

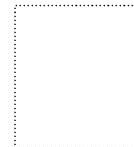


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

November 2010 No. 275 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: r.watson865@btinternet.com; website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



November Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Raising the Dead – Life in the City

Members of the Quaggy Waterways Action Group share the success of their campaign to breathe new life into a neglected and entombed suburban waterway

Tuesday 2nd November - 7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER. Contact details inside front cover.

The September pledges evening raised almost £700 – see page 3

Diary dates:

Oct 30th (Sat)

Fair Trade Christmas Sale: St John's United Reform Church, Lynwood Grove, Orpington, 10.00am to 1.00pm
Bromley FoE's November meeting – Quaggy Waterways Action Group

Nov 2nd (Tues)

Nov 20th (Sat)

Fair Trade Christmas Fair: Christ Church, Charterhouse Road, Orpington, 11.00am to 3.00pm

Dec 4th (Sat)

Climate change march – see below for more info

Dec 7th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's December meeting: Eco-poets and seasonal festive fayre

November meeting - talk from Quaggy Waterways Action Group

Speakers will include: Matthew Blumler - founder and chair for 14 years; Pamela Zollicofer - current secretary and long time member; Anne Scott - current treasurer and very long time member

Raising the dead - Life in the city: The historic and future actions of a small community charity - The Quaggy Waterways Action Group - in raising dead drains from their concrete coffins to pour rivers of life into the veins of the city.

Before and after images can be found at the bottom left of their home page:
<http://www.qwag.org.uk/home/>

Saturday 4th December – Annual climate change march

Please note that date and ready yourself for the annual climate change march through central London. Every year environmental, sports, religious groups and others come together to let the Government know we care about reducing carbon emissions. The march attracts thousands and is a stimulating reminder that there are plenty of like-minded people out there. It is also good fun – and Bromley FoE's banner will be there amid all the others.

The provisional plan is for the march to begin at noon at Hyde Park Corner and rally to the Houses of Parliament where there will be eminent speakers. More details later.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER**

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

September's Auction of Pledges Update – Sheila Brown

A cheque for £620 has now been sent to Underwood Street, made up of £602 from lots auctioned on the night plus proceeds of the produce stall. I am pleased to report that the remaining items which did not sell on the night have now found buyers, resulting in a further £60 to be added to the above total.

At our September meeting we discussed Friends of the Earth's use of funds, and when I wrote to Andy Atkins about the money we had raised, I mentioned the following points to reflect our discussion:

"We were talking about how FoE spends its money and the fact that ideas put forward in the Motions (at Conference) always throw up the problem of funding staff and deployment of staff. One person suggested that if local group people could receive training from Head Office we could be doing more on the educational side, going into local schools, etc. Apparently this happened a lot more in earlier years.

"Another question is to what extent FoE uses (I hate the ghastly word) interns and/or volunteers, who can have tasks assigned to them to free up more specialised staff, or even take on new projects."

Once again, huge thanks to everyone for the success of the Auction.

I have now received the following "thank you" letter from Andy, in which he has addressed these points.

Thank you letter from Andy Atkins

Dear Sheila

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to the emergency appeal of £620 from Bromley Friends of the Earth. I realise this is the group's second donation to the emergency appeal, and I am very grateful indeed for this further support. The Auction of Pledges sounds as if it was a wonderful event and it's great to see such community support for our work. Your cheque will help us to ensure that we can tackle and have impact on the critical challenges we face this year on climate change and beyond. Thank you.

In answer to your question regarding local group members' involvement in educational programs, we have a vibrant local group led Youth and Education network that goes in to schools and develops resources and workshops. You do indeed require CRB checks but if you join the network they will help to arrange that. If you'd like to learn more, please contact education@foe.co.uk. They always welcome new people getting involved.

