move.

### **Hidden pollution revealed**

For the past few years the pollution spotlight in the transport industry has been on aircraft and all the damage they do. Shipping, meanwhile, has quietly gone on polluting on a grand scale, but now its sins are being exposed.

New research points to the fact that the low-grade fuel used by ships has 2000 times the sulphur content of diesel typically used in cars and lorries. It also underlines that shipping pollution costs countries billions of pounds in health services and that deaths from these emissions run into the thousands every year.

One result is that the USA is introducing a low-carbon emission zone all along its east coast, which it reckons will save 8000 lives annually and reduce the cost of treating heart attacks and lung damage. The EU is also working on the problem and may create such zones in the English Channel and the Baltic Sea.

### **Motorway victory**

It is nice to win occasionally – especially when the vanquished is a road scheme. The Government has dropped plans to widen the M62 in Cheshire and Staffordshire, the result of a two-year campaign by

*/continued on page 14*

## Site B (Tweedy Road) appeal rejected

The appeal by Broomleigh against Bromley Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a development in Tweedy Road, Bromley has been dismissed by the planning inspector. Bromley FoE was amongst those making objections to the application.

The proposed development was "3 part three / four storey and 1 five storey linked blocks comprising 72 unites consisting of 18 studio flats as part of a foyer scheme for young adults, 14 one bedroom, 56 two bedroom and 3 three bedroom flats, semi-basement parking for 34 cars."

### **The main issues identified by the inspector were:**

- The effect of the proposal upon the character and appearance of the immediate locality and the setting of the adjacent conservation area
- The effect of the scheme upon the setting of nearby listed buildings
- The effect of the proposal upon the living conditions of nearby residents, particularly those residing in Sheppard's College and Bromley College
- Whether the scheme would result in adequate living conditions for future occupants of the building
- Whether the scheme would make adequate provision for on site parking.

### **The report runs to six pages so only the inspector's conclusions are reprinted here.**

The site is allocated for development in the development plan and I appreciate that the appeal scheme has undergone a lengthy gestation to

reach its current form which was recommended for approval by Council officers. Nevertheless, the appeal site is a prominent and sensitive one. While aspects of the appeal proposal may have individual merit, I am not satisfied that the combined elements of the scheme proposed are acceptable to the appeal site.

The scale, design, and position of the appeal buildings bear little sympathetic relation to the context provided by the spaciousness of Tweedy Road and the form of buildings opposite or behind. The scheme suffers from the characteristics of overdevelopment, wherein the amount of built form in close proximity to the highway leaves little useful opportunity to create an integrated and attractive street scene and I find that it would produce an unsatisfactory arrangement of homes whose occupants would not benefit from acceptable living conditions.

The scheme would harm the character and appearance of the locality and the setting of the conservation area and nearby listed buildings.

Despite the adequacy of the proposed car parking, neither this consideration alone or in combination with all other matters, which includes the benefits of the scheme in terms of 'Secure by Design', leads me to an alternative decision. The scheme would be contrary to UDP Policies BE1, BE8, H7 and BE13 and the appeal does not succeed.

## Campaigns info – Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator

### Recycling Stall

Grateful thanks to all the 16 people who helped on April 4th.

The council officers seemed pleased to have our support, and it was a generally very successful venture, especially as the public were so responsive. We gave out a lot of leaflets and had useful discussions, so hopefully there will be more co-operative stalls like this. The News Shopper have done an excellent report and photo of the event.

While on campaigning - please could you get the renewables cards to me ASAP, as FoE wants them in by the end of April/beginning of May. Thanks.

### Talk to Oak Lodge Primary School

We were invited to give a talk to the assembly on April 3rd as part of the school's 'Go Green Week'. I took our banner and several tabards which helped focus attention as some of the pupils volunteered to wear them!

The school is painted green and everyone was wearing green that day and looking forward to the afternoon's hat parade. The hats were made out of recycled paper/objects and looked very inventive.

I told them a bit about the history of FoE [did you know we began in the USA in a San Francisco fire station in 1969?], key campaigns and about our local activities.

### Nuclear Power

Energy giants are jostling for contracts to start building 11 atomic reactors, with the first power stations to be up

and running by 2017. Nine of the locations are previous homes of nuclear reactors, while two others are close to the Sellafield reactor site in Cumbria.

