



**Friends of  
the Earth**

**Bromley**

# **January 2008 No. 241 Newsletter**

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## **January Meeting**

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

### **How We Campaign**

**Roisin Robertson from Bromley Greenpeace**

**+**

### **Bromley FoE's AGM**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**7.30pm.**

**It's our Christmas Social Evening as well**

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by  
**SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.** Contact details inside front cover.

### ***In this Issue:***

Diary Dates	2	Kyoto ratification	9
January mtg info	2	FoE CYW Economy	10
New arrival	2	FoE CYW Agrofuels	11,12
December mtg rept	3	FoE CYW Tpt growth	12
Bromley FoE accounts	4	FoE CYW Emissions	13
Bromley Centre	5,7	CAAT info	14
Transport info	6	Freedom of Information	14
Carbon emissions	7	Bromley FoE contacts	15
Climate info	8,9	Non-members section	16

***Don't forget – next meeting (and AGM) is on January 8<sup>th</sup>***

## Diary dates:

**January 8<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

**Bromley FoE's January meeting** – Roisin Robertson of Bromley Greenpeace on 'How we campaign' + AGM

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

**Bromley FoE's February meeting**

## The New Year is approaching – so – It's time to join in!

Work by volunteers has meant that Bromley FoE has achieved some considerable campaigning successes in recent years. But, with a little more help, we can achieve much more - and this at a crucial time when we need to get more government action on the environment.

So, how about volunteering at our annual meeting in January to take on a task, however large or small? Even if you have only a little time to spare. No one will force you to devote more time than you have available.

Whether you are an old hand or a new member, you can make a difference by helping in a campaigning role or assisting with running the group. Choose what you want to do.

If you wish to discuss options or get more information please speak to Ann, Sheila or Ray. The more help we have, the more we can do to protect the environment.

### Christmas Baby

Congratulations to Sheila and Peter Brown whose daughter gave birth just before Christmas to Kate Helen, (7½ lbs). Mother and baby are both well – and the grandparents ecstatic. Some Christmas present !!

### Re-User Item (3)

Anne Clark is offering a 26" Leaf / Lawnsweep for £65ono. Hardly used.

Contact Anne on 020-8289-8483 if you are interested.

### Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.**

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

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

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

## December meeting report, Annette Rose

John Penney and Tom Douglas from Bromley Allotments and Leisure Gardens Federation spoke on 'Allotments Have a Green Future'.

Tom explained that he is the President of the association and John is the Chairman. There are 52 allotment sites in Bromley which is the second highest number in London. Each site is a member of the Bromley Federation. Meetings of the Federation are held every 6 weeks and it has a close relationship with Bromley council. There is a formal panel with the council which meets 3 times a year. Any allotment matters come to the panel for discussion.

Tom explained that the council has generally been enlightened in terms of its allotment management. It has now offered every site a 21 year lease which is thought to be unique in this country. There are various conditions of the lease. Each site has to take out its own public liability insurance. The system seems to work well.

A good relationship with the council is important to sort out problems. Other than the present situation with the allotments on the Turpington Lane site (to be discussed elsewhere) the relationship has worked well.

John then went on to tell us about some of the activities at the Dorset Rd. Site. Each year there are competitions for the plot holders, including ones for flowers, vegetables, best kept site etc. There are other uses for plots too. There are bee keepers and one person has 4 plots which are used for training gun dogs. Chickens are also

kept. There is a clubhouse which is used for various talks, meetings and events.

The site has won a variety of awards including Bromley Environmental awards, the Civic Trust Green Pennant Award and Bromley in Bloom. School children visit and they see where vegetables come from and how they grow. 150 children have visited from Stuart Fleming School and Churchfields school children will visit next year.

Recently a wild garden oasis has been created with a pond. A lottery grant was received to help with its construction.

Volunteer groups have planted wild plants in the area and helped with the construction of the pond. Slow worms have been moved into it from another part of the site. There is a hide for bird watching. A wedding with 150 guests has been held at the site.

A question was asked about whether there is a waiting list for plots. Some sites do have a waiting list although this varies. At Dorset Rd. there are 14 people on the waiting list. Overall there is a 90% take up but some sites are full.

Several members of the audience said they would be interested in visiting Dorset Rd. especially when the new wild garden is completed and John and Tom said they would let us know.

