

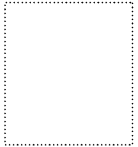


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

November 2007 **No. 238** **Newsletter**

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



November Meeting

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

Solar Energy Generation in the deserts

Tuesday 6th November
7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend.

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER. Contact details inside front cover.

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Don't miss the Fairtrade stall at our November 6th meeting

Diary dates:

November 6th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's November meeting – Solar energy generation in the deserts + Fairtrade Stall
December 4th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's December meeting
December 8th (Sat)	Annual Climate Change March – Assemble Millbank 12noon to march to the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square for a rally at 2.30pm – Bromley FoE's banner will be there. Please join in. See www.campaigncc.org for more details.
January 8th (Tues)	Bromley FoE's January meeting – AGM plus speaker

Fairtrade stall at November meeting

November's meeting of the group will also feature a Fairtrade stall, organised by Sheila. Among a long list of delights to get your Christmas shopping off to a good start, you will be able to buy Christmas cards and Fairtrade ingredients for your Christmas cooking. Enjoy the evening by helping Fairtrade profits!

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.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 18TH 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.

October meeting report – Generating Green Energy at home

Graham Hemington

Julia Westall and Hilary Couch gave us the benefit of their experiences with solar panels and geothermal energy.

Solar panels – Julia

Wanting to economise in her Victorian semi-detached house, Julia visited the Centre for Alternative Energy where she found out about the use of solar panels for capturing sunlight energy and converting it into heat energy which is used to heat the water (and anti-freeze) in the panels.

A small legacy enabled her to enquire about a possible supplier of panels, Solar Century. Written questions and answers about solar heating and contacts with satisfied customers convinced her to buy an appropriate system. The subsequent installation of panels on the part of the roof with maximum sunlight was in 1989, with a guarantee from the builder.

There is a widespread but erroneous belief that the British Isles are not sufficiently sunny to justify an investment in solar energy. In fact, solar radiation is more than most people imagine. Diffused radiation (received on cloudy days) accounts for about 60% and direct radiation for the other 40%.

The resulting hot water is sufficient for Julia's kitchen and bathroom. A gas fire and an electric cooker are the only other means of obtaining heat – there are no radiators.

Also fitted on the roof are photo-voltaic (PV) cells to convert sunlight energy into electrical energy, known as a

sunstation. The resulting direct current is converted into alternating current, the same as is obtained from the national grid.

A meter shows the electricity generated by the PV cells in kilowatt hours (kWh) after which the electricity is wired to the house fuse box where it supplements the electricity from the grid. Any surplus electricity is fed into the grid via the "Private Export Meter" for about 7p per kWh. Break-even for the sunstation occurred after 18 years.

Geothermal energy (Hilary)

This process involves the transfer of the internal heat of the earth to heat up cold water. In practice, this means the installation of panels containing cold water and anti-freeze, linked together and buried in sand, one meter below the surface. There are three rows of these interlinked panels in an area the size of a large garden lawn.

Flexible insulated piping links the panels together and carries the cold water out of the house and hot water into the house to a compressor and tank unit.

In addition to the cost of the panels and piping, other significant costs are the hire of the mechanical digger, lorry loads of sand (10 cubic metres) and the building of a man-hole for maintenance and inspection purposes.

However, Hilary did receive a grant of £1500 and has enough hot water for the radiators, bathroom and kitchen; she expects the total costs to be recouped in nine years.

Climate change stall, and photo – Ann Garrett

Many thanks to all who turned up to help with the climate change stall. Here is the press release:-

Bromley Friends of the Earth members were joined by Bob Neill, MP for Bromley and Chislehurst on Saturday Sept 29th in Bromley High Street campaigning for increased emissions targets [eg 80% by 2050] as part of their 'Big Ask' campaign. 64 cards were signed by members of the public.

Friends of the Earth also want to see that the Climate Change Bill includes annual targets and emissions from international aviation and shipping.

Bob Neill is very supportive of these aims and will do his utmost to influence other MPs when the Climate Change Bill is debated during the next session of Parliament.



Climate Change Bike Ride – Dec 8th

See Diary Dates for info about the march itself.

Assemble 10.00am Lincoln's Inn Fields and cycle to Parliament Square

to meet up with main march to US Embassy.