FoE's Robin Webster has argued that 'breathing life into the failed reactor experiment will not solve our energy woes'. The public are now being asked for their views on the locations. Our nearest is Dungeness in Kent - so objections from our group would be a good idea. What do you think?

### G20 Summit Issues

The IMF is to receive an extra £500bn in funding, which is up from the current £250bn. There was also a broad agreement to reform the IMF as well as the World Bank. Hopefully this will lead to more justice for developing countries.

Other issues such as action on international regulations and targeting tax havens were broadly discussed with some agreements reached, especially the decision to expose banking secrecy.

However, the summit was a disappointment on climate change which was relegated to a brief and vague section of the conference communique. This is likely to have a dampening effect on negotiations on the new climate treaty due to be agreed at a vital meeting in Copenhagen at the end of the year, and has worried environmentalists.



## Food Chain Campaign News – Peter Gandolfi

Our present meat and dairy industry produces more climate changing emissions that all plane/train/car transport journeys on the planet.

We in the UK are unwittingly caught up in this damaging chain stretching from the UK factory farms to the rain forests of South America. Soy used to use chickens, cows and pigs in Europe, comes from immense soy plantations, an area larger than the UK, wiping out wildlife and making our present problems with climate change worse.

This demand for soy is growing fast and has already destroyed much of the wildlife rich Atlantic Rainforest. Less than a fifth remains today, with many species under threat. If this rate of expansion continues, 40% of the Amazon will be lost to soy farming and cattle ranching by 2050.

The Food Chain campaign aims to get MP's to back a new vision of farming that will feed the world without damaging the rain forests, by passing a new law to revolutionise the way meat and dairy are produced in the UK. This will require some big changes, but can be taken step by step. The first step will be to introduce groundbreaking new legislation to parliament by 2011. It's time to tell politicians to change the deal behind our meals, and support more planet-friendly farming.

To make this happen we need to raise public awareness of the impact of the meat and dairy industry and increase pressure on MP's to do something about it. You may have heard about the Early Day Motion (EDM) 845 to

gain support from as many MPs as possible throughout the summer.

Each year 20 MPs are selected in a ballot and given a chance to propose a new law – a Private Members Bill, and FoE will be pushing for one of the chosen MP's to introduce a Bill to require Government to:

- Shift subsidies away from intensive meat and dairy production.
- Support small-scale farming and develop home-grown animal feeds.
- Change the meat and dairy products on the menu in schools and hospitals.

One issue that will resonate with MPs and public is the use of billions of pounds of taxpayer's money to prop up factory farming through EU subsidies. Public money is also spent on food in schools, prisons, hospitals and care homes with little thought given to how it is produced.

New research has traced money in the food chain, and shows that our taxes often end up propping up a system that is trashing rainforests, wiping out wildlife and making climate change worse. The new legislation would ensure the Government stops spending taxpayers money on factory farmed meat and dairy, and changes the system.

More information in the next edition.

## Energy grants and discount schemes in Bromley

### **London Warm Zone (Loft insulation & Cavity wall Insulation)**

*Telephone:* 0800 587 2251

[www.londonwarmzones.co.uk](http://www.londonwarmzones.co.uk)

*Eligibility:* All Bromley residents are eligible for discounted rates

*Price:* Guide price for 3 bedroom semi;

- Loft Insulation £105 where no insulation is currently fitted (prices may be higher if there is more than 50mm of insulation present)

- Cavity wall insulation £94.50  
Insulation fitted free of charge to all residents over 70 or those in receipt of disability or means tested benefits.

### **Energy Suppliers (Loft insulation & Cavity wall Insulation)**

*Telephone:* Call your gas or electricity supplier for a quotation (the number will be on your fuel bill)

*Eligibility:* All Bromley residents are eligible for discounted rates

*Price:* Prices vary from supplier to supplier but all are discounted  
Insulation fitted free of charge to all residents over 70 or those in receipt of disability or means tested benefits.