## Bromley FoE Accounts for year ending 31/12/07

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Balance at January 1 <sup>st</sup>	614.51	690.74

### **Receipts**

Donations	199.00	298.00
Subscriptions	310.00	323.00
Hall collection	217.00	290.00
Tea profits	15.00	16.00
Fund-raising	36.00	306.20

**832.00**

**1233.20**

### **Payments**

Hire of Hall	387.00	400.00
Newsletter	298.77	345.77
Payments (1)	60.00	40.00
Stalls	10.00	37.00
Other (2)	0.00	278.09

**755.77**

**1100.86**

<b>Difference</b> between payments & receipts	+ 76.23	+ 132.34
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<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b><u>690.74</u></b>	<b><u>823.08</u></b>
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### **Other assets at 31/12/07**

Bromley FoE banner	55.00
CAT shares (150)	150.00
Digital camera	122.00

Note – Payments (1) = Payments / subs to other organisations

Note – Other (2) includes such things as purchase of digital camera

## **FoE Balances in recent years (for comparison)**

Dec 06	Dec 05	Dec 04	Dec 03	Dec 02	Dec 01
690.74	614.51	892.66	851.58	754.58	723.14

## Bromley Town Centre changes – our response

We have sent a submission to Bromley council's consultation team on the big changes planned for the town centre. Some of the proposals provide grounds for worry - more traffic, more noise, more air pollution and possible loss of open space. This is a plan that needs careful watching.

This is what we sent to the council:

### **Re: Revised town centre preferred options consultation**

Bromley Friends of the Earth thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the revised area action for the town centre.

We have seen the revised preferred options document and the sustainability appraisal and I have been asked to make the following observations:

1. There is still an unresolved conflict between the desire to vastly expand retail space and the need to solve the already increasing problem of access and traffic congestion, which will clearly be made worse if 47,500 sq m of retail space is added. The transport studies show clearly that mitigation measures alone – such as widening the A21 etc – will fail to solve the problem. Further, park and ride schemes would merely shift the problem elsewhere and also result in the creation of large car parking facilities in the suburbs, while higher parking charges will deter shoppers.

2. One move that would make a huge impact in reducing trips to the town centre would be to move the Civic Centre from central Bromley.

This would also immediately free up 721 parking spaces now used by council staff and provide space for residential development. More important, moving council staff (perhaps to several different districts) would reduce journeys by residents to the town centre, regenerate areas such as Orpington, Beckenham which would benefit from having more job opportunities on their doorstep and also benefit from the spending power of council staff. We urge the council to set up an inquiry panel to investigate the various possibilities of decentralising, noting that this already takes place in that Social Services has three main offices in different parts of the borough)

3. We believe that moving The Pavilion Leisure Centre to a site across Kentish Way to make room for more retail space is flawed because a) such a move would conflict with the need to encourage evening and night life in the town centre; b) it would reduce usage of the Pavilion by shoppers while visiting the Glades – and this at a time when efforts are being made nationally and locally to improve the health of people; it may well impinge on open 'green' land.

4. We note that the plans reveal that increasing retail space in the town centre would have a negative impact on shops in Bromley South and local shopping centres. This would result in more journeys to the town centre and a loss of local amenity that could have serious effect on outlying districts. See *also point 2 above*.

*/continued on page 7*

### **A waste of our money**

For the second time, Biggin Hill Airport has had rejected its plan to build a hotel -- by Bromley Council, by the residents including Bromley FoE, by planning appeals inspectors and by Government Ministers.

While this is a victory for commonsense – because the airport would have, predictably, asked for more flights to support the hotel – the situation is also a nonsense. For how long can the airport go on causing anxiety among the people of Bromley who clearly oppose expansion at Biggin Hill, and by wasting the council tax payers' money through taking up the time of council staff and meeting the cost of legal and planning experts to fight the case?

The answer is: forever. Even at risk of annoying their neighbours. All they have to do is to amend the previously rejected plan and start all over again.

For that reason Bromley FoE was pleased that the appeal inspector used as an argument for rejection the fact that the hotel would not have been able to survive on aviation-related business alone. And that was important because the Government's planning guidance says airport hotels should rely strictly on that.

This argument was put forward by Bromley FoE and also Flight Path, the borough's alliance of residents and other groups opposing expansion at Biggin Hill. Strangely, Bromley councillors turned the proposal down solely on design considerations. And that was dangerous.

So, Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, after two refusals, will you now announce that you will drop all future ideas of building a hotel?

### **In the 20mph zone**

Portsmouth Council are having a major success in creating 20mph zones in residential areas. More than half its 1,200 streets are now covered. The result: apart from a more peaceful life for residents, road accidents have dropped enormously, up to 60% in some cases. And the council found no need to enforce the rule by installing the speed cameras so hated by the motorist.

Bromley Council started on a programme of 20mph zones some years ago. Bromley FoE asked Cllr Colin Smith, portfolio holder for the environment, what progress had been made. The borough now has seven zones.

Will there be more? Cllr Smith says he relies on funding from Transport for London to do the research, consult residents and put the zone into practice. That could mean a long wait, so why does the council not use its own resources? Has the council asked TfL for cash? We will let you know his response.

### **Speeding to a rail record**

Just before opening its doors to the public for the Paris-St Pancras route, the Eurostar high-speed train did a demonstration run and set a new land speed record between the Gare du Nord and St Pancras of 2hrs 3mins and 39secs. The train is normally restricted to 186mph but reached speeds up to 200mph. Now that's progress!

## **Robert Evans, MEP, and carbon emissions**

Graham Hemington recently wrote to Robert Evans, Labour MEP for London, about pushing for tough measures regarding carbon emissions. Graham also asked what steps Mr Evans was taking to reduce emissions. Here is the reply, written on behalf of the MEP.

Mr Evans would like to assure you that he takes the matter of carbon emissions extremely seriously and will take your thoughts into account on this matter.

Mr Evans is a member of the Transport and Tourism Committee and would like to inform you about the latest moves to reduce carbon emissions via the emissions trading scheme (ETS). Mr Evans recently voted for a landmark step in the fight against climate change. A date has now been set to include aircraft emissions into the EU's "emissions trading scheme". The scheme is the first of its kind in the world and will be a key instrument in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As of 2011 the ETS will allocate permits to flight operators, giving them the right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide per year. The total number of permits will therefore set a limit on the overall emissions from participants in the scheme. MEPs will limit aircraft operators' allowance of CO2 emissions to 90% of their annual emission in 2004-2006.

While some permits are allocated to operators free of charge, others are traded freely, giving companies flexibility to determine how and where the emissions reductions will be achieved. Emissions trading allows companies to emit in excess of their allocation of allowances by purchasing allowances

from the market. Similarly, a company that emits less than its allocation of allowances can sell its surplus allowances. The environmental outcome is not affected because the amount of allowances allocated is fixed.

Mr Evans strongly believes that the aviation industry must take responsibility for its CO2 emissions, and that this generation cannot ride roughshod over the next. Mr Evans has made his views clear in the European Parliament that the EU must do everything in its power to rise to the challenge of climate change.

In contrast to regulations which impose emission limit values on particular facilities, emissions trading gives companies the flexibility to meet emission reduction targets according to their own strategy and in the most cost effective manner.

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### **Town Centre response - continued**

5. Possible extension to The Glades may well result in Queens Gardens being overshadowed, plus there would be a loss of open space were food or refreshment bars be built there.

6. We believe that care should be taken to ensure no degradation of open space due to other developments in the town centre (such as at Churchill Gardens), given that the appraisal refers to the possible negative effects on biodiversity. Overall, there should be no loss of existing open spaces and green areas in view of their important role in reducing air pollution in what is a busy town centre.

We should be grateful if you would consider the above points as part of the consultation process.

## Climate information – Ann Garrett, climate campaigner

### Climate Change March (Dec 8<sup>th</sup>)

Due to transport problems and heavy rain we had difficulty meeting and walked with different groups. However, our FoE banner was carried some of the time by greens from Islington. It was encouraging to see so many young people on the march and there was drumming and music to help us on a very cold, damp day!

The message of creating a more sustainable world and a strong sense of urgency about climate change was the focus of many of the banners, chants and speeches.

Michael Meacher in his speech told the government: 'Rhetoric is not enough - what's the use of making bold statements about what will be done in 50 years time - something must be done NOW'.

Heathrow climate change activist Sophie Stevens stressed 'that capitalism and climate change are connected - corporations are quite legally taking us over the brink'.