As for your second question regarding volunteers, we certainly use a lot of volunteers across the organisation. From stuffing envelopes to organising events, they are an essential element of how we work and without them we'd struggle. We are also going to look into how interested group members could help us more with projects or advice given how much willingness, energy and expertise there is in the network.
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October meeting report - Talk by Alastair Baillie

Talk by Alastair Baillie, Bromley's Environmental Development Manager – Annette Rose reports:

Alastair introduced himself by explaining that he looks after sustainability for the council. His job encompasses acting to reduce the environmental impacts inside the council as well as in the borough as a whole.

He began his talk by giving an overview of the greenhouse effect, how it is natural and has kept the planet warm and habitable. Nature has been able to adapt to the natural changes in global temperatures. But we are changing the atmosphere by the burning of oil, coal and gas to fuel our economy. Housing, industry and transport are increasing CO₂ although some escapes back.

Elevated levels of atmospheric CO₂ trap more infrared radiation, leading to increased warming. A worrying fact is that if we stopped emitting CO₂ now we would still have 40 years of warning to contend with.

In addition, there are a number of feedback mechanisms making things worse. These include increased atmospheric water vapour leading to increased warming. Melting snow/ice reveals dark rock/water which absorbs more radiation. Melting permafrost releases methane which is 25 more potent than CO₂.

A graph showed a clear trend to increased warming and the rate is getting faster. The Arctic ice shrinkage

between 1980 and 2010 is dramatic and Alastair wondered if the ice cap would be there in 30 years time. All sorts of records are being broken i.e. In the U.K., 2000 was the wettest year for 200 years and in 2003 the highest temperature was recorded.

So what can be done? Options are to use fossil fuel less, use more renewable and low carbon energy, capture or off-set as much carbon as practicable and lastly, to adapt to the inevitable climate change we will all face.

The government has responded by bringing in a range of acts and regulations. For example, all large public buildings must have a Display Energy Certificate and the Climate Change Act 2008 set legally binding national targets for reductions in CO₂. The Climate Change Act also created a committee to advise the government on carbon budgets and whether businesses should have to report on their carbon emissions.

London's response is important as it uses as much energy as Greece or Portugal – the Mayor's target is to reduce CO₂ by 60% by 2020.

Alastair posed the question: How green is the Government? Some of the downsides are that the renewables target is stuck at 15% by 2010. There is also a threat over many environmental bodies and to council funding. Some of the upsides are that the coalition has stated that it wants to be the 'greenest government ever' and

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October meeting report – talk by Alastair Baillie, *continued*

the carbon reduction target of 80% by 2050 has been kept. Another positive is that the Department of Energy and Climate Change has not been abolished yet! There is also a proposed Energy Security and Green Economy Bill which includes the 'Green Deal'. It is estimated that 26 million homes could benefit from energy saving improvements. The improvements are paid for through savings made on energy bills - a 'pay as you save' scheme. The most energy inefficient homes could save on average, £550 per year.

Alastair then told us about the LB Bromley's Climate Change framework. This brings together a borough adaptation plan, a council mitigation plan and a borough mitigation plan. It includes a Carbon Reduction Commitment programme and includes target setting. It was interesting to see a pie chart of the 2008/09 carbon footprint for Bromley Council.

- 50% schools
- 13% leisure services
- 2.7% travel
- 15% street lighting
- 5% staff commuting
- 14% Buildings

Questions from the audience were asked about the 50% figure from schools. Alastair explained that there are 97 maintained schools in the borough which would account for this figure. New schools use a great deal on I.C.T. and electricity is generally three times more carbon intensive than gas. We were then shown the annual progress in CO₂ reduction in the last

two years which showed some good progress particularly in the areas of waste and water and buildings.

Some interesting results were found when thermal imaging was done of some Civic Centre buildings which showed where the most heat was being lost and action could be taken. Many energy saving measures of council buildings have been made including cavity wall insulation, roof insulation and replacement windows. A voltage optimisation system is estimated to be saving £40k per year. There are future plans to change intensive air conditioners for evaporative cooling units in the computer server room which should save 147 tons of CO₂ per annum.

