



Bromley FoE: enquiries:
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May 2015
No. 329

ewsletter

May Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Why all schools should Run on Sun

Tom Wright, Friends of the Earth

More info on page 2

Tuesday 5th May – 7.30pm

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 17th MAY*****

Contact details inside front cover.

Bill's Open Garden is on Saturday May 2nd, see page 7

Diary dates:

May 2 (Sat)	Bill Priestley's Open Garden - 2.30 – 5pm
May 5 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's May meeting: Tom Wright from FoE on the Run on Sun Campaign
May 10 (Sun)	Bluebell Walk – Shorne Woods Country Park (<i>see below</i>)
June 2 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's June meeting: John Courtneidge on Sustainability and Peace
June 12-14	FoE's BASECAMP at Castleton, Derbyshire
June 20 (Sat)	Stall at Coolings – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
June 28 (Sun)	Keston Countryside Day

May meeting – Why all schools should Run on Sun

Tom Wright, Friends of the Earth will be speaking:

For a school, getting solar panels should be as easy as ordering text books. But the barriers for many schools are significant. Come along and find out what you can do to help schools in Bromley make the switch.

Bluebell Walk - Sunday 10th May

Shorne Woods Country Park – 11 am

Brewers Road, Shorne, Kent, DA12 3HX

OS map: Landranger 178, Explorer 163 ; OS grid reference: TQ687703

Shorne Wood Country Park is signposted off the A2 between Gravesend and Rochester at the Cobham / Shorne / Higham junction.

There is a restaurant and picnic area.

Please car-share if coming by car.

Please contact Sue Bocock 020 8464 5996 to register and arrange travel.

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details:

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

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

April meeting report - Willow Wildlife Rescue

Graham Hemington and Sheila Brown

Pat and Eddie Williams describe their job as rescuing wounded and sick animals and returning them to their wildlife habitat or to their owners. Treatment is carried out in their house where they have appropriate medical and intensive care equipment and in their fully equipped ambulance which is used for collection and return of their patients. A job that took over their lives.

Pat is often bottle feeding baby animals at two-hourly intervals and Eddie never knows when the next emergency call will come – animals trapped in netting, wounded on the road, attacked by other animals. Calls come from councils, police, members of the public, wildlife reserves. They have been given an environmental award for services to animal rescue.

Pat told us about some of their rescues:

Ducks chased and wounded by dogs. About 50 ducks found to have botulism – too much work for Pat and Eddie so they arranged for a vet to provide the necessary treatment but they were able to mend a broken femur of one duck. They had been found on the River Cray at Five Arches, Footscray Meadows.

Ducklings rescued when their mother was killed in a road accident. Interesting point: only when all the eggs have been laid will the duck sit on them; this ensures that all ducklings are hatched at the same time.

Badgers. An orphaned young badger is difficult to bottle-feed; almost a “half-

nelson” is needed to hold it. It likes to have another badger to play with. When weaned badgers must have blood tests, including tests for TB and the bacterium *Campylobacter*.

Foxes. Urban foxes often have mange and they have been successful in treating this with homeopathic remedies. The technique is to make jam sandwiches, cut up into small squares, with the homeopathic powder sprinkled on the top. This then adheres to the roof of the fox's mouth as it needs to be absorbed through the mouth. This way mange is successfully treated in three days. Pat recommends this method for anyone who has a fox with mange visiting their garden.

Fox cubs with “fading puppy syndrome” (the term used to describe puppies that are apparently normal but gradually fade and die within the first two weeks of life). These were successfully treated using a homeopathic vaccine.

Puppies sent to them by the PDSA and found to have parvo virus. This cost a fortune in vet's bills with not all puppies pulling through.

Birds. Among the many birds treated, Pat mentioned a sparrowhawk which had been stunned by a car, tawny owl, barn owl and water rail. Pat and Eddie try to build an environment like the one the birds are used to, e.g. water for water rail.

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Petition successes ++ April meeting report, *continued*

Many of us sign petitions on environmental topics and it is heartening when we hear that a campaign has been successful.

SumOfUs reports that KFC is the latest company to release a new, deforestation-free palm oil commitment.

Over the last year, SumOfUs members have added over 1.5 million signatures to petitions telling some of the world's largest fast food corporations that there's no excuse to continue buying palm oil that could cause climate change, loss of endangered species habitat, and tropical deforestation.