It was estimated that there were 10,000 people on the march altogether, and it felt good to part of day of world-wide action



### Bali UN Climate Conference

This has been a dramatic and tense affair up till the very last minute with a day's extension. The Bush administration finally gave its support to a new framework to tackle global warming after blocking negotiations all the week.

In the end all the world's nations apart from Burma, agreed to sign up to a deal which sets out a roadmap for 2 years of negotiation, culminating in a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, due to be agreed in Copenhagen in December 2009. The UN have  
*/continued on next page*



## Climate info, continued

indicated that there would be at least 4 more negotiating sessions next year.

No firm targets or commitments were even considered, although developing countries have accepted that deep cuts are needed in their pollution levels. The EU led the rest of the world in pressing hard for the size of the rich countries' cuts to be 25 to 40 per cent by 2020.

### Giant Wind Farms Plan

Offshore wind farms could produce enough energy to power every household in Britain under massive expansion plans announced by the Government.

As many as 7,000 turbines could be installed around the UK's coastline to boost the production of wind energy 60-fold by 2020. This will please those

who are worried about siting the turbines in the countryside, although there is sadly danger to birds anyway. These are urgent times and involve tough decision-making. There are already 1,500 turbines in operation in the UK altogether.

### Greenpeace and Nuclear Challenge

Greenpeace have issued a fresh threat to take legal action against the Government over the building of new nuclear power stations. They were successful earlier this year in forcing the Government to hold a second consultation on its plans for nuclear power.

In a letter to the Government from Greenpeace's lawyers have argued that the consultation 'creates the impression that that the problem of nuclear waste has been solved, when no such solution has been found'.

## Australia's Kyoto Ratification Thrills the World (*press release*)

Australia ratified the Kyoto Protocol on climate change this week, receiving a deserved standing ovation from Bali climate conference delegates. Ratification resulted from the election of a new Prime Minister. Ecological Internet's global network helped a bit, campaigning on many occasions over the past decade for Australia to ratify Kyoto, rejoining responsible nations.

"Australia's embrace of Kyoto shows environmental campaigning should focus not only upon what is easy, but rather take principled long-term positions regarding what is necessary to achieve global ecological sustainability. If Australia can ratify

Kyoto, certainly pigs can fly; and coal emissions and ancient forest logging ended", notes Dr. Glen Barry of Ecological Internet.

"Global heating threatens the Earth's ecosystems and human habitat. Kyoto establishes important global mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, that once universally in place, can be expanded and tightened. With Australia on board, and American elections looming, it is almost certain the U.S. will follow, to be joined by China and India in mandatory emission cuts."

## FoE's Change Your World – It's the Economy, stupid

### **Friends of the Earth is on the verge of achieving a momentous victory.**

The Climate Change Bill, which we conceived and campaigned for, is about to be passed into law. We should all be very proud, but there's no time to rest. Now the real battle begins. New Economics campaigner Ed Matthew reports.

One of the reasons the Climate Change Bill promises to be so powerful is that it recognises that there are environmental limits we must live within and that carbon budgets must be set and enforced. This Bill is the first step in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

It is however only the first step. The next step will be an even greater challenge. Despite the Government's rhetoric on the need to reduce emissions it has become increasingly clear that it has comprehensively failed to make the substantial cuts required. And the root cause is its economic approach.

The Government is still so addicted to unlimited economic growth that it just can't help itself backing big, climate-busting infrastructure projects. The Planning Reform Bill announced in the Queen's Speech is a classic example. It will make it easier for big infrastructure projects like major roads and nuclear power stations to be built.

Alistair Darling's first Pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review was similarly disappointing. He announced no significant funding, new legislation or tax breaks for bringing down carbon emissions. He did,

however, confirm funding for widening of the M1 and the M6 motorways.

Another problem is the Government's fanatical belief in the ability of the market to deliver the right solution. It continues to rely on companies to undertake voluntary action and backs the solutions that require the least legal constraint. So biofuels are championed instead of tough standards on the motoring industry or higher taxes on polluting vehicles.

With carbon emissions inexorably rising it is clear that this economic approach has failed and must be changed.

FoE will once again lead the way. In November we launched a blockbuster report by Dr Brenda Boardman of Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute which set out a blueprint for reducing emissions from UK homes by a whopping 80 per cent by 2050.

FoE will use these recommendations to develop a campaign that will not only lead to massive emissions cuts, it will boost the grassroots movement to establish low carbon communities and implement the economic principles required for the creation of a truly low carbon economy. This campaign will offer a great opportunity for local groups to lead a national campaign that will have international impact.

