

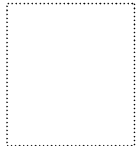


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

October 2008 **No. 250** **Newsletter**

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



October Meeting

**Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

The Sustainable Community
Alan Wylie speaks about
Community Shops

Tuesday 7th October
7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER. Contact details inside front cover.

Bromley FoE's new website is at www.bromleyfoe.co.uk. Why not visit it now?

Diary dates:**October 7th (Tues)****Bromley FoE's October meeting** – Alan Wyle on Community Shops. Plus Traidcraft stall.**October 25th (Sat)****Renewable Energy Day of Action** – Bromley FoE stall 12-2pm, Bromley High Street, outside Caffè Nero.**November 4th (Tues)****Bromley FoE's November meeting****October meeting – The Sustainable Community**

We hear of shops and post offices closing and villages dying. Come and hear how around 150 community-owned shops in England are breathing life back into local communities.

This one, from London CND's Nuclear Trains Action Group, almost didn't make it

Boris refuses to count nuclear trains!

Mary Flanagan, NTAG Chair, wrote to the new Mayor of London, Boris Johnson asking him to carry out a risk assessment of the danger posed to Londoners by the nuclear trains that pass through London, and especially the risk of a terrorist attack on these trains that pass by the Olympic site during the Olympic period.

Boris replied: "I am sorry to hear that you were dissatisfied with my predecessor's assessment of the number of trains carrying nuclear waste travelling in central London. However, given I have no jurisdiction over such trains I feel there could be little benefit in carrying out further work in this area at this time."

There are two points to notice about this letter:

1) Boris or one of his minions seem to be under the impression that we asked Ken Livingstone to carry out an assessment of the "number" of nuclear trains passing through London, rather than the dangers they pose - and were just asking Boris to carry out a more satisfactory count.

2) The argument that because the Mayor of London has no "jurisdiction" over the running of nuclear trains, there's "little benefit" in carrying out the assessment is a poor one. Surely the Mayor should be concerned about finding whether nuclear trains pose a threat to the lives and health of Londoners, his electors, whether or not he has any such jurisdiction. Surely it behoves him to carry out such an assessment and if there is found to be a serious threat, to make representations on behalf of Londoners to the proper authorities to get such threats removed or ameliorated?

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER.**

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

Transport information – by Ray Watson, transport campaigner

Grounded!

It is simple logic that to cut emissions at source is the quickest way to reduce greenhouse gases. In which case the economic slowdown has done us a favour by reducing the number of flights. As national FoE's Paul de Zylva told our August meeting, there are shafts of light amid the gloom.

Flights in British air space have fallen for the first time since the 9/11 terrorism outbreak, according to official figures. In July there were 1401 few flights compared with July last year. And globally the prediction is that airlines, hit by high fuel prices, will fly 60 million fewer seats in the last quarter of this year, thus ending the steady growth in aviation over the last five years.

Now that is a lot of CO2!

On the roads, too

The same is applying on the roads, say UK and US motoring organisations. Fuel costs have driven UK motorists not only to cut their mileage, but also to reduce their speed on motorways. The overall affect of these actions has resulted in fewer traffic jams and a drop in accidents.

In the US there is a similar story. The US Dept of Transportation says that in March this year American motorists drove 11 billion fewer miles than in March 2007, a fall of 4%. Bus and train use all over the country is up 10 per cent, and even higher in those cities that have spent out on new light rail services. Sales of cycles and small, fuel-efficient scooters are booming.

What is *not* growing are sales of the American dream car – the 4x4 'off-road' vehicle that usually spends all of its time on the road. Sales have fallen 35 per cent. No wonder when they do about 12 mpg! General Motors has announced the closure of four of its factories that make these guzzlers. Chevrolet, meanwhile, is to produce an electric car in two years to help wean Americans off their oil dependency.

Low carbon battle

Here in Europe a battle is going on in the Brussels corridors of EU power over another move to stop carbon emissions before they start. The EU nations are arguing about standards to be met by manufacturers for new cars following the publication of a set of rules that, for many people, are too weak.