Corporations listened. And acted! Yum! Brands, owner of KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell, recently announced a new palm oil policy that requires all the palm oil they use for cooking be deforestation-free.

Greenpeace reports: Great news! The Mexican government has just announced a new plan to protect vaquitas. These tiny porpoises on the brink of extinction now have a real chance of survival.

More than 470,000 people like you from around the world united to call on the Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto to protect this little porpoise from destructive fishing. With just an estimated 97 of them left in the wild, the fate of a species rested on his decision.

Thanks to global pressure, the President acted, enforcing a two-year ban on destructive gillnet fishing in

vaquita habitat. These nets are responsible for entangling and drowning so many vaquitas, that they've pushed them close to extinction.

April meeting report, *continued*

Two piglets which were found abandoned. Pat and Eddie fed them but did not realise how quickly they would grow. They were not able to keep them for long as they made a mudbath of the garden. Likewise a pony! Many animals have been brought back from the brink of death

All sorts of animals have been rescued and cared for, including a corn snake, a bearded dragon (belonging to a genus of reptiles and presumably released from captivity), swans and deer. Animals that cannot be released back into their own original habitat are taken to a wildlife sanctuary in North London.

Veterinary medicines and vets' bills are a huge drain on their resources. They had a legacy which has helped them for a few years and receive some regular donations, but the future is far from certain.

It was decided to donate the proceeds of our monthly collection to Willow Wildlife. Members dug deeply and the collection was about three times the normal level, reflecting how interesting and moving the group had found this talk and our respect for the wonderful work undertaken by Eddie and Pat.

Climate and Energy – from a special correspondent

£600 Billion Oil Find

The massive oil field find near Gatwick Airport is worth hundreds of billions of pounds and covers an area of 55 square miles. It could yield enough black gold to fill 15 billion barrels - a third of the amount pumped out of the North Sea in the past 50 years, and supply a third of Britain's oil needs by 2020. UK Oil and Gas Investments Ltd say that it is a very significant discovery and is probably the largest onshore oil field in the UK in the last 30 years.

Greenpeace scientist Doug Parr has said :- 'exploiting the find would be to ignore everything we have learnt about climate change', and commented that there is more than enough coal, oil and gas reserves to fry the planet. Dotting the English countryside with pipe lines and drilling rigs doesn't make any sense, when we should be investing in clean technologies.

The rocks in the area are naturally fractured, so there would not be a necessity for fracking. There is likely to be a lot of objection to this oil field from people in the surrounding countryside.

Climate Summit's Pledges

Nicholas Stern and his team have warned that the pledges at this year's climate summit to cut carbon emissions are likely to fall far short of the targets to avoid heating the planet by more than 2C.

Their report concludes that action planned by the European Union, the US and China - will still leave the world emitting 10bn tonnes of carbon a year in excess of levels needed to

prevent global warming from having lasting devastating consequences.

They say that nations should work hard to improve their emissions pledges, investment should be increased to fund clean energy generation, and that a mechanism should be created for countries to review and improve their emissions targets in future years.

Lakeside Wind Farm in Kenya

Plans for a huge 365 turbine wind farm have got the green light. Sited at Lake Turkana, it will produce 300mk of power - 20% of the nation's requirements and save \$78m per year. The wind farm is a third bigger than Europe's largest, Whitelee near Glasgow, which powers 300,000 homes.

Fukushima Update

Film has been produced by robot cameras of the severe damage caused to the main Dai-ichi nuclear reactor, due to fires created by the earthquake in 2011. It shows the high amount of devastation in the first few hours.

Meanwhile TEPCO the Tokyo Electric Power Company which manages the plant, has been accused by the Japanese Government of wasting more than a third of the 190 billion yen (£1.07bn) of tax payer money allocated for the clean-up. They have said the clean-up work has been dominated by a small group of utility, construction and electronic giants despite repeated calls for competitive skills.

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Nature Update, Judy Palmer ++ News of Croft Tearoom

Nature Update: The **Great British Bee count** is back in May this year, running from 1-31st with an improved app to use. Last year we all counted 832,110 bees, let's make this year even better! Hopefully we will have received some more details by the May meeting and we will post any news received on our Facebook page.

'Beach Party' – we are still liaising with the Friends group at Brook Park in St. Paul's Cray, Orpington, on a convenient date for this venture. So hopefully by the next newsletter we will have some more news.