Are you excited? Are you ready? The Climate Change battle may almost be won. But the battle to implement it has just begun.

## FoE's Change Your World – Agrofuels, a global challenge

Corporates campaigner Kenneth Richter takes a look at what is wrong with agrofuels.

- The global expansion of agrofuel plantations is happening at breathtaking speed and has caused great concern in the international Friends of the Earth network. In many countries agrofuels are blamed for: massive deforestation, resulting in biodiversity loss and the destruction of vital carbon sinks
- human rights violations through the displacement of indigenous people
- competition with food supply resulting in increased food prices, especially in developing countries.

Fans of agrofuels claim that these problems will be addressed via the use of sustainability criteria. But many issues remain unsolved or are not even covered by sustainability criteria or certification schemes.

In many countries the tide of public opinion is turning against agrofuels as awareness grows of the problems they cause. In Uganda, for instance, controversial plans to allow the privately owned Mehta Group to destroy a third of Mabira rainforest and convert it to sugarcane for biofuels have been rejected by the Government.

In light of the new evidence Friends of the Earth groups from all over the world have worked together to come up with a robust position on this complex problem.

Our stance has changed from being broadly supportive under certain conditions, to being very sceptical about the role agrofuels can play in moving towards a sustainable future.

Campaigns on agrofuels are now up and running in many member groups. In Europe the campaign is focusing on two EU directives: The Biofuel Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive which are currently going through the legislative process. Both have the potential to promote large agrofuel expansion and contain very Weak safeguards.

In the UK many local groups and activists are already involved in awareness raising about the dangers of agrofuels. Activists have lobbied MPs to vote against agrofuel expansion and have taken part in a banner protest outside Europe's largest biofuels conference in Nottingham.

### **Agrofuels – biofuels – what's the difference**

"Agrofuels" has become the internationally preferred term used collectively for the most destructive biofuels. It is defined as: liquid transport fuels made from plants grown in large monocultures. It does not include the more environmentally positive biofuels like for example recycled cooking oil, biofuels produced locally on a small scale and the use of sustainable biomass for heating and electricity. Friends of the Earth supports the use of locally and sustainably produced biofuels.

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## FoE's Change Your World – Challenge transport growth

### Brussels leads where Darling falters

In October the Chancellor published his Pre-Budget Report (PBR) and Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The only positive measure in the PBR was a proposal to reform Air Passenger Duty and charge it per plane. This will cover freight and transfer passengers for the first time and will give airlines a greater incentive to fill their planes. We believe it must be set at a level such that individual air fares do not fall.

There will be a consultation on the details before the new charge is introduced in November 2009. Announcements on measures to promote low-carbon cars were delayed until the Budget next Spring.

The CSR contained no real positive news on transport spending, and we will have to wait for further announcements from the Department for Transport to hear whether our demands have been accepted.

Despite intense lobbying from the car industry, the European Parliament's influential Environment Committee voted to strengthen a proposal from the European Commission to introduce legally binding limits on the amount of carbon dioxide produced by new cars. Recent studies from the Commission for Integrated Transport show that making cars more fuel efficient is the most effective way of cutting emissions from transport.

In October the Environment Committee voted on the inclusion of

aviation into the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme. After receiving thousands of emails, they again agreed with many of Friends of the Earth's demands and voted to strengthen the Commission's proposed laws.

Both these votes were very positive but are only the start of a protracted battle to ensure the final legislation is strong enough to tackle growing transport emissions.

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### The problem with agrofuels – *cont'd*

#### Friends of the Earth's demands:

- The EU to drop its agrofuel quantity targets
- A moratorium on imports of agrofuels into the EU and on subsidies that encourage the development and large-scale production of agrofuels
- Measures to reduce the impact of transport on the climate, by reducing demand, promoting a shift from road and air transport towards rail and sea transport, and tough EU legislation to reduce CO2 emissions from vehicles
- Significantly increased investment in the development of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy generation technologies including the sustainable use of local biomass and local biogas (from waste products)

## **FoE's Change Your World – Reducing emissions in our homes**

Friends of the Earth, supported by the Co-op Bank, commissioned Dr Brenda Boardman from Oxford University to investigate what the UK Government can do to make it both cheap and easy for everyone to reduce the emissions in their homes. New Economics Campaigner Ed Matthew tells us more about this bold new research.