FoE says that the manufacturers' lobbying has resulted in a much weaker standards than is necessary to cut emissions caused by road traffic, plus allowing too many opt-outs and penalties that are too soft on manufacturers who do not comply. Apparently, much of the pressure on the EU came from German manufacturers of heavier cars like BMW and Mercedes.

So the discussions go on, with FoE in Europe calling for the politicians to stand up to the self-interested lobbying of the car industry and deliver the deal that is needed to protect the planet.

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September meeting report – *Graham Hemington*

Greening Your Home

“Six tonnes of CO₂ (an important contributor to climate change) are released into the atmosphere by the average London home; this is equivalent to 50% of the householder’s carbon footprint” said Natalie Holmes of the Green Homes Concierge Service. This organisation aims to help householders to green their homes by reducing energy usage and therefore the amount of CO₂ released.

The opportunities for reduction are several (especially in houses built before 1960): inefficient appliances, e.g. boilers, insufficient wall and roof insulation, no draught-proofing and also use of tungsten light bulbs.

A house survey by the Concierge Service includes checking the efficiency of appliances, draught-testing using an air pressure unit and thermal-imaging to reveal heat losses through walls etc. The Service eliminates the often confusing and contradictory advice previously given to the householder by providing a clear Energy Performance Certificate and Home Energy Report which gives the improvement measures needed (also enables the householder to prioritise the improvements to be done, when money is scarce.

The cost of the survey is £199 which is relatively small compared with the actual cost, the difference being paid for by the London Development Agency.

One newspaper report in support of the Concierge Service said

“Invaluable. A dramatic demonstration of how ineffective is the insulation of my home. The survey is shockingly revealing, the report being informative in a practical and affordable way. It’s just the kind of information you need if you are trying to save money, never mind the Planet.”

An example of a carbon saving house is at 17 St Augustine’s Road, London, NW1 9RL, which is often open to the public.

Natalie Holmes can be contacted as the Green Communities Manager, at the Green Homes Concierge Service, 4th floor, 30 Market Place, London, W1W 8AP.

Transport info - *continued*

Duty bound

Look out for an announcement in the next few weeks on the tax you pay if you fly – currently known as the air passenger duty. The Government has just finished consulting on its proposed change whereby a tax will be levied on every plane, measured by its weight and distance of flight rather than, as now, on the number of passengers carried. This also has the advantage of taxing freight flights as well as passenger flights.

FoE’s submission to the Government broadly welcomed aviation duty, arguing that it also provided the opportunity to halt some of the valuable tax breaks that the aviation industry has enjoyed for years even while becoming the fastest-growing polluter.

Campaigns info – Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator

Biofuels Action Day

It was good to be supported by those stalwarts who weren't at the conference and to engage once again with the public on September 13th in getting the cards signed to send to MEPs. A News Shopper photographer turned up so hopefully there will be a photo in the paper, as well as a press release.

A big thank you to all the helpers, and also to those who 'personed' the stalls this Summer at Keston, Foal Farm and Cudham. All quite profitable too in helping to build up funds. [Thank you Ivy for your work and vigilance in this respect].

Renewables Campaign

The Renewables Action Day is on Saturday October 25th from 12.00 - 2.00 in Bromley High Street outside Caffe Nero as usual. Help will be very welcome !

The EU Renewables Directive

During the same period as the Climate Change Bill goes through Parliament, at EU level, ministers will be discussing and voting on the EU Directive on Renewable energy. This sets a minimum target of 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020 in all EU member states. The UK's share of the target will be 15%. It is thought that our government will try to weaken these targets, so FoE's campaign will be to put pressure on the government to deliver its share of the target in a sustainable way, and to come up with a firm strategy.

Battersea Power Station Visit

Grateful thanks to Sue and John who organised this most interesting and important visit on August 23rd, especially as we participated in the consultation process for the new development proposals there.