Other current projects include dimming street lighting in trial areas and retrofitting street signs and centre island columns so they are only being lit when it is dark.

For staff, there is a staff travel plan, car sharing scheme, cycling facilities and a walk to work week. Other ongoing projects include pool cars and bikes, an electric truck and a biodiesel fuel tank. Waste and water is being reduced at the Civic centre through a variety of measures including leakage control and on-site composting.

Alastair showed us some CO₂ amounts for different items, e.g. a plastic carrier bag 10g CO₂e, A New Zealand apple 100g CO₂e and a bottle of wine 1.0-1.5kg CO₂e.

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FoE visit Bullers Wood school grounds – Sue and John Boccock

A beautiful sunny autumn afternoon, eight of us were welcomed by the Assistant Head Helen van Teutem, who prior to our tour of the grounds took us into the school library. Famous for its William Morris wall paper, it was an appropriately colourful introduction to the school.

We were then introduced to Martin Bishop, the site manager who was to be our guide. Our first stop was the aviary he had constructed to house a variety of sick and injured birds. This has to date included owls, crows, a swan and a pheasant for which Martin has provided accompanying information sheets.

We then made our way down a flight of steps towards the Victorian pond which after many years of neglect, is now being restored with the help of a £1000 donation from the Chislehurst Society. Walking down to the lower end of the school grounds, we entered

the woodland area. This rests on Thanet sand, which lies between the Blackheath gravel beds and the chalk through which passes the nearby Chislehurst caves.

This area of Thanet sand is marked by the presence of some fine, tall sessile oaks which contrast with the bushier pedunculate (English) oaks. Unfortunately, there is much invasive rhododendron here which will need to be removed before the native ground flora can reestablish itself.

Our last stop enabled us to see Martin's variety of hedgehog boxes and an imaginative use of old plastic milk bottles now being used by as nesting sites by local blue tits.

Our very grateful thanks to Helen and Martin for a most enjoyable and informative afternoon. We wish Martin every success in his efforts to improve the wildlife an educational value of this beautiful woodland.

October meeting report, *concluded*

Bromley's carbon footprint (about 1.5 million tonnes CO₂) mainly comes from domestic sources (53%), with transport at 22% and 25% for industry.

So what challenges does Bromley face in meeting its targets? It is a large affluent borough; it has a lack of public transport and a large infrastructure with the largest road network. Much of the housing stock is pre-war and hard-to-treat with energy saving measures.

Several organisations / initiatives were mentioned that give advice although

resources are now limited. These include The Energy Saving Trust and Warm Zone.

Alastair gave his final thoughts about tackling Climate Change. He pointed out that large global issues have been tackled before such as acid rain and the hole in the ozone layer. Climate change is firmly on the new coalition's agenda. He invited us to attend meetings entitled 'Our Borough Our Future' if we would like the council to know our feelings on this important issue.

Cray Riverside walk, from Sheila Brown

Ralph Palfrey's interesting Riverways talk earlier in the year gave birth to the idea of a walk along the River Cray in the St Mary Cray area, to be combined with afternoon tea at The Croft Tearoom, also subject of one of our monthly meeting talks.

On a beautifully sunny Sunday afternoon, fifteen of us met up in Priory Gardens, where the source of the River Cray is – not visible as a tiny spring but one of the large ponds, referred to locally as lakes, home of Canada Geese. The park itself on a Sunday afternoon was populated by young families eager to feed the ducks and geese.

We'd had an approach from the News Shopper, who had read of our walk in our Newsletter and wanted to take a photo, so we retraced our steps for the photographer who took several shots

in different locations, one of which did make it to the paper.

Having emerged from Priory Gardens and crossed the road, we followed the river along a wide and natural part and were impressed by the cleanliness of the water. There is a riverside path which follows the river all the way along to the centre of St Mary Cray itself, where the main shops are and the Mary Rose pub, close to the iconic brick railway viaduct.