Full details from Simon on 07986-904748 or paula.hollings@freeuk.com or this website: <http://www.campaigncc.org/cycle.html>

Crystal Palace Walk

A big thank you to Janet Ambrose [led by new lively dog Tilley!] for taking us on a most interesting walk round the Crystal Palace Park site. Tilley bounded up to the top of the hill pulling Janet with her while the rest of us had problems with maintaining the pace! The first stop was the Victorian aquarium which is being excavated. Then we made our way to the museum which was showing some old video footage as well as containing many historical artefacts, and walked back to the café and visitor's centre via the farm area which is soon to be opened and managed by Capel Manor and of course past the dinosaurs and lakes where wildlife abounds.

Janet was rightly very critical of some of pathway regeneration which is intrusive and badly laid. There are also concerns about the future of the sports centre which is now closed due to asbestos, and possible housing developments and tram-link running through the upper part of the park. Green groups and the majority of local residents are opposed to the two latter. Discussion about the sports centre has mixed opinion and is complex to resolve. All this is now in the hands of the London Development Agency who are in continuous discussion residents groups, as part of the official consultation process.

Fat Cats refuse to set CO2 targets

Green campaigners have condemned British big business for not committing itself to reduction in carbon emissions. A survey by Christian Aid has found that fewer than one in five of the FTSE 100 companies have set targets for emissions reduction, despite a

government pledge to reduce British emissions by 10% cent by 2010 and 60% by 2050. Only 47 companies have supplied substantive data to the survey.

As we know the government targets don't go far enough any way, so for large companies to be so negative is thoroughly irresponsible and extremely worrying.

Bush takes lead on global warming action

This is some surprising good news:- The Bush administration has taken the lead in discussions set up by the UN which is hosting a meeting of 70 heads of government to kick-start an international treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol to slow down global warming. The US deserves credit so far for its work to push for faster cuts in HFCs. However it is still important to pressurise for tougher action on the burning of oil, gas and coal.

Useful Guidance from Graham Hemington on the Big Ask

Graham has made an appointment to see his MP – John Horam and sent the following information to me concerning the Climate Change Bill:-

Second Reading of the bill in November – MPs to speak in support. Committee Stage - MPs to try to get onto the committee to influence changes in the wording. Otherwise to lobby the committee. Report Stage – MPs to vote on amended bill, especially voting in favour of any amendment to toughen the bill.

/continued on page 7

Transport info – Ray Watson, transport campaigner

A victory on airport hotel plan

It pays to kick up a dust – sometimes. And it did with the proposal to build a 100-bed hotel at Biggin Hill Airport. London Borough of Bromley turned it down in the face of protests from residents' groups and Bromley FoE, the planning inspector who heard the airport's appeal turned it down – and so did the Secretary of State when it went to Ministerial level.

The council opposed the hotel on design grounds – 'like a warehouse' said one councillor. But residents were more concerned that the airport would not provide enough guests to keep the hotel solvent and that would lead to the airport demanding fare-paying passenger flights – banned under its lease – or threaten the council with the blame for closing it.

Indeed, the airport won planning permission for a 50-bed hotel more than 20 years ago and that has never been acted on.

In fact, the inspector ruled that there might be enough business to support the hotel. However there will be another chance to see if that view still prevails because the airport has put in *another* application for a similar hotel, with some design changes. Again, Bromley Council rejected it on design concerns and now that is under appeal.

We should also hope that the inspector will take into consideration the extra traffic pollution and noise that project will generate. Meanwhile, let us be thankful for at least one victory.

Car use just keeps growing

New figures show – if proof were needed – just how reliant we are on the car. In fact, it is embarrassing!

The Department of Transport says that no less than 80 per cent of all private journeys are made by car, a total that despite environmental pleas has remained the same since 1995. Even worse, nearly a quarter of those journeys were less than two miles.

The DoT also reveals that 75 per cent of all households now have a car and that, including trips by air, Britons travelled an average of 7,133 miles in 2006 and walked 201 miles. And who now holds a driving licence? Among women the figure has risen to 63 per cent while among men it has remained constant at 81 per cent.

High time we got back to the bike...

Predicted: 'Traffic hell'

Meanwhile, the predicted result of all this is 'traffic hell'-- that's the phrase used by the Campaign for Better Transport (formerly Transport 2000). And with good reason because the department for Transport is forecasting that another 5.7 million cars will be on our roads in the next 20 years, increasing the overall traffic load by 30 per cent.