The redevelopment of the Power Station and surrounding site will according to real Estate Opportunities Ltd create a 'vibrant new neighbourhood for Wandsworth'.

If all goes to plan, the power station will be generating power again and it will be clean and green! A 'natural machine' will be key to transforming Battersea into an exemplar of sustainable development, which will take the form of a dome similar to the Eden Project. The dome will have a chimney rising from its centre and it will act like a green house to capture the sun's energy and warm the air inside. The energy will then flow up and through buildings before being exhausted into the Ecodome.

The project will improve transport, provide local community and retail facilities and include regeneration of the bankside with seats, gardens and walkways.

In completing our evaluation forms we were keen to emphasise the importance of genuine sustainability and using the whole project as an example to other cities in the UK and throughout the world.

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Campaigns info – continued

After our visit which incorporated a walk round and in parts of Battersea Power Station itself, we enjoyed some refreshments in the old Duchess pub nearby with a wonderful view of the power station and a relaxing garden at the back!

Melting of North Pole

Open water now stretches all the way round the Arctic, making possible for the first time in human history to circumnavigate the North Pole. New satellite images taken recently show that the melting ice has opened up both the north west and north east passages. This signals the unexpectedly rapid progress of global warming.

As well as the shrinking of the ice, its thickness has also dropped by half in the last six years. It is likely that ice-free summers will become the norm, and many scientists predict that the Arctic ocean will be ice-free in summers by 2030.

Treasury rakes in money from green power scheme

The government has come under attack for pocketing as much as £1 billion from a scheme designed to promote renewable energy. The revelation has come as the Prime Minister faces increasing pressure from Labour backbenchers to impose a windfall tax on excessive profits made by energy companies. Trade unionists have called for the money received by the Treasury from the non-fossil fuel obligation [NFFO] scheme to be used to help families with energy efficiency measures such as home insulation.

The NFFO was set up in the 1980s to encourage the development of renewable energy plants by offering a guaranteed price for their electricity for 15 years. It has since been replaced by the renewable obligation scheme. It is important to challenge the government about this situation by contacting MPs.

Site B, Tweedy Road

Here's part of a letter from Tony Banfield (chair) to members of Bromley Civic Society re the Tweedy Road Development (Site B) proposals.

Despite the Chief Planner's recommendation for permission the Development Control Committee, meeting on Tuesday 26th August, refused it on the grounds of:

Harm to the setting of listed buildings and the adjacent conservation area through overdevelopment of the site; excessive bulk; inappropriate design; lack of adequate landscaping to Tweedy Road; harm to the amenity of residents of Bromley College, inadequate amenity provision for prospective residents; inadequate car parking provision.

The public gallery was packed. It was a long and fraught meeting. Then the Chair, Alexa Michael, spoke and in a few well aimed and chosen words condemned the development in no uncertain terms. The final vote was swiftly taken, 10 to 5 for refusal.

The developer is likely to go to appeal so the whole thing is still very much a live issue.

Friends of the Earth Conference – report from Nancy Sloan

Most of the rest of this newsletter is taken up with reports from the Friends of the Earth Conference, held at Loughborough University from September 12th to 14th. Four people were there on behalf of Bromley FoE and here are reports from each of them. First off is Nancy Sloan.

Hi, I'm Nancy,

I went, with Dan, Peter and Sheila to the Friends of the Earth Conference at Loughborough University on the 12th September.

I am 18 years old, and am starting at university next week, studying Politics with International Relations, so this conference was a fantastic preview to what I will be studying.

I loved the weekend, although some of the workshops were a bit beyond the subjects I'm familiar with, but they were generally presented in an understandable way.

The first workshop I attended was "Right to Know", presented by the FoE legal team. This was a really interesting workshop and very well presented.

However, the workshop I really became involved with was titled "Young Friends of the Earth Europe" which was held on Saturday evening. The workshop was only open to delegates under 30 years of age (it turned out that, at 18 I was the youngest person attending the conference).

