

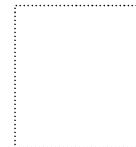


**Friends of
the Earth**

Bromley

September 2008 **No. 249** **Newsletter**

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



September Meeting

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

Green Homes Concierge Service

Natalie Holmes

Greening Your Home

Tuesday 2nd September

7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER. Contact details inside front cover.

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

Diary dates:

September 2nd (Tues)	Bromley FoE's September meeting – Green Homes Concierge Service with Natalie Holmes. Plus Traidcraft stall.
September 13th (Sat)	Bromley FoE Bio Fuel Campaign stall – Bromley High Street, 1200 – 2.00, outside Caffè Nero. Only 3 people signed up so far – please help.
September 20th (Sat)	Sustainable Transport Event: Cotmandene Crescent, St Paul's Cray – Bromley FoE's stall will be there. Come on your bike, if you can.
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

September meeting – Green Homes Concierge Service

40% of a Londoner's carbon footprint comes from their home. Almost 60% of London's housing stock was built before 1930s.

Green Homes Concierge Service is a world first initiative to help London homeowners reduce their CO2 impact and contribute to cutting the city's CO2 emissions by 20,000 tonnes over the next three years.

Have you tried ecoballs yet ? Peter Gandolfi asks the question

We first tried these odd plastic flying saucer shapes in the wash instead of the usual detergent, as a solution to removing the sweat smells from the families fencing kit in a cool wash cycle. These worked better than the usual detergent, allow the use of a quick wash cycle, avoid the problems of discharging nasty detergent chemicals into the water system, and allegedly last around 750 cycles before they need refilling.

We found that they work well on most loads, but those heavily soiled still need an occasional detergent wash. The downside is that we paid around £25 for these which includes refills, but these should last for more than 1000 wash cycles. I just wish I knew how they work! If these work as well as they appear to why aren't they more widely used? Or is this linked to the heavy level of advertising used by the detergent companies

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER.**

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

August meeting report (1) – by Ray Watson

Can we be cheerful amid the gloom? Will the environment be forgotten as we cope with an economic downturn? That was the theme taken by our speaker, Paul de Zylva, head of FoE England. And he wasn't pessimistic!

He posed some questions to the group. Does public interest in the environment fall when the economy declines? Most said Yes. Is a recession good for the environment? The group split down the middle. Can we afford to delay actions to help the environment until the economy improves? Again, an almost equal split.

Paul quoted earlier recessions and gave market research figures to show that interest environment may dip on those occasions but it never goes away as an issue in the public's mind.

He pointed out that there was no necessity for a trade-off – either the economy or the environment. Both could be helped at the same time – and they be linked because it was environmental factors that influenced the drop in economic activity, such as higher oil prices, higher land prices, higher food prices, higher water prices – all because of their growing scarcity or through the effects of climate change.

Thus, the economy and the environment were inextricably linked and it was for governments and campaigners alike to ensure that action was taken to assist the environment.

Another reason for optimism, he said, was that the current downturn was not like previous recessions in the 70's and 90's; wealth had doubled since 1971, there was still a huge demand for goods from 'new' countries like India and China while the public was more educated on matters like waste, climate policy and were, along with organisations like FoE exerting greater pressure on governments, while business was now more committed to act on the climate front.

He said that the role of environmentalists and the public now was to push government to continue to act on 'green' concerns in spite of the downturn. The environmental problems will still be there when we move out of the downturn so it makes sense to continue to tackle them before they worsen. And government would act if public pressure were there.

A bonus was that a fall in economic activity meant people were using fewer resources. However, what was the point of reducing consumption now only to scramble to catch up when the economy strengthened again? This was a vicious circle and one that we should not go back to when an upturn comes; we had to learn the lesson of past mistakes.

To people who said that the system cannot be changed, Paul said the answer was that we created the system so we can change it if we push hard enough and argue that the current efforts that people are making

/continued on next page and page 8

August meeting report (2) – Sue and John Bocock

Finding a way through the gloom. This was Paul de Zylva's theme for our August meeting.

He outlined many reasons to be cheerful, by focussing our attention on the environment and perhaps surprisingly, on the economy too.

When introducing the MORI survey to us, conducted in April 2007, he said he was speaking as an economist, although he was "appalling at maths!" Consumers had been asked about their predictions on issues such as product supply, new technology, food shortages, food prices and supermarket shopping. The findings were not only interesting but sometimes also unexpected.

For instance: 67% thought that some products would be in very limited supply due to environmental damage and climate change. 77% thought that the price of food would be likely to go up in the future as retailers and food manufacturers become more responsible. However, only 19% thought supermarkets would become unpopular and more people would shop for groceries at small local shops. The link between the economy and the environment was becoming increasingly clear.

Paul then posed several questions. "Do environmental issues dip when the economy dips?" "Can we afford to do right for the environment in a recession?" "What is the right role for individuals - do governments lead or do they follow?" He then brought us up to date with a few more facts:

The science behind climate change is increasing all the time.