Green Gym in Bromley – last year we established contact with a group from The Conservation Volunteers who had renovated the green area at College Green, near Sainsbury's Bromley North. This group is now independent from TCV, but is supported by them, and they are having an event on Friday May 22nd from 11.00-2.00 which showcases all the work they have put into the area, including College Slip, to which we have been invited.

There is a second Green Gym group now which is in Whitehall Rec, , so hopefully there will be another insect / pollinators 'hotel' there soon.

Croft Tearoom

We were sad to hear that the Croft Tearoom was going to close after five years in St Mary Cray, operating as a non-profit community interest company. Fourteen members of our group held a 'last' lunch there at the

end of March, just as the tearoom was about to close its doors.

But the good news is that a buyer, Rebecca Birs, has come along and will take over from Carole and Normal Wells with a three-month handover, and the Croft will continue to be a community venue in St Mary Cray. In fact, Rebecca dropped in while we were there so mutual introductions took place.

Carole developed the business using locally sourced food, with everything freshly prepared and cooked on the premises, and held many seasonal events, including the fabled Burns Supper with Haggis, poetry, music and Burns Night traditions.

Mother's Day and Valentine's Day were always celebrated and events for children staged during school holidays, and pamper nights for mums. Recently artisan bread making sessions have been held, talks on local history and a poetry club. Rebecca plans to develop the events side and continue many of the regular events.

Climate and Energy, *continued* Thames Water Could Heat Homes

'Secret energy' in the cold waters of the Thames could be harnessed to heat thousands of homes and businesses in London. The prediction came as the developers of Battersea Power Station said that they would look at installing water source heat pump technology. The system could provide 65,000 homes and businesses with clean energy.

OPEN GARDEN AND PLANT SALE

Come and join in a lovely garden event on
Saturday May 2nd

Bill Priestley is opening his garden in Petts
Wood again for us this year. There will be some
plants for sale, together with home made
refreshments and a raffle.

Here are the details:



Place: 22 Greencourt Road, BR5 1QW
Date: May 2nd 2015
Time: 2.30 – 5.00 p.m.
Entry fee: £3.00 (*including tea & cake*)

Call Bill on 01689 820469 if you need any more info

See you there!



*A fundraising event on behalf of
Bromley Friends of the Earth*

More on The Excitement that is BASECAMP

Greg at Friends of the Earth writes -

Last year I had my first experience of Basecamp - a summer gathering organised by Friends of the Earth. Before that, I'd signed a few petitions but not much more. I didn't know if I'd hit it off with people, but from the moment I arrived, there was this great sense of camaraderie. Within an hour, I knew I was going to enjoy myself.

Basecamp is an empowering, action-packed weekend in Hope Valley - a particularly beautiful part of the Peak District. It's for anyone who cares about people and the environment. It's an opportunity to be part of a movement for change. And it's happening again this June. Why not take a look?

It doesn't matter if you're new to this sort of thing. It's good to meet like-minded people and it fires you up.

There were lots of different sessions, from the serious to the more playful. I also heard from inspirational speakers; passionate people who are absolute experts in their field. There was a whole programme of activities for kids, as well as social events that went on into the night. Find out more about Basecamp 2015.

I was hoping Basecamp was going to be good, but it was so much better than that. For me it's been life-changing. It's connected me to issues and ideas that have had a real effect on my life. Even my diet has changed over the last nine months. I've shared more of my memories from last year's Basecamp online. Take a look.

If you're talking about a life affirming thing to do, I can't think of anything much better...

BASECAMP – Your voice matters

In the Dialogue Forum on the FoE website, we currently have ten ideas on the table for possible discussion at Basecamp, covering a wide range of issues.

You still have nearly three weeks to propose your own ideas, so we may have more by the time you read this. But which of them we will discuss at Basecamp, depends on the votes of local group members. Vote now in the Dialogue Forum.

The four most popular ideas so far:

- Fossil fuel divestment
- Population growth
- Assessing local carrying capacity
- Green jobs

Remember that the top four on the deadline of Friday May 8 are not only guaranteed agenda time at Basecamp, but will be taken as an indication of what is important to our local groups network.

So your vote really is important – and you can vote whether or not you've decided to come to Basecamp.

How to vote

If you're a local group member, all you need to do is log in to the Dialogue Forum and read through the ideas. Then, click on the 'thumbs up' icon for the ones you'd like to see discussed at Basecamp. Vote Now.