### **Mayor of London's Insulation Scheme (Loft insulation & Cavity wall Insulation)**

*Telephone:* 0845 070 5059

*Website:* [www.london.gov.uk/insulate](http://www.london.gov.uk/insulate)

*Eligibility:* All Bromley residents are eligible for discounted rates

*Price:* Guide price for a three bedroom semi;

- Loft Insulation £274 where no insulation is currently fitted (prices may be higher if there is more than 50mm of insulation present)

- Cavity wall insulation £250

- £100 cash back when the installation has been completed

- £99 DIY option available with £50 cash back when job completed  
Insulation fitted free of charge to all residents over 70 or those in receipt of disability or means tested benefits.

### **Coldbusters (Loft insulation, cavity wall Insulation, boiler repairs / replacements, full central heating)**

Bromley Council Grant

*Telephone:* 0800 358 6668

*Eligibility:* All Bromley residents over 18 years in receipt of a means tested benefit who own their own home

*Price:* Maximum grant £5000

### **Warm Front (Loft insulation, cavity wall Insulation, boiler repairs / replacements, central heating)**

Central Government Grant

*Telephone:* 0800 316 2814

*Website:* [www.warmfront.co.uk](http://www.warmfront.co.uk)

*Eligibility:* Private tenants and owner-occupiers who are either disabled, have children under 16 or are over 60 and in receipt of a means tested or disability related benefit

*Price:* Maximum grant £2700

### **Low Carbon Buildings Programme (Renewable energy installers and grants)**

Central Government Grant

*Telephone:* 0800 915 0990

[www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk)

*Eligibility:* All Bromley residents are eligible for grants for solar hot water heating, solar photovoltaics (to produce electricity), ground source heat pumps, wood burners etc)

*Price:* Grants vary according to the technology

*Bromley's Energy Advice Line, 020 8313 4914*

## FoE's CYW - Marine Reserves - Spotlight on MARINET

Local groups are working together to protect and enhance the marine environment around the UK coast. Bill Rigby (Marine Reserves Campaign Leader) explains why reserves are the way forward.

### **Q: What is MARINET?**

The marine information network of Friends of the Earth local groups. We have about 40 member groups and we provide an information service on marine issues.

### **Q: What's the key problem you're tackling?**

Our priority now is to persuade the Government to improve its Marine and Coastal Access Bill. We know less about the sea than we do about the surface of the moon, yet it contains most of the biomass of the planet, and the majority of the biodiversity.

Humanity is damaging this mysterious ecosystem through overfishing and the use of damaging fishing gear but also through extraction of oil, sand and gravel. Our sewage system decants untreated waste, and coastal and harbour management practices have serious impacts. Stocks of key species are near extinction, and many others at unsustainable levels.

### **Q: Why are Marine Reserves the solution?**

There is a real need to regulate and protect this better - existing legislation is confusing and ineffective. The concept of Marine Reserves - exclusive no-take zones - cuts through the confusion by saying "leave 30 percent of our seas, out to 200 miles, alone for a very long time" with the

remaining 70 per cent used for business as usual. This method was recommended in 2004 by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) and is backed by a huge body of scientific opinion. But it is missing from the Marine Bill.

### **Q: What progress have you made?**

We have an Early Day Motion (EDM 337) with all-party support which in a few weeks has reached number 12 out of 700 EDMs. It simply asks for the RCEP recommendation to be incorporated in the bill.

We have strong support from MPs, major conservation agencies, senior academics, Greenpeace, the Marine Conservation Society and The Co-op, a major buyer of fish, which is running a campaign through its shops.

We are regularly meeting and briefing key members of the House of Lords, where the bill is being discussed.

### **Take Action!**

Write to or talk with your MP about EDM 337.

Write a letter to the press (MARINET can suggest wording) or organise a public meeting on the issue. MARINET can help you with speakers or send materials.

Join the campaign at [www.marinet.org.uk](http://www.marinet.org.uk).

*Campaign website*

[www.marinereserves.org.uk](http://www.marinereserves.org.uk)

**A poem from Dave Davis from November 1999**

**The Real Millennium**

Dark ages, poverty of slaves, serfs, the dispossessed  
Opulent kings, from poor their riches pressed  
Castles of nobles, to coerce all men  
Corrupt priests who kept news from the people  
Writing, the privilege of the few  
When finally printing came of common use  
Again, used to conceal and much bemuse.