We could have followed the river a lot further, but left that for another time, as tea at the Croft Tearoom beckoned, where we enjoyed variously scones with jam and cream, Kentish apple cake, pear cake and plum upsidedown cake. A lovely way to round off the afternoon. (If you've not sampled these delights, then a warm welcome and delicious home cooking await you.)

High Elms Open Day - Sunday in the park with FoE

Bromley FoE was delighted to be invited by Bromley Council to participate in the High Elms Country Park annual open day - and it proved a great success.

We got off to a difficult start when Anne, who provides a home for our gazebo and a car-full of other demo equipment, found herself marooned in France due to industrial action there. Sheila alerted her son Rob who had a key to her house, and he volunteered to bring all the gear to High Elms. After that everything went swimmingly – particularly our children's 'hook a duck' game, complete with prizes.

While the children, aided by Sue, Marina and Bill, were occupied with that, it gave an opportunity for Debbie, Annette, Sheila, John, Paul and Ray to talk to their parents about more serious matters such as our Food and the Get Serious About CO2 campaigns. Indeed, our stall was continually busy as Sunday afternoon visitors arrived to see the exhibits.

Sheila packed away all the gear – and also took home the takings. For, yes, we also made a profit on the day!

Transport information – Ray Watson

Trouble ahead?

There are definite signs that Bromley Council is ready to loosen the lease held by Biggin Hill Airport Ltd to the detriment of residents – and the environment.

The council may bow to pressure from the airport management company to increase operating hours – meaning early morning and late at night – and also to allow fare-paying passenger flights, which are banned under the lease in part to ensure that large passenger jets do not use the airport.

The reason that is likely to be touted by the council on both fronts is that Olympic Games flights will want to use the airport. This, of course, will mean more profit for the airport company and an increase in the small amount of revenue the council will receive which is based on the airport's turnover.

The argument will go: how can the council turn down money in these straightened times? Yes, but, how much must the people of Bromley pay in terms of increased noise disturbance and air pollution from both flights and additional traffic and which will affect property values?. And, as ever, with airports, there is the safety factor to consider, Biggin Hill having had its share of 'incidents'.

Further, if these changes are proposed as temporary for the Games period only, what proof is there that the council will not cave in and allow the new rules to continue after the Olympics?

And will residents be given a proper opportunity to consult and make their views known?

Bromley residents should be on their guard over the next few months.

Wheels of success

London's bike hire scheme, introduced in July, is showing all the signs of success. An impressive million rides have been clocked up in just 10 weeks.

Even more intriguing is the fact that only a handful of bikes have been stolen, unlike Paris where 8000 out of 20,600 have been taken and thousands more vandalised.

This London scenario is all good news for the environment because more cycling means fewer car journeys in the centre of the capital. London has had a cycling culture for years -- go back to 1904 and you will find that a fifth of all journeys were by bike. So, all of this should be an encouragement to Mayor Boris to extend the scheme.

It would at least make up in part for his opposition to a congestion charge for the capital's ritzy Kensington area.

Going down

Good news: the Government has announced that it will not support a second runway at Stansted. Even better news: passengers using that airport in September fell by 4.3 percent on a year ago to 1.8 million. The reason: low-cost carriers chopped flights.

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Campaigns info – Ann Garrett

October 16th Campaign Stall - report

A huge thank you to all who turned up to help on the 16th. We had the press and Colin Smith there, and about 30 Get Serious cards were signed - also a few Food Chain cards as we carried on till 4.30 in the end. Also thanks to Sue, John and Sheila who organised the walks, which were well attended and very successful in terms of making contacts, gaining information, and socialising. There was good publicity for the Orpington walk in the News Shopper as well!