Campaign director Stephen Joseph commented: 'Traffic is destroying our communities, our health, our environment. The Government must stop catering to all this traffic and give people and businesses good alternatives to driving'.

/continued on next page

Transport info – and Ann’s info – both continued

He called for road pricing and a national scheme to control carbon emissions.

The DfT claims that it has a good record on public transport spending, with £80 million a week being invested in the rail network and £2.5bn this year on buses. A spokesman said that as the economy grows more people will travel and are travelling further, and additional road capacity was being provided ‘where appropriate’.

The spokesman added: ‘Relying solely on extra capacity is not the answer. That is why we have, and continue to make, record investments in improving public transport alongside new and innovative ways of to make the most of the existing network’.

Up in the air, too

There are equally dismal figures about the fast-growing aviation industry. Low-cost flights now account for 22 per cent of all flights in Europe – up 4 per cent on last year. And this total amounts to nearly a third of all airline seats in Europe.

In September alone, budget airlines had for sale 21.8mn seats on 133.000 flights within Europe, another record figure. And the global total for flights in September? A mere 2.47 mn.

Just think of the pollution attached to those figures! And this from an industry that receives tax breaks from the Government by not paying VAT on its fuel and other purchases. At least taxing flights rather than passengers, as proposed in the Chancellor’s autumn statement, makes sense →→

Livingstone praised over green policies

A London South Bank University report has praised the mayor’s policies as highly successful in cutting energy consumption and CO2 emissions in new developments. The drive to produce designs that are energy efficient show evidence of his commitment to establishing sharper practice.

His recent draft housing strategy states the intention to deliver 30,500 new homes a year, including 50,00 affordable homes - all of which must meet high standards of environmental performance. All this, however, will need careful scrutiny by green organisations.

Encouraging words from Gordon Brown

The following statement was made by Gordon Brown at the Labour Party Conference; -“...And I am proud that Britain will now become the first country in the world to write into law binding limits on carbon emissions. But I am not satisfied: so I am asking the new independent climate change committee to report on whether the 60 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050, which is already bigger than most other countries, should be even stronger still.”

We now need to push Brown to the 80% target, but this is evidence that at least he is aware of the Big Ask demands.

And we can only hope that it deters airlines from flying near-empty planes.

Another view of the Crystal Palace walk, from Anne Clark

Having woken on a lovely Autumn morning, I realised I was in time to take part in a walk round Crystal Palace Park Road led by the informative Janet and her new energetic canine, which tried to pull her along at a rate of knots.

With the trees tinged with orange and the sun shining, I was soon picking up glossy “conkers” as we made our way up what would have been the main tree-lined drive to the glass exhibition building. Crossing the newly designed white pathways, which blew an unpleasant dust all over us and some nearby children, we came upon an old motor racing track echoing days of past glory. Then it was on up past the few attractive old Victorian houses that lined the perimeter.

Passing the old maze and rusty coloured concert bowl, we strode up the grassy hill to the first terrace with its attractive stone arches and glorious views. Around the side of the BBC

building we came across some worthy volunteers unearthing the remains of the old aquarium with its tunnels etc. Leaflets told us of its history.

We were now wind blown and on the top terrace with the magnificent staircase where once stone figures had stood. Spending some time in the Museum, open on Sundays, where there was a very good video, we went in to see the old station, then made our way back down into the valley, past the well used Sports Centre, the old abandoned zoo and the refurbished lakes with their model dinosaurs, assorted bird life and even an imitation coal seam.

We emerged from the assorted woodland to a very welcome café where we sat refreshed and sun-kissed. A truly lovely walk where I hadn't been for a while. It was well-used and long may it remain one of London's beautiful parks and worth fighting for.

Government Energy Consultation - seriously flawed, by Ann Garrett

Zac Goldsmith and John Gummer's Quality of Life Commission has now published its recommendations. It called for a curb on airport expansion and re- evaluation of the roads enlargement programme.

With a panel of UN appointed scientists saying we have as little as eight years to stop the building of climate –changing emissions from reaching tipping point, it's what our Government does now that counts.

Every indication though suggests that Gordon Brown lacks a serious and coherent approach. He has received

much warning and advice and seems to take no initiative'. As a result Greenpeace, FoE and the WWF, have pulled out of the energy consultation, calling it a sham.