Public awareness has been raised on issues of climate, water, waste and food. The challenge is to build a sustainable -economy. Doubling of wealth since 1971. Demand from China, India and Latin America. Food price rises, driven by oil, bio fuel land take and weather. We know the problems but what are the solutions? We need to decouple high economic growth from poor environmental standards.

Finally. Paul was asked about his own carbon footprint -7 tonnes CO2 annually, which made some of us query ours. A most welcome return of a thought provoking and positive speaker.

Ray's Report - *continued*

to cut their costs in the face of economic pressures can become permanent – more efficient farming practices, consuming less, more eco friendly cars etc.

This could be done by showing people the solutions to their problems and not by hectoring them, or nannying them, or blaming them. People wanted to make their own choices and in the past had demonstrated they would act on 'green' issues. And that was a reason to be optimistic.

Paul's stimulating presentation was followed by questions and views from the group – significantly, nearly everyone present made a contribution. /concluded on page 8.

Campaigns info – Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator

Kingsnorth Power Station March

Bromley FoE members and supporters marched seven miles with 200 other protesters to the Kingsnorth Power Station on the Hoo Peninsula in Kent on August 3rd to make it clear to E.ON UK that coal power stations are very polluting due to the carbon emissions they produce.

The proposal for the new power station at Kingsnorth will only be 20% cleaner. Green campaigners think this is just not enough, especially with scientific proof of the increasing impact of climate change.

Caroline Lucas (Green Party MEP) who spoke at the rally in Rochester before the march, stressed that coal fired power stations were a crime against humanity, that the Government should be moving away from a fossil fuel economy, and that they are sleep-walking into catastrophe.

Penny Eastwood from the Camp for Climate Action warned that protesters were prepared to break the law and emphasised that illegal action can change the world.

We were joined by Steph and Jim from Southwark FoE who are great stalwarts and managed the demanding march which included two steep hills, with enormous fortitude. Those of us at the back were given quite a lot of aggravation by the police who kept telling us to walk faster !

There were plenty of imaginative climate change costumes, including polar bears, music and drumming, and a lot of young people and families with children, many of whom were joining the week's camp.

The reception by members of the public was generally sympathetic, perhaps due to the fact that people in the Hoo area were part of the opposition to an airport at Cliffe.

Kingsnorth is fairly near us here in Bromley and it is important we continue to be involved in the campaign. The proposed new power station technology is untried and tested, and should be challenged.

/continued on page 7



At last the polluter pays!

After months, if not years of haggling, the EU has at last dragged the aviation industry shouting and screaming into its emissions trading scheme. What that means is that airlines will be given free permits to match against 80 per cent of the emissions they cause – but will have to buy other permits from those not needing them should they exceed the 80 per cent limit.

All this won't start until 2010, but it is at least recognition that aviation is one of the worst – and growing – polluters of the planet.

Campaigners such as FoE wanted a much tougher regime to ensure real cuts in emissions rather than a scheme that merely condones them. Also, they pushed for the scheme to be made tougher on the airlines by forcing them to buy a larger proportion of permits, but environment ministers of EU states vetoed this.

As well as heavy lobbying by the airlines, the regime was strongly opposed by the US Government, so campaigners can take some comfort that they achieved at least a partial victory.

More expansion in the air

London City airport in Docklands has grown consistently over the years despite its short runway restricting flights to smaller airliners. But it has announced a new plan for further growth – one that would double its capacity to 120,000 flights a year. Local councils have postponed a decision in order to receive more details and there is a hope that the

Government may call in the application – hope only in that expansion might be delayed.

Meanwhile down the river at Southend, a development plan for the airport there is being considered. One suggestion is that its runway should be lengthened to accommodate 737 jets for business and leisure flights in the expectation of handling two million passengers annually. All this is aimed at making Southend an important staging post for the 2012 Olympics.

What is interesting here is that the airport is currently owned by the same company that manages Biggin Hill, where residents and groups like Bromley FoE have strenuously opposed expansion plans for the last nine years.

Road to ruin: 1

You can understand why politicians tread gingerly when it comes to the motoring lobby. An RAC survey showed that 75 per cent of all households now have a car, while seven out of ten British adults have a driving licence.

Other points that came out of the survey: half of drivers think Britain's roads will be gridlocked in 20 years, 80 per cent want the maximum speed limit raised to 80mph and the average annual mileage of British drivers fell from 10,200 in 1988 to 9,070 in 2007.

Road to ruin: 2

/continued on next page

Transport info & Campaigns info - *continued*

Transport cont'd - Road to ruin: 2

As they say, you couldn't make it up. The Campaign for Better Transport has unearthed figures showing that every year Britain spends a colossal £8.8 billion on just repairing roads. That works out at £22,000 per kilometre.

And you can add to that the current budget for building new roads – a mere £13 billion. Just think what could be done if that cash were used on public transport!

Ecotax a la Francais

The UK is not the only government trying to enforce motorists to buy greener cars. In France there is now a hefty 'ecotaxe' on some new cars. For example, any vehicle emitting more than 160 grams of CO₂ is now taxed on a scale running from 200 to 2600 euros. However, if you purchase a car that emits less than 60 grams you are paid a bonus between 200 and 1000 euros.