Young Friends of the Earth Europe is a new initiative, being launched on the last day of the conference. We heard about many of the plans for the group, some of which involved linking up for actions and events around Europe, and encouraging other young people into local Friends of the Earth groups.

To launch the new group we all got together after the workshop and on Sunday morning to put our secret plan into action.

At the "Motions to Conference" session a motion titled "Student and Youth Involvement" was being proposed by Milton Keynes Friends of the Earth, in which they were calling for more involvement and raising the profile of young people within FoE.

We were fairly sure that the motion would be passed, so we put our plan into action.

The motion was passed unanimously, and as all the conference applauded, our group, who had taken up strategic seats in the audience, stood up with the giant banner we had secretly prepared reading "Young Friends of the Earth Europe Starts HERE!"

It was a great weekend – I hope there is a space for me to go again next year

Nancy Sloan

Friends of the Earth Conference – report from Dan Sloan

This report from Dan Sloan just covers the first day of the Conference. More in next month's newsletter.

Arriving home after two and a half days at the Friends of the Earth Conference 2008 I half expected to see the garden overgrown and dust settled everywhere, it seemed as though we had been away for weeks!

In two and a half days we had each, Sheila, Peter, Nancy and me (Dan), had attended: 6 presentations; 5 Workshops/Seminars; 6 Network/surgery sessions; 1 Wake-up Plenary; 1 Motions Debate and eaten 7 delicious multi course meals.

The 2008 conference was extremely well planned and organized. The timing was pretty well spot on throughout, with well spaced breaks yet never a dull moment. The cross section of delegates was extraordinary, with individuals from just about every walk of life. Needless to say, the pool of knowledge and expertise was second to none.

We arrived around 13.00 on Friday 12th September and were efficiently registered and allocated our accommodation. From here we made for the dining room for lunch before attending the first welcome presentation and on to our first workshops.

Finding Members Workshop

I selected the "Finding members" workshop. This was well run by Neil (a local networker) & Sarah (volunteer). I thought this workshop may inspire me

to work on increasing the interest in Bromley people.

Of the many suggestions discussed I did think the simplest to put into immediate action was to write, and send a current newsletter to, all National FoE members in our area. We did this years ago, pre Data Protection Act, when Underwood Street were happy to forward the addresses of all national members directly to local groups. The procedure now is to send the mailing to Underwood Street, pay the appropriate postage and they will then forward our invitation to the members.

The downside of this is that any of you who are national members as well as Bromley members will receive one of these mailings – I apologize to you in advance for this, but in return I hope it will point many already concerned national members towards our local group.

Here is general summary of ideas to bring in more members:

10-minute ideas

- Put information on your group on your FoE web page
- Identify someone to act as key contact for new people and someone to be a welcome at meetings
- Make a Sign-Up sheet to use at stalls so you can get back in touch with people
- Agree to tell the media whenever you do something and write regular letters to them on your main issues of concern.

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Dan Sloan's FoE Conference report - *continued*

Half hour ideas

- Make a poster using the FoE groups profile materials and ask every group member to put one up in a public place – also on stalls
- Put together a standard letter or email for all enquiries
- Use FoE group profile materials to make a leaflet about your group to hand out at stalls

More involved ideas

- Organize a social event and publicise it around town and in the media as a “Find out more about your local FoE group” meeting
- Plan regular activities as a group to keep your profile high
- Make a regular newsletter to give out to local shops, community centres and stalls

Many of us will say “we do most of that already”, but it does no harm to remind ourselves that we must not rest on our laurels’ and maybe we should try to renew our enthusiasm in the way we have done and will do things in the future.

Farewell speech by Tony Juniper

At 18.00 Tony Juniper talked of his years with FoE, the high points, and landmark events. He thanked all the local groups for all of the hard work they were doing. When asked if he might consider going into politics, he gave a broad grin and made numerous hints as if to say “**Watch this space**”.

Tony speech was rounded off with a well deserved standing ovation.