The new consultation claims that nuclear generation is cheaper than wind, although government figures say the opposite. If Gordon Brown were really listening he'd understand the potential for what is called Combined Heat and Power on industrial sites and in communities. The Stern Report needs adhering to and so there is a lot of lobbying to do.

Planning objections, from Ray Watson

Planning matters will always be controversial in Bromley and we have this month sent three objections.

1. The council want to sell a plot of land in Norshead Lane, Biggin Hill, which will join up with other land for development. We oppose this on the grounds that the land is currently used for recreational activities and is adjacent to the Green Belt. We say it will be a loss of amenity to residents.

2. An applicant wants to develop land at Holy Innocents School, Mitchell Rd, Orpington, to include a school building,

play areas, parking and also nine four-bedroom detached houses. It is the housing to which we object because this is a very crowded area and because it would restrict future expansion of the school.

3. At Kings Rd, in the same area, a developer wants to use back land to build four terraced and three semi-detached houses with vehicular access. We oppose this on the grounds of the current high density of the area, the greater flow of traffic and the loss of amenity for surrounding home owners.

London Local Group Forum Meeting report – Ann Garrett

This was held at Underwood Street on Sept 20th and began with a discussion about how to get more participation from groups who don't attend. It was decided that the Forum can be used for networking, sharing practice and supporting each other in campaigning.

Other topics covered was the importance of writing to local papers about getting the free papers properly recycled, Big Ask final push before Queen's Speech on October 6th with focus on Labour back benchers and updating local websites. Ideas were

suggested for linking the latter into the London Local Groups Forum website with an email newsletter.

I raised the concern of the dangers of nuclear waste train transportation through the Stratford Olympic site. Tom Wright who works in the FoE office and who is planning to start a Leytonstone group agreed to take up this issue, which had originally been discussed at a Nuclear Trains Action Group meeting on Sept 3rd.

Solar power - See for yourself!

Julia Westall, our September speaker who masterminded the installation of her own solar-powered heating system (see page 3) says she would welcome a visit by members of Bromley FoE to see the system for themselves. Just phone first: 0208 466 5449.

Re-User item (1)

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

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

FoE appalled by Commission's Severn Barrage recommendations

Environmental pressure group, Friends of the Earth, is alarmed at the pro-Severn Barrage recommendations published by the Sustainable Development Commission. The Commission, which is the Government's independent watchdog on sustainable development, dismissed alternative proposals for large scale lagoons.

Friends of the Earth is calling for a comprehensive study of tidal lagoons and a smaller barrage on the Severn (Shoots barrage). The environmental charity rejects the Commission's recommendation that a feasibility study should be focused on the Severn Barrage - only looking at alternatives looked if the barrage if it failed key tests.

The group expressed disappointment that the Commission proposes a scheme that would be publicly funded. Due to its high generating cost of 9.2p per kilowatt hour the Barrage would be nearly three times the cost of large tidal lagoons.

Friends of the Earth has identified six main reasons why tidal lagoons would be a better option than a Severn Barrage, and sets these out in a comprehensive report released today.

Lagoons are far more efficient – they could produce up to 60% more energy than the Severn barrage

Lagoons are much cheaper – they would generate electricity at about half the cost of the barrage p/kWh versus 6 p/kWh)

Lagoons would not impede navigation - unlike the Severn barrage, which could significantly reduce freight trade entering the UK via the Severn ports, Avonmouth and Portbury. This would have adverse knock-on effects on Bristol, and strain capacity and transport links at other UK ports

Lagoons would not destroy an internationally important habitat - unlike the Severn barrage, which would destroy the feeding grounds of tens of thousands of birds and damage the legally protected Severn Estuary

Lagoons would integrate well with other renewable energy schemes – unlike the Severn barrage, which would need expensive stand-by capacity to cope with the huge twice daily pulses of power that would not synchronise with the daily variations in grid demand

Lagoons would be compatible with a Shoots barrage near the Second Severn Crossing, which could provide flood defence and a strategic rail link from London to south Wales avoiding the ageing Severn tunnel

Neil Crumpton, Friends of the Earth Energy Campaigner and author of the group's Severn Barrage Report, said:

"The Sustainable Development Commission is saying that the Severn Barrage would be a flagship project – leading the UK's investment in renewable energy. Yet to seriously damage an internationally important wildlife site in order to generate less
/continued on next page

FoE Press Release - Tony Juniper confirms final year in post

Tony Juniper has today (Friday 12 Oct 2007) formally announced that he will stand down as Friends of the Earth's Executive Director in the second half of 2008 at the end of a six year period.