MoD should tackle Climate Change

A suggestion has been proposed by Caroline Lucas MP that responsibility for climate change should be transferred to the Ministry of Defence as the single most important threat facing the nation.

She was speaking at the Sustainable Planet conference in Lyons recently, and urged that only if global warming is classified as an issue of 'national survival', like a military threat, will it be treated with the urgency it now needs.

The biggest problem for the Green movement, she emphasised, was convincing governments and the public that climate change was not just a problem for the future, but a growing and immediate threat. She also criticised the EU's likely position at the Cancun climate conference which begins on November 29th, saying that a 20% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 or even 30% if other countries agree, 'as not nearly like anything enough', and that all the evidence now suggested that the world had to accelerate reductions.

Caroline called as well for curbs on consumption-building advertising, and was supported by the French Environmental Minister, Chantel Jouanno.

No Need for Nuclear

This is an organisation in the form of a campaign to prevent the building of new nuclear power stations. It is claimed that these are needed to keep lights on, provide cheap electricity, help with reducing emissions, and support job creation.

However the claim that new nuclear power stations are needed in the short term to fill the energy gap that OFGEM has warned could arise after 2015 is questionable. The absurdity of this is that new nuclear won't be ready until 2018-20, so it cannot help keep the lights on in 2015!

In the long term whether or not new nuclear is needed, obviously depends upon an assessment of the long term demand for electricity. In 2009, the Government admitted that it had made no such assessment.

The campaign will support the Climate Change Bill, organise public meetings, mobilise people to lobby MPs, and call for a full-scale investigation into the need for new nuclear power.

More info at
www.noneedfornuclear.org.uk.

FoE Conference report – more from Ann Garrett

Film - 'Beyond the Tipping Point (produced by Dr Stefan Skrimshire)

This film was shown on Sunday Sept 12th at the FoE Conference at Reading University as a basis for a workshop discussion, and was both informative and disturbing. It explores the impact of climate change on our society from a factual as well as psychological viewpoint.

It deals with concerns about the position of Critical Mass and how tipping points are affecting the future of the planet, its ecology and people, stressing that we only have a few years left to change the situation and that soon we are going to hit a wall. Our consumer culture in the West, and lack of water and food in developing countries will all come together to create a critical situation.

Some of the failings of Copenhagen have been a serious warning, and if not improved at Cancun, will take society nearer on the road of no return.

The film goes on to explore how the critical situation can spur on campaigners affected by a sense of urgency, and that they often sacrifice their careers through taking risks such as scaling the power station at Kingsnorth.

However there is also in contrast the problem of inaction - there are psychological and cultural blockages to becoming involved. Climate Change as an issue can trigger a defence mechanism, and often people only take action if they are affected

personally such as in a local flooding situation.

The film concludes with emphasising that we all own the future, and all have a responsibility, and asks the question - are the challenges too late, too great and too difficult? For some people in the world who are dying of starvation, the tipping point has already been reached. The perception of tipping point will always generate different responses.

During the workshop discussion, there was a mixture of reactions: it was felt by some that the film was only for activists and not the general public, and was very pessimistic, while others spoke of the importance of working through crises and facing reality. Summary comments made were that politicians have a responsibility to help avoid the tipping point, and that the value of the film was to ask questions.

Conference Plenary Session

Jo Jenkins the FoE fundraiser spoke of the challenges of the recession and importance of making ideas relevant. He asked us to think of what it is that makes FoE unique, and said that it is vital to work internationally, nationally and locally, to empower ourselves and work with journalists during our campaigning.

The John Priddy Memorial lecture was given by Meena Raman, of FoE Malaysia, who congratulated people in FoE for having their eyes open as the guardians of the world, and that we do

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Robin Galloway

With great sorrow Tamara Galloway announces the death of her father Robin Galloway. It was on 9 September 2010.

Robin Galloway was a supporter of Friends of the Earth for many decades. During that time, among other charities he supported the National Trust and the International Tree Foundation.