John Preedy Memorial Lecture

(John Preedy was a very active Friends of the Earth local group campaigner who tragically died in an accident whilst he was cycling)

The formal proceedings for the day were brought to a close with an address from Andy Atkins, the new FoE Executive Director.

Andy has had many years working with Development Agencies and NGO's and seems to be very much at ease and enthusiastic about working with FoE.

It was a very good address, and seemed to give the conference attendees the confidence and encouragement that one expects to come naturally to a good director.

It was now 21.45, we were all exhausted, many had travelled from the far reaches of the UK and some even further, delegates dispersed to the bars, a ceilidh, or one of the pool tables but most were happy to get to bed!

Peter Gandolfi's report, *cont'd from next page*

The various potential plans for a Seven Barrage were discussed, together how our own coal can be used, combined with Carbon Capture to produce electricity, with low emissions. A proposed 20 year plan was shown that moved away from imported gas, and made more use of renewables and local energy sources. It was good to finish on a very positive and upbeat discussion that was not all doom and gloom.

Friends of the Earth Conference – report from Peter Gandolfi

This was my first FoE conference, and it was interesting to share similar aims with such a disparate group of individuals. I leave Sheila etc to cover the main talks and lectures. Below is a précis of the various breakout sessions that I attended. We tried to attend different sessions where possible.

Youth and Education

The aim was to involve FoE concepts into schools and curriculums. This consisted of group sessions on planning a lesson on various topics and using techniques to keep children interested and engaged.

FoE now fund a group to look after these aims, and there is a vast source of related resources on the FoE website.

The Age of Stupid

This was a preview of a new film on climate change, produced by Spanner films and due for general release early next year. Set in the future, after the affects of climate change have all but wiped out human existence, it uses archive footage to look back, showing the implications of our present behaviour, and how the effects could have been avoided. A rather depressing film, but with some good strands around the consequences of consumerism and our present entrenched attitudes.

A Global deal on Climate Change

This consisted of a number of presentation lead discussions by key members of the organisation.

Robin Webster – Senior climate and energy campaigner, covered the history of national agreements in

reducing greenhouse gases, resulting in Kyoto and Bali agreements, and the methods used by the US in undermining these agreements.

Simon Counsel – Board member and rainforest expert, pointed out the value of forests, the loss of the Amazon rainforest would equal around 20 years total greenhouse gas emissions. Many of the important rainforests tend to be in very poor counties. The potential use of future carbon trading was covered, including the problems associated with putting value on any tract of forest, causing land grabbing and resulting in the forest being removed from the protection of the indigenous tribes, just as would happen with unregulated logging.

Helen Wolfson – International co-ordinator, discussed whether UK activists can influence international negotiations.

Tim Atkinson – Network developer, covered the need for the UK to get its own house in order, and for the need for groups in other countries to support each others campaigns. Concluding with the need for as many individuals as possible to participate in Copenhagen where the next round of talks will take place.

Energy Clinic

A group discussion on the levels of energy being used in the UK at present, how these are expected to rise, and potential solutions in controlling emissions in the future.

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Friends of the Earth Conference – report from Sheila Brown

**“If you want to go quickly, go alone;
If you want to go far, go together.”**

This quotation was put up on the screen at the beginning of this year’s Conference, attended by Sheila Brown, Peter Gandolfi, Dan and Nancy Sloan. Conference 08, attended by over 350 delegates from local groups and from head office, was Tony Juniper’s final appearance as outgoing Executive Director and the opportunity for his successor, Andy Atkins, to set out his agenda.

The Conference has a packed programme of plenary sessions and workshops/seminars interspersed with refreshment breaks where one can network and pick up information from various stalls. We also came back extremely well fed.

At the introductory session, we wrote our name, local group, what we hoped to get out of Conference and our greatest environmental sin on a piece of paper, which we then fashioned into a paper aeroplane and launched into the air; the idea was then to find your aeroplane partner. I found mine, but the person who picked up my aeroplane did not find me. A very good icebreaker and way of networking.