Tony will stand down following many achievements, including seeing through the introduction of a UK law on climate change as a result of the Friends of the Earth's ongoing climate campaign, The Big Ask.

Tony Juniper said: "By 2008 I will have been with Friends of the Earth for 18 years and, after six fantastic years as Executive Director, the time will be right to hand on to a new face, and for me to take on new challenges. I have achieved many personal ambitions working as part of a great charity that's made hugely positive changes to the lives of people and their environment, both locally and around the world."

"Thanks to Friends of the Earth's successful public campaigns we are about to get a UK law on climate change, and have already got a law in place that is making doorstep recycling possible for the British public. These are among a great many achievements that it has been my privilege to work towards during my many years with Friends of the Earth. I'm very much looking forward to continuing to lead Friends of the Earth during my final year and to ultimately handing on a vibrant and successful organisation to a new Director in 2008."

Simon Counsell, Chair of Friends of the Earth Board, said:

"The role of Director at Friends of the Earth is extremely demanding, and we have gone from strength to strength under Tony's leadership. Tony has played a key role in presenting solutions to environmental issues both with the public and policy makers.

"In the last six years, Friends of the Earth has had great campaigning successes, including the introduction of the climate change law which is the first of its kind in the world. We've seen a huge increase in public supporters, donations and profile, and steady growth in the number of Friends of the Earth voluntary local groups around the country. We will be in great shape for any new Director."

"Any new Director will need to be an exceptional person, able to publicly champion a charity that makes a real difference to people and the environment as well as a great internal leader. We will be actively inviting applicants from all sectors and look forward to a smooth transition next year."

FoE on Severn Barrage proposals
than one percent of the UK's energy consumption is not the way to lead the world in sustainable development.

"We urgently need to promote renewable energy initiatives but they need to be the right ones. A combination of a smaller barrage and tidal lagoons would produce more energy with more flexibility, are cheaper and would cause less damage. That is why we support them for the Severn."

FoE on What's in the Waste after Reuse, Recycling and Composting

FoE has published a report which analyses what materials are likely to be in residual municipal waste after high levels of reuse, recycling and composting. The research, carried out by EnviroCentre Consultants, found that a large reduction in residual wastes could potentially be achieved by improving capture rates, and through addressing some specific high-tonnage waste streams.

The less residual waste we have, the less demand there is for facilities such as landfills, mechanical biological treatment plants or incinerators, to process it. Higher levels of reuse, recycling and composting will reduce our climate impacts and increase the efficiency with which we use resources. The second phase of research will now examine policy measures that could be taken in order to get these materials reused, recycled, composted - or prevented.

The research comes at a time when residual waste - that is the waste that is not reused, recycled or composted - is becoming an increasing priority for both local and national government. The Government's England Waste strategy, launched in May, set a national target for reducing residual waste, and the Government has since proposed that residual waste tonnage per capita should be a key indicator for monitoring the performance of local councils on waste .

Dr Michael Warhurst, senior waste and resources campaigner at FoE, said:

"This fascinating research shows us both the challenge and the opportunity

that we have in taking the long-term direction of phasing out residual waste. It is clear that this is the right policy direction, both to minimise our climate impacts and to maximise our resource efficiency. We are looking forward to the results of the second phase to identify solid policy measures."

Dr Cathy Maguire, Principal Researcher with EnviroCentre, said:

"We look forward to talking to other stakeholders to identify the policy measures that could have real impact on significantly reducing residual waste. We also recommend that the government improves its data gathering in this area, as we found that the data available does not currently provide a robust basis for decision making and policy development."

The results were estimated based on two scenarios: one assumed that everything that could be recycled had already been (hypothetical scenario), the other assumed that some recyclables would still end up in residual waste, e.g. because of households not using the recycling system properly (practical scenario).

The most significant types of residual waste in the hypothetical scenario were found to be 'other paper and card', construction and demolition waste, furniture, disposable nappies and mixed bagged waste. Wastes in the practical scenario were similar, except the largest tonnage was kitchen waste. In the practical scenario, plastic packaging - which has the highest public profile - actually came in just outside the top 10 materials by weight.