Peasants in revolt against grinding taxes  
Raised armies even only armed with axes  
But rulers trembled at the awful fact  
That common people can combine to act.  
The darkness continued when scientific thought  
By religious bigots, a cruel repression sought  
Galileo and Copernicus faced burning at the stake,  
While persecution threw some people called 'witches' in some lake.

Yet, humanity in its struggle for life  
Found more positive use for sword and knife  
Science developed in spite of clerical repression  
While music, art, and varying culture found expression  
Challenges to existing order found a socialist dream  
Which carries on to the coming thousand years  
And the essence of the creative end of human tears  
To those drawn to this horizon with its lofty gleam.

Science and advances in such rational ways  
Have brought us possibilities of better days  
Though we can still destroy the world in a sunny afternoon!  
And by our actions raise the ocean level, very soon!  
Maybe, we have reached the cross-roads of our global paths  
Where our billions have to decide the awful truths  
To review our continued life upon this globe  
For Nature, has to wear a common robe!

**Dave Davis, November 1999**

## A poem from Dave Davis from February 1991

### Much To Do

We - the predators - the most destructive of living kind  
have so much to do - when we know!  
But only by concern for the whole life of Earth  
can we end the killing - reverse the cruel flow.

Men who slaughter animals for "sport" or gold  
merely copy barbarians - as of old.  
We have mechanised and amplified jungle laws,  
some trillion times more than dinosaurs or tiger claws.

Without compassion for - the many forms of life,  
we cannot talk of peace or love.  
There is a monstrous machine from nuclear bombs to knife,  
oppressing from above.

Gods are still called upon - to bless the sword  
and a thousand laws to justify the deed.  
Whales and men "culled" for food and gold;  
there is much to do ....

We are "friends" because we care  
and we do know!  
The earth is here to share,  
but seriously we have to laugh!

hopefully to keep sane.  
Difficult when "nutters" sit on thrones,  
and we get the ass-ociated pain  
while we fear for radio-activity in our bones.

(There could be more - but everybody's got to stop sometime)

**Dave Davis, February 1991**

These are just two of the many poems that Dave Davis had published in FoE newsletters over the past NN years (you fill in the number yourself). Dave died recently halfway through his 80s. See page 3 for an appreciation from Alun Murinan.

## **Plastic Washing up bowls / Transport info / Election AHEAD**

### **Richard Comaish asks: Do we need plastic washing up bowls?**

I recently cut the tip of a middle finger, trying to clean out tin cans in the kitchen sink for recycling. This is the kind of accident which could lead to FoE despair, but I remembered an inexpensive, unusually long, thin, crooked dish-brush on sale in Penge Post Office - and, sure enough, this turned out to be the answer to those long tin cans as well as the difficult, narrow recesses of sardine tins. In fact, I would now advise against attempting the task without the correct tool!

Last year I bought a pebble-effect, perforated plastic sink base from Lakeland Plastics - you use these, as an alternative to plastic bowls, to stop dishes clunking around in the base of the kitchen sink. Instead of using it regularly, as yet, it has made me think - does it really matter if dishes clatter in your sink?! And do the perceived or imagined savings in (hot) water from the use of plastic sink bowls really justify the cost, financial and in terms of hygiene (dishbowls should be regularly replaced for this reason) and use of non-recyclable plastics?

### **Transport info, *continued from page 6***

environmentalists. Instead, the Government will come up with traffic management proposals (whatever that means). Let's hope that traffic reduction and better public transport are also being considered.

### **On the right track**

Air travellers are full of never-ending tales about how uncomfortable it has become to fight your way through airports and then have to suffer the low standards of the low-cost airlines. Meanwhile, the airlines' competitor, Eurostar is getting it right.

It has announced a multi-million revamp for all its trains, the first major refurbishment since Chunnel train services were launched in November 1994. The new interiors will be designed by an Italian company that says its quality styling and functionality will create a superb travel experience.

Sounds like another good reason for travellers to switch from short-haul flights.

## **COMING SOON TO A POLLING STATION NEAR YOU**

**EUROPEAN ELECTIONS, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Electing 8 MEPs for London**

**DON'T MISS OUT – REMEMBER TO VOTE**

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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### Press Officer:

vacant

### Programme Organiser:

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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!

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**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.

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**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](mailto: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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