TfL consultation on Bakerloo line extension

Ray Watson and John Street

New tube plan wins wide support

A public consultation carried out by Transport for London has won overwhelming support for an extension to the Bakerloo line to improve transport links in south-east London.

Over 15,000 responses were received. The boroughs with the greatest proportion of respondents were Southwark (28%), Lewisham (27%) and Bromley (20%), together accounting for three-quarters (75%) of all questionnaire responses.

The consultation proposed two alternative routes from Elephant & Castle to Lewisham (one via Camberwell and Peckham and one via the Old Kent Road) and there was strong support for both options. Additional options included in the consultation were the Bakerloo line taking over the Lewisham to Hayes line with an extension to Beckenham Junction and a possible later extension in tunnel to Bromley.

Ninety-six per cent of the 15,000 respondents voted in favour of extending the line to Lewisham. Slightly more preferred the extension via Camberwell and Peckham to that via the Old Kent Road.

Only 30% of respondents favoured the line terminating at Lewisham. Over half the respondents (56%) supported or strongly supported extending the line to Hayes and Beckenham Junction and over half (61%) supported or strongly supported extending the line

from Beckenham Junction to Bromley in tunnel.

According to the report, if a decision is made to progress the scheme, and the necessary funding secured, it is anticipated that construction could commence in around 2023 and be completed in approximately 2030.

The benefits of the scheme, as given in the consultation document, and agreed with by over half the respondents, included:

- Putting southeast London on the Tube network and supporting development and regeneration in the area
- Improving access to public transport and employment opportunities for local residents
- Improving journey times and network capacity with a high frequency Tube service
- Providing better connections between southeast London and central London and Docklands via DLR at Lewisham
- Reducing traffic congestion and air pollution by offering new public transport options

However, Bromley Councillors reported that their own surveys in the areas most likely to be affected by the extension, West Wickham and Hayes, showed that their constituents were against the extension to Hayes by four to one. So not everyone is convinced that this proposal would work for them.

FoE - What have the main political parties got to say about 'stuff'?

Look around you. What do you see? Stuff, right? Lots of manufactured stuff.

Everything we do, anywhere, involves materials that have been extracted, processed, transformed, bought and sold, taxed and subsidised, and shifted across often vast distances. Our society, our economy, is built around stuff.

Therefore, if you're a political party wanting to stake a credible claim to having a 'plan' for our economy, for our society, you gotta talk about stuff. Natural resources. Raw materials. Resource efficiency. Security of supply.

Where we get those natural resources from, at what cost to people and the planet, and whether we can be confident of getting hold of more of them, has come to epitomise what for me is the adage of the age: the economy and the environment are two sides of the same coin. The reason for this is simple: globally the competition for increasingly hard to access raw materials is growing relentlessly.

Take the joint letter for example, which calls on all the party leaders to commit to a review of the UK's dependence on natural resources, and to set up for an Office for Resource Management (ORM) to inject some much needed ambition and consistency into government's attitude to resource efficiency.

So, with less than three weeks to go until the election, how are the parties faring?

'Stern-for-resources'

Let's look at that natural resources review first. Friends of the Earth regards committing to running this review to be absolutely pivotal to good stewardship of both the economy and the environment. Or, to turn that around, any party refusing to take the basic step of properly understanding the UK's resource needs can fairly be charged with neglecting not just people and the planet, but manufacturers and retailers too.

The 'Stern-for-resources' featured in the Lib Dems' 'pre-manifesto', borrowing the very term Friends of the Earth coined for the review of UK resource dependency both business and green groups want to see. Then it was voted for at their Spring Conference, and featured in their manifesto. Labour didn't feature it in their manifesto, though Shadow Defra Minister Barry Gardiner has announced several times over the past few months they'd do the review.

So in terms of who announced it first, I'd call it a draw, with the Lib Dems demonstrating their stronger commitment by including it in their manifesto. But there's another important question, which is, what kind of review would they run? Neither party has released details yet, but a key judgement is who, or what department, would run the review.

Friends of the Earth wants the 'Stern-for-Resources' to be run by the Treasury. That way it'd have the same degree of clout as its namesake, Lord

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FoE on Political parties and Stuff - *continued*

Stern's 2006 review into the economics of climate change, and would take the argument for resource efficiency right into the heart of government. The Lib Dem manifesto tasks a renewed Natural Capital Committee, a body reporting to Treasury, with running the review.