Choosing which workshops/seminars to attend is quite difficult. I decided to attend one about getting the most out of Friends of the Earth which did fill in certain gaps in my knowledge.

Friends of the Earth EWNI (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) is made up of 235 local groups. 70% of these groups produce a newsletter. Friends

of the Earth is unique in its basis of grassroots activism. Friends of the Earth Europe is based in Brussels with a staff of 24 people and a link person in Underwood Street. Friends of the Earth International with its head office in Geneva has 70 national member groups. There are 2 million members and supporters worldwide.

Each geographic area has different main areas of concern. In Europe it is the GM issue, International is mainly concerned with Climate and Trade, and in the southern hemisphere international trade is the dominant issue.

Back in the UK, the Community website is about to be re-vamped, having proved to be not too user-friendly in the past. We were told of the resources available to local groups – ranging from grants and new group start-up packs to support for co-ordinators.

Tony Juniper’s farewell speech

Looking back over his years with Friends of the Earth – he joined in 1990 when Mrs Thatcher was still PM, and was Executive Director for the past six years – Tony said that Friends of the Earth had shown leadership and foresight to bring the Environment on to the central agenda. Early successes included banning DDT, protection for whales by getting an international moratorium, and nuclear bans. Before Friends of the Earth came into being, there was little being done about protection of wildlife, biodiversity and

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Sheila Brown's FoE Conference report - *continued*

SSSIs. Throughout the 90s these campaigns gained strength along with high-profile anti-motorway campaigning.

Now we see more and bigger protected areas globally. Pollution has been massively cleaned up and toxic discharges dramatically reduced. More information is available in the public domain. Throughout the 80s and 90s, acid rain was a huge problem with sulphur and nitrogen in the atmosphere causing forest dieback and acidification of streams, especially in Scandinavia. Friends of the Earth got new directives to ban acid rain and to close down power stations.

On the global stage, the tropical rainforest issue and illegal industrial logging were huge issues, and throughout the 80s and 90s our campaigns on ozone depletion led to the banning of CFCs with the result that the ozone layer is now renewing. Recycling targets we had set are now looking more achievable.

Of course there is a great deal more to do to build on past successes. Friends of the Earth has spent more than a year developing a Plan of Action. We are on a journey.

The pressing issues are

- accumulation of greenhouse gases and the need to deal with this in the next decade. Energy demand is still rising and we have to move towards renewables.
- depletion of biodiversity, with species disappearing at an alarming rate

- growing economies in developing countries – it is hard to put over our arguments unless we lead by example.

Tony emphasised that one good thing about Friends of the Earth is being non-party-political. He said how important it was to keep up the media profile. We need to convey the message about climate change urgently, but we must point towards solutions and give a message of hope.

Tony's address received a standing ovation.

Address by Andy Atkins - Friends of the Earth's new Executive Director

Andy sees his role as leading Friends of the Earth in a rapidly changing context. The main challenges we face are transforming the UK to a low carbon economy within the next five years, increasing public understanding of the link between catastrophic climate change and world poverty, and protection of biodiversity and habitat repair.

Everybody, not just the Executive Director, has a leadership role.

Looking at the current context – extinction rates are rising dramatically, there has been a huge rise public awareness of environmental issues and this awareness provides an opportunity to find solutions. However, the economic downturn is likely to divert interest. In the USA people are becoming more aware and starting to

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Sheila Brown's FoE Conference report - *concluded*

do something. This public awareness means we are no longer a lone voice.

We needed to seek strong international agreement to hold temperature increase below 2°C by 2010 and to work towards sustainable resource use and reduce consumption within the EU. Big goals need big campaigns – like The Big Ask – involving other development agencies and engaging the wider community.

The public need to hear clear, credible and feasible solutions, and positive perceptions (not just opposing). We must communicate viable solutions and reach parts of the public that we've not reached before.