Tasmanian forest in danger from pulp mill

Take Action

Please register your opposition to the proposed Tasmanian pulp mill as a final decision is imminent :
<http://www.climateark.org/alerts/send.asp?id=tasmania>

Update

Australian media reports that Australia's Federal Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, will be announcing this week whether the federal government will provide environmental approval for the proposed Tasmanian ancient forest fed pulp mill.

The Tasmanian state parliament recently rubber-stamped the project. However, Malcolm Turnbull then announced a six week extension to decide whether the federal environmental would approve the project. Of particular concern was the mill's proposed effluent discharge into the area's fragile marine environment.

This extended period of consideration is nearing its end. Meanwhile Australian and international protest continues to surge against the ill-conceived, fast-tracked doubling of logging in Tasmania's ancient forests for throw away paper products.

Ecological Internet's network alone has sent 387,476 protest emails to Australian authorities from 3,545 people in 83 countries. The world's forest and climate protectors need to make a final push on this difficult and detestable matter.

Original Alert

Australia's woodchipping giant Gunns Ltd. has been granted fast track approval by the Tasmanian government to build a massive chemical pulp mill in northern Tasmania. This forest-hungry pulp mill will be a disaster for Australia's ancient forests, climate, wildlife and future.

If built, the US\$1.4 billion project would need four million tonnes of logs a year. It will also dump thousands of tonnes of poisonous effluent into Bass Strait every day, threatening marine life, tourism and the fishing industry.

For way too long Tasmania's ancient forests have been clearcut to produce paper pulp, mostly for the Japanese market. Continued markets for paper pulp from ancient forest liquidation depend upon this disastrous pulp mill being forced through the Australian legal system. The impact of this massive pulp mill on Tasmania's ancient native forests, much less regional and global climate, have not been considered.

Additionally Minister Turnbull has acknowledged there is insufficient data available to assess the impacts of 64,000 tonnes a day of poisonous waste being released into Bass Strait.

At a time when Australia's federal government is proposing funding ancient forest protection and conservation internationally as a measure to combat climate change, it is hypocritical and repulsive that Australia continues industrially clearing its own native forests.

Nine Inconvenient Truths

A High Court judge turned film critic as he highlighted “nine scientific errors” in Al Gore’s Oscar-winning climate change documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The judge said some of the errors had arisen in “the context of alarmism and exaggeration” to support the former US vice-president’s thesis on global warming.

The Government’s decision to show the film in secondary schools had come under attack from father-of-two Stewart Dimmock, a Kent school governor and a member of political group The New Party, who accused the Government of “brainwashing” children with propaganda.

Mr Justice Burton ruled at London’s High Court that the film, much acclaimed by environmentalists, could be shown in schools as part of a climate change resource pack, but only if it was accompanied by new guidance notes to balance Mr Gore’s “one-sided” views.

The judge said it might be necessary for the Department of Children, Schools and Families to make clear to teaching staff that some of Mr Gore’s views were not supported or promoted by the Government, and there was “a view to the contrary”.

The judge said he had viewed the film and described it as “a powerful, dramatically presented and highly professionally produced film.”

It was built round the “charismatic presence” of the ex vice president “whose crusade it now is to persuade the world of the dangers of climate change caused by global warming.” But the judge then set out nine alleged errors in the film in which statements were made that were not supported by the current mainstream scientific consensus.

HOWEVER, the judge’s statements on these so-called errors have been widely criticised as being inaccurate.

A Government spokesperson said it was not proposing to make any further comment on the case today. When the judge indicated what his findings were likely to be, Children’s Minister Kevin Brennan said: “The judge’s decision is clear, that schools can continue to use *An Inconvenient Truth* as part of their teaching on climate change in accordance with the amended guidance.

“We have updated the accompanying guidance, as requested by the judge, to make it clearer for teachers as to the stated IPCC position on a number of scientific points raised in the film.

“However, it is important to be clear that the central arguments put forward in *An Inconvenient Truth*, that climate change is mainly caused by man-made emissions of greenhouse gases and will have serious adverse consequences, are supported by the vast weight of scientific opinion.

“Nothing in the judge’s comments today detract from that.”

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vacant

Bromley FoE web site:

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!

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 £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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