He was one of the first householders in Bromley Borough to install a solar water heating system at home, and he loved nature especially birds and flowers, and going for long walks in the countryside.

His funeral was held on Wednesday 20 October at 12.15pm at St. Mary's Church, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6AG.

If anyone has any questions they can contact Tamara Galloway on 01689 855352

Ann Garrett's FoE conference report, *continued*

what we have to do as we don't know what else to do! She went on to say that the environmental crisis is the greatest we have ever faced along with poverty and inequality, that there is a clash of world views and that the social and economic crisis is linked.

She criticised the corporations, spoke of the importance of technology that works in harmony with nature, that there is an alternative model to consumerism, and that grass roots struggles are essential in building harmony. Meena's concluding statements - 'we are part of the movement of social change, we have to dream on and have a vision for the world, and the power of the people is paramount.'

Andy Atkins finally thanked everyone for coming to the conference and said

that face to face contact is essential, especially for the work of local groups.

He praised the great efforts of the latter, the staff, ex board members and also visitors from different parts of the world. Andy mentioned the value of linking up with expertise within the Network, expressed concern that this Government is going to 'stuff the environment into the wheelie bin', and reminded us that campaigns provide the opportunity to change things and of the Big Climate Action lobby of Parliament on November 5th and 6th.

Altogether this was a very useful and inspiring conference with plenty of practical suggestions, well researched information and as always the opportunity to meet and hear about the achievements of some great activists!

FoE says: Over four million households still live in fuel poverty - latest figures

Commenting on Government figures showing the number of people living in fuel poverty released today, Friends of the Earth's climate campaigner Dave Timms said:

"It's a national disgrace that over four million households are still living in fuel poverty in the 21st century, as a result huge numbers of vulnerable families, pensioners and children are suffering from ill health and high energy bills.

"Dramatically improving the energy efficiency of our cold and draughty houses is the only long-term solution to fuel poverty - too much money is being wasted heating the planet instead of our homes.

"The freezing weather last winter should have been a wake-up call to politicians of all parties, yet the coalition has not set out a clear strategy to eliminate fuel poverty. This is urgently needed if they are to improve on Labour's poor record.

"Many of those living in fuel poverty are tenants unable to take steps to make their homes cheaper and easier to keep warm.

"The Government must introduce a legal minimum energy efficiency standard for private rented homes making it an offence to let the worst insulated, health- hazard homes until they are improved."

These figures come on the same day the Government has announced it will consult on abolishing Consumer Focus, the watchdog which has

protected the interests of people living in fuel poverty and scrutinized the activity of energy companies, saving households millions on fuel bills.

Key findings from the Government statistics:

- * The number of UK households living in fuel poverty rose again in the face of rising energy prices to 4.5 million in 2008, up from 4 million in 2007. In England there were 3.3m households in fuel poverty in 2008, up from 2.8m in 2007.

- * The number of homes with elderly people, children or someone who has long-term illness or disability suffering from fuel poverty rose by half a million in 2008, to 3.75 million across the UK.

- * The projected figures for England show a further expected significant rise from 3.3 million fuel poor households in 2008 to 4.1 million in 2009 - this is projected to level off in 2010 due to falling energy prices during the recession.

Notes to editors

1. The full statistics on fuel poverty are available from the Department of Energy and Climate Change website.

2. A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10 per cent of its income on fuel to maintain a satisfactory heating regime (usually 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms).

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FoE - Britons' meat-eating destroys Brazilian forest twice the size of London

British imports of beef and soy for animal feed from Brazil last year are estimated to have caused the loss of an area of Brazilian rainforest and grassland twice the size of Greater London, according to a new report launched by Friends of the Earth today.

The green campaigning charity's report, *From Forest to Fork*, shows that increasing demand for animal feed produced in Brazil for British factory farms, along with beef imports, are estimated to have caused around 1,200 square miles of deforestation in 2009.