That's sound, but on Friday last week Labour stepped up with Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls' announcement that they would get the Treasury to run the review. With no disrespect to Barry Gardiner, upgrading the announcement by having it issue from the pen of the Shadow Chancellorship shows Labour taking the issue much more seriously than they'd previously appeared to.

On this vitally important review then, both the Lib Dems and Labour have outlined their commitment, with Labour compensating for the lack of manifesto announcement by pledging to use the clout of the Treasury to ensure it's taken seriously across government and beyond.

Office of Resource Management

An equally broad range of groups have been calling for the contradictory and confused approach to national resource efficiency to be sorted once and for all through the creation of a central, co-ordinating body called the Office for Resource Management (ORM).

On this, the Lib Dems have - in terms of pre-election pledges at least - delivered the goods. Their manifesto commits to a cross-Cabinet committee

on resource use. Labour make no mention of what changes they'd make to the machinery of government in order to boost national resource efficiency. Their silence on the ORM could be defended on the grounds they'd like to see the 'Stern-for-resources' review completed before making changes, but our view is there's plenty the ORM could be getting on with from the get-go.

So, in their different ways, both Labour and the Lib Dems have set the pace on resource efficiency politics, with the Lib Dems making the ORM and a slightly weaker Stern-for-resources commitment, whilst Labour go the whole hog on Stern-for-resources but stop at leaving the door open to an ORM.

Where are the Conservatives?

Speaking of silence though, what about the Conservatives? For the self-styled party of business it's mystifying to see the loud and clear call of big business groups like the EEF being ignored on this vitally important issue. There are certainly wise heads within the Conservative party which get the importance of resources, but so far nothing from the top.

As the joint letter from business and green groups says, this is too important an issue to play party politics with. We need all the parties – and that should definitely include the SNP given their likely influence in the next parliament – to take resource security and efficiency seriously. Our economy and our environment depend on their doing so.

FoE asked - Election manifestos: will they be good for people and the planet?

As the main parties prepare to publish their manifestos, it's time to set out what we'll be looking for.

Last Friday I cycled to work through choking air pollution, thinking about the previous day's extraordinary coverage of the potential oil reserves in beautiful Sussex. Then, at my desk I discovered the Climate Change minister has been receiving donations from one of the country's most prominent climate sceptics.

In short, not a great morning and a reminder that protecting the environment is still very low on politicians' list of priorities.

Which brings me to this week's general election manifestos, expected today and tomorrow from the Labour and Conservative parties respectively.

Manifestos are weird documents. Parties use them to try to signal their priorities for Government, without saying anything too specific that they might later regret. They're often vague as a result.

In this election they might be vaguer still, given the necessary negotiation between parties in the likely event of a hung parliament.

Nevertheless, as polling day approaches we want political parties to be super-clear about the policies we think are a priority for them to adopt. And many Friends of the Earth supporters will want to know how the parties measure up on issues like climate change, protecting and

restoring nature and better use of our finite natural resources.

Here, **we set out the ten things** we think should feature, as a minimum, in Party manifestos:

Stop runaway climate change

1. Keep it in the ground: no fracking or any new fossil fuel extraction in the UK.
2. No public money or tax relief for producing fossil fuels or nuclear power.
3. Carbon free power: set a target for making electricity carbon-free by 2030; shut down old coal plants by 2023.
4. Within the first 3 years of office, clear the barriers to every school being powered by solar energy – including schools being able to borrow to invest in solar.

Look after nature

5. Save bees: strengthen the National Pollinator Strategy and extend the ban on neonicotinoid pesticides.

Help those most suffering from dangerous environments.

6. Help people living in cold homes: insulate 4 million homes, to efficiency standard C, by 2020.
7. top early deaths from polluted air: put the UK on a pathway to meeting World Health Organisation air quality standards, including a network of Low Emission Zones in every city.

Put sustainable development at the heart of economic policy

8. Launch a Treasury-led review of the threats to the UK economy in an increasingly resource-constrained world.

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From London Region CND's Nuclear Trains Action Group

Renewables overtake nuclear!

This is revealed by data released in March by the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change.

According to this, the proportion of the UK's electricity generated by nuclear power fell by 0.6% from 19.2% to 19% from 2013 to 2014. Meanwhile between the same years the proportion of electricity generated from renewables rose 20% to 19.2%, a record figure. Since overall UK electricity generation fell a massive 6.7% between 2013 and 2014, it means nuclear is accounting for a smaller proportion of a smaller market.