Further, if you trade in a car more than 15 years old the government gives you an additional 300 euros. A scheme well worth considering for Chancellor Darling's autumn statement?

Nice work

Still on matters French, the city of Nice is enjoying a successful introduction of a tram system that, even before the summer tourist season, was attracting 60,000 riders a day. Indeed, they are so popular at certain times that passengers are advised to wait for the next tram – usually a maximum of five minutes later.

Each tram has 54 seats but can carry up to 220 people. And they are cheap – a ticket costs one euro and a day pass four euros.

And the bonus? You do not have to compete with French drivers' bad manners.

Campaigns info – cont'd Wind Power Expansion and Jobs

On July 21st the government claimed that the race to harness Britain's coastal wind energy could result in the creation of 30,000 jobs. This is good news, especially as far as enlisting support for alternative energies from trade unions is concerned.

Energy Minister, Malcolm Wicks, while visiting the New and Renewable Energy Centre in Blyth, Northumberland, said that the expansion of off-shore wind power could cause a surge in employment and attract £3 billion of investment in the north east alone.

The impetus for all this would come from foreign private sector investors, with Californian energy giant Clipper Wind, planning to develop the world's largest wind turbine at the centre. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform [what a title!] estimates that a total of 7,000 turbines will be needed to meet UK's proposed EU target of 15% total energy generated by renewable sources. The down side to this though is that the department will not provide direct funding incentives to companies to invest in offshore wind power.

Mediterranean Solar Power and EDM1871 –Graham Hemington

The Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Corporation is an international network of scientists and engineers developing a collaboration between countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa to take advantage of the enormous quantities of energy falling as sunlight on the world's deserts (and wind energy in these regions too.)

Every year each square kilometre of desert receives solar energy equivalent to 1.5 million barrels of oil. Multiplying by the area of deserts

worldwide, this is several hundred times as much energy as the world uses in a year.

This appears to be an excellent idea. So I've asked my MP to support it by signing Early Day Motion 1871**. Will you also ask your MP for his / her support? For more information go to www.trec-uk.org.uk.

**EDM1871's title is "Concentrated solar power and the creation of a high voltage direct current grid."

Foal Farm Open Day – FoE were there



Ray's meeting report - concluded

The second half of the meeting covered a variety of topics – including a report on Ann, Sheila and Jim's efforts on the Kingsnorth power station march, our submission to London

Borough of Bromley on the Orpington town centre plan, details of two High St demos, a presence at the Cudham fete, and thanks to Joyce Pitt for a donation and also to those who helped man a stall at Foal Farm.

Green Homes Concierge Service – one person's experience

Sue Luxton, Lewisham Green councillor, has used the Green Homes Concierge service, the subject of our talk this month.

The Service was launched by Ken Livingstone and London Assembly member Darren Johnson at the beginning of December.

Two Green Homes officers turned up at my home, and did a thorough assessment of the energy efficiency or otherwise of my home. They did an assessment for an EPC (energy performance certificate), but also went much further than that, with thermal imaging, a blower thingy (technical term) to assess how draughty my flat was, using a smoke pen to show me how heat was escaping through my leaky sash windows etc.

After all that they sat down and went through their findings and suggestions with me. My flat scored slightly above national average on the EPC at 63/100, where the national average is about 55/100, but way below the 80/100 required by current building regs for a new-build house. This was mostly because as a ground floor terraced flat I don't lose any heat through a roof or through the walls shared with my neighbours. Also, the EPC doesn't take into account draughts, and as I was all too aware following the cold spell in December, my flat is very draughty.

Frighteningly, they assessed the carbon footprint of my 2-bed flat at 3.7 tonnes a year. Then they suggested measures I could take to get this down

to 2.2 tonnes and save 1.5 tonnes of carbon a year.

Interestingly, the number one thing I could do to improve my home insulation is to add wall insulation to my solid brick walls, either internally or externally. This apparently would reduce my carbon emissions by 20%.

After that, the next big energy efficiency gains, but again at a big financial cost, were replacing the windows and getting underfloor insulation and sealing the gaps between the floorboards. I'm quite keen to get the underfloor insulation and to get the floorboards sealed, but I'm not keen for the insulation to become nesting material for all the local mice that occasionally venture into my flat, so will need a bit of reassurance on that front.

Replacing my boiler with a gas-condensing one would knock about 10% off my home's carbon emissions. They also suggested replacing the radiator temperature controls with something a bit flashier involving zoning and room thermostats and again are getting me quotes on that. The other measures they sometimes suggest, such as solar hot-water, aren't options for a ground floor flat with no roof and a garden shaded by a huge London plane tree.

Anyway, I'm looking forward to getting the full report and finding out more and getting some quotes for some of the work, though if I have everything they suggested done it will be very expensive.

FoE's CYW – Gearing you up for Autumn Action

The EU Renewable Directive is currently being decided. We have an opportunity to make sure that the Government supports a strong and sustainable renewable strategy at home and in Europe. Local Activism Co-ordinator Jenny