### **It's time for some home truths**

The household sector represents 25 per cent of our total emissions and achieving deep cuts here is imperative. However, since 1997 this Government has seen carbon emissions from UK homes rise by over five per cent whilst fuel poverty in the UK has doubled in the last five years. This is despite powerful Government rhetoric about the desperate need to reduce emissions and fuel poverty.

Dr Boardman's groundbreaking report Home Truths provides great hope however. She concludes that the Government can reduce carbon emissions from UK homes by 80 per cent by 2050. But there is no time to lose - the Government has to start right now.

The solutions she outlines require a totally transformative economic approach. One of the most exciting recommendations is for the charge to be led by Local Authorities. She sets out a programme which will be rolled out street by street, village by village, city by city until every home in the UK is fully insulated and has micro-generation fitted. It will require tough regulation and generous subsidies and tax breaks.

The Government has focused its energy on tackling emissions from new homes and has set a target for all new homes to be zero carbon by 2016. This is welcome as it intends to build 3 million new homes by 2020. But in fact, up to three quarters of the homes we will inhabit by 2050 are already standing today. If we are to effectively tackle emissions from the housing sector, the main focus must be on how to carbon-proof existing homes. Yet the Government's policies in this area have achieved little.

Dr Boardman has a vision which involves tough standards for households, making it cheaper and easier for people to do the right thing and starting an information revolution. This provides the framework for a big campaign push from Friends of the Earth on low carbon homes. Local groups can play a key role in getting these policies adopted at the local and national level.

Our campaign will take off in mid 2008. We have the solutions to deliver an 80% cut in emissions and Friends of the Earth will be at the forefront of their development and adoption. The low carbon revolution starts at home.

**January meeting**

**Don't forget – it's on**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

## Various - from CAAT briefly, Fol re DU, Biggin Hill clarification

### CAAT information

In the latest issue of CAATNews, Ann Feltham explores what happens next for the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO). Here's a taster.

The decision to shut DESO, the government's arms sales unit, was announced by the Prime Minister in July. The arms industry was furious at the news. Gordon Brown also announced that military export promotion would be the responsibility of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the body that supports all UK exports. Meanwhile, agreements between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and other governments, primarily Saudi Arabia, will continue to be administered by the MoD.

Cabinet Office officials have told CAAT that shutting DESO should not be seen as a move towards ending the arms industry. Rather, they claim it will put the Government's relationship with the industry on a more normal footing, similar to that with other industries, ending the military industry's status as a special case. Initially, there will be a 'defence sector unit' in UKTI and it will be the largest of what are currently about forty sectors.

### Depleted uranium at Fort Halstead, near Sevenoaks

Alan Murinan, a local CND member, recently requested information under the Freedom of Information Act on the amount of depleted uranium stored at Fort Halstead. The reply, from a subset of the Ministry of Defence, said that the FoIA did not apply to that held

for civilian use but there was 140kg stored there. The reply said that information about military applications was limited so as not to prejudice the capability of the UK Armed Forces but that the intention was to store up to 100 sources with a maximum activity per source of 200kg.

### December newsletter – and Biggin Hill. A possible misunderstanding; a note from the editor

The last newsletter contained the text of an advertisement that had appeared in the News Shopper headed "An ambulance service at Biggin Hill." There was also an extract from the diary page of the Bromley Times about a service that enabled people to take their pets on holiday to Europe. The page itself was headed "Biggin Hill Airport Ltd – Winning hearts and minds."

I assumed that readers of the newsletter would take the info on this page in the spirit in which it was intended, namely that this was part of an attempt by the owners of Biggin Hill airport to soften up public opinion before they make their next assault on Bromley Council in an attempt to renegotiate their lease. There wasn't room for an explanation of this.

It has been suggested that this was "a blurb for the airport without a balancing comment." I can assure you that this was in no way intended as a free plug for the airport and hope that no-one was misled into thinking that Bromley Friends of the Earth had changed sides on the Biggin Hill issue.

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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*temporarily unavailable – apologies*

### 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 need a lift to Bromley FoE meetings or outings, let the editor know and we will publish your request in the newsletter.

### 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 also contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the Newsletter.

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

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## **Non-members' Section**

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

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

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

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

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £6 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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