Andy felt we should work more towards international collaboration – with a 70 member international network we are ideally placed to have more influence. Our Rights & Justice team had helped the campaign to defend the forests in Indonesia.

Solutions are there but maybe the biggest impediment is political - Friends of the Earth needs to exert political pressure. The new plan is BIG but environmental leadership is needed at all levels.

Andy spoke warmly of the strength of Friends of the Earth's local group network and grass-roots campaigning, which he felt was unique. The Legal team was also a unique and valued resource. Local groups need to enthuse, engage and inform.

In his concluding session at the end of Conference, Andy said how impressed

he was by the commitment of delegates – he had met people who had been coming to Conference for 17 years or more. He loved Friends of the Earth's campaigning tactics and felt the public responded well to something a bit cheeky or intriguing.

FoE's Food and Farming Campaign – Sheila Brown

Friends of the Earth is planning a new campaign to change the way we produce meat and dairy products. The way we do it at the moment causes some serious problems – from climate change and habitat destruction to the forced eviction and poverty of peasant farmers and their families. This new campaign is about putting pressure on the Government and politicians to change the system so it's better for the planet and people everywhere.

We're using a third of the world's available farming land to grow crops to feed animals. On current trends demand for meat means livestock production is set to double by 2050. There is not enough space to graze the animals and grow the food to feed them without chopping down more habitat. Particularly at risk are the world's biodiversity hotspots, the Amazon and Cerrado.

Meat and dairy production has a huge impact on climate change – through deforestation, fertiliser application and the natural bodily functions of the animals themselves. It is estimated to

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Info from CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade)

CAAT welcomes cancellation of Australian arms fair

Congratulations to non-violent activists in Australia, where a major arms fair has been cancelled because of high levels of protest. The arms fair, calling itself the Asia-Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition (APDSE), was due to begin in Adelaide on Remembrance Day. CAAT has welcomed its cancellation as further evidence that opposition to the arms trade is growing internationally. Read more at <http://www.caat.org.uk/press/archive.php?url=080908apsr>.

Book now for CAAT's National Gathering

It's on Saturday 8th November 2008, 10am-5pm, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

Don't miss this essential day in CAAT's calendar. Come along to:

Get involved in the launch of CAAT's latest campaign

Hear Solomon Hughes, the author of 'War on Terror, Inc.: Corporate Profiteering from the Politics of Fear' speak

Learn about corporate power and the arms trade, and the limitations of arms controls

Get the information you need to tackle the myth that ending the arms trade must harm UK employment

Pick up skills in local media work, public speaking, planning actions or new media campaigning

The day is free and includes a vegetarian lunch. We are looking at providing a creche at the event. Please

contact us soon if you would like to make use of this facility.

Book your place online at http://www.caat.org.uk/events/national_gathering/ or contact Anne-Marie on annemarie@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297.

Food and Farming campaign, cont'd

be responsible for 18% of the global greenhouse gas emissions – more than the transport industry.

We can produce enough food to feed the world's population – but around a third of the world's cereal harvest and over 90% of soya is used for animal feed, which means there is less available to feed people. In Paraguay about 100,000 small farmers have been kicked off their land by soya plantations..

This new campaign is about getting politicians to change the system so that we produce meat in the right way. It isn't about getting people to go vegetarian or vegan but about getting people to act politically to ensure long term changes. But we do need to encourage people to eat less unsustainable meat than we do today.

The campaign is in its early stages but if you want to get involved, contact richard.hines@foe.co.uk or write to The Food Team, Friends of the Earth, Devonshire House, 37 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2ED.

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Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

Campaigns –

Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Trade Justice / FairTrade

Liam Padwick

email – liam.padwick1@ntlworld.com

Real Food:

Diana Hurd 020-8402-7586

Waste (Recycling):

Debbie Witherick 01689-858748

email -

deborah.witherick@btinternet.com

Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352

tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

Peter Gandolfi

famgando@hotmail.com

Letters to the Editor

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

Need a lift to meetings?

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

Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

Non-members' Section

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

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

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

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

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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