The rise in renewables was contributed to by a rise of 26.2% in hydro generation, 24% in bioenergy, 16.1% in offshore wind and 7.9% in onshore wind. No figures are given for solar energy, perhaps because solar panels don't generally feed electricity into the grid and so the amount of electricity they produce can't be easily calculated – this might help to explain the fall in the figures for "overall UK electricity generation" if this is calculated from the amount of electricity fed into the grid.

Cat litter shuts down nuclear waste dump for two years

Also in March, the US Department of Energy (DOE) issued a report into why a barrel containing nuclear waste burst at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico in February 2014. The explanation boils down it seems to the use of the wrong sort of cat litter! The culprit was apparently "Swheat Scoop" cat litter. Cat litter is used at WIPP as an absorbent, and each barrel of nuclear waste disposed

of at the plant contains around 26 kg of cat litter to stabilise liquids and nitrate salts.

The problem is that this particular cat litter contains wheat (there's a clue to this in its name!), which contains carbohydrates, and these chemically react with the metal nitrate salts in the waste. The reaction is exothermic, meaning the waste heats up, and the increase in temperature then accelerates the reaction, leading to a runaway effect which in this case eventually produced enough heat and gas to overcome the barrel's vent and seal to cause a release of some radioactive material.

The DOE said the plant was expected to reopen in 2016, meaning the plant will be shut for at least two years because of the substitution!

"Weak spots" in French EPR (EPR = European Pressurised Reactor)

The French nuclear regulator, the ASN (Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire) reported on the 7th April that it had been told by the manufacturer, Areva, that tests in late 2014 on a vessel head similar to that of the 1600MW Flamanville EPR had "revealed the presence of a zone in which there was a high carbon concentration, leading to lower than expected mechanical toughness values".

ASN said that initial measurements confirmed the presence of this "anomaly" in the reactor vessel head and bottom head of the Flamanville EPR. Areva and EDF have proposed

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Nuclear Trains Action Group, *cont'd* ++ Election Manifestos, *cont'd*

(Nuclear Trains Action Group) to ASN that a new series of tests be conducted on a representative vessel head "in order to precisely identify the location of the zone concerned and its mechanical properties."

EDF and Areva said that its teams are "working to perform the additional tests as soon as possible, following approval by the ASN on the test conditions, and to provide the safety authority with the necessary information to demonstrate the safety and quality of the corresponding equipment. In parallel, work continues at the Flamanville EPR."

So how serious are these "anomalies"? The independent WISE-Paris bureau, commenting on the findings, says that the defects are "very serious mechanical faults".

As far as Flamanville is concerned, it seems hard to see how the faults can be remedied short of starting forging a new pressure vessel and replacing the one already in place with it, thus delaying the project and increasing the cost. What you can't afford to have is weak spots in a pressure vessel – indeed the pressure vessel is forged as a whole unit to avoid any weak spots caused by joins and any replacement of parts or patching would perpetuate these weak spots.

And the pressure vessels at the EPRs in construction in China were apparently forged in the same Areva plant in France and may well have the same faults, so they at least need to be fully tested and perhaps will have to be replaced. It is suggested the

Finnish EPR is not likely to have the same fault because its pressure vessel steel comes from Japan, but surely it still needs to be tested?

The finding also has implications for the two EPR reactors planned for Hinkley C. It has to be shown that Areva is capable of supplying pressure vessels without such faults and any supplied will have to be tested for such faults, meaning very likely yet more delay.

FoE on Election Manifestos, *cont'd*

9. Oppose the EU-US Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Defend the right to campaign

10. Repeal the Lobbying Act before the 2016 devolved administration elections.

We'll be assessing each document in these terms, ranking them accordingly. We've even got a nifty scoring system:

- 0 – no policy or policy not mentioned
- 0.25 – weak policy
- 0.5 – half-decent policy
- 0.75 – good policy
- 1 – excellent policy

Overall we think this score - out of possible ten – will provide a sense of how serious each party is about looking after the planet and its people.

However, if Ukip repeat their threat to scrap the Climate Change Act for instance, they're going to lose points! - with the scale going to minus for particularly destructive policies.

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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 our co-ordinator Sheila Brown (01689-851605); Sheila's email address is 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: may be sent by email to bromleyfoe@gmail.com, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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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