The report - launched in advance of a major UN meeting on wildlife and natural resources next week - is the first time an estimate has been made of the link between the meat we eat in the UK and deforestation in Brazil.

It also shows that combined demand for beef, soy and increasingly sugarcane is placing a huge strain on the environment and people's livelihoods in Brazil that can only be tackled by reducing the demand for these globally traded commodities.

Friends of the Earth is calling on the Government to introduce a Sustainable Livestock Bill to reduce the impact of meat and dairy production and consumption in the UK which is causing wildlife, rainforest and livelihood destruction abroad. Factory farms - dependent on feeding animals soy protein grown in South America - are subsidised by UK

taxpayers to the tune of £700 million a year.

If the Bill becomes law, it will see the Government shifting support towards more environmentally friendly systems with animals fed grains grown in the UK, as well as helping consumers choose a planet-friendly diet.

Vicki Hird, Senior Food Campaigner at Friends of the Earth, said:

"Even as world leaders are meeting to discuss how to stop deforestation, the UK Government is propping up damaging factory farms with millions of pounds of taxpayers' cash - leaving the public unwittingly caught in a food system that's destroying Brazilian wildlife and rainforest.

"The Government must support British farmers to feed their animals homegrown feed - so our Sunday roast doesn't cost the Earth.

"But the link between factory farms and wildlife and rainforest destruction in South America can be broken - urge your MP to back our Bill for rainforest-free food and thriving UK farms.

Notes to editors:

Sorry, we ran out of space (that's this newsletter, not the FoE press release) !!!

FoE press releases, notes and all, can be found at http://www.foe.co.uk/press_and_media_index.html

Last page – the continuation page

Andy Atkins' thank-you letter, *continued from page 5*

Thank you also for your invitation to attend your "festive" pre-Christmas meeting. Unfortunately, I will be in Mexico at the time attending the UN Climate Change conference, otherwise I would have loved to be there.

Thank you again for this further generous donation and for your continued involvement with Friends of the Earth.

With best wishes,

Transport info, *continued from page 8*

Just do the maths...

Cuts or not, the Government seems hell-bent on spending billions on a new 127-mile high-speed rail link from London to Birmingham -- £20 billion to be precise – plus another £800 million on improvements north of there. Environmentally, all this seems worthwhile because it should bring a reduction in domestic flights and in car use, though this will be offset to a degree by CO2 emissions caused by the construction work.

However, the line will shave only minutes off the current journey time and will no doubt be costly to use because transport minister Philip Hammond says that, anyway, fares must rise to cut the subsidy that rail receives from public funds.

Hammond boasts that the link will generate billions in improved

efficiency, help for industry etc. Perhaps. Or will it merely become a rich man's comfortable means of travel? Don't expect Mr Hammond to be around to face the music – the work will not be completed until 2025. But, anyway, there is no escape for you because you will start paying for the line through your taxes as soon as parliament passes a bill.

FoE on Households in fuel poverty, *continued from page 12*

3. According to the Chief Medical Officer the annual cost to the NHS of treating winter related disease due to cold private housing is £859 million.
4. A programme to bring the homes of the fuel poor up to a high standard would sustain over 35,000 jobs.
5. Friends of the Earth and a coalition of 15 other organisations including Crisis, Disability Alliance, Age UK and Citizens Advice are calling for legislation in the Energy Bill to set a minimum legal level of energy efficiency for private rented homes so that the very worst insulated properties cannot be let until they have been improved to a higher level. Eighty MPs including many senior Lib Dem backbenchers have signed an EDM (number 653) supporting this demand.
6. Friends of the Earth is campaigning for a comprehensive strategy for installing insulation, energy efficiency measures and small-scale renewable energy in every home.

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Waste and Recycling

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Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

Peter Gandolfi
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Letters to the Editor

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

Need a lift to meetings?

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

Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

Non-members' Section

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

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

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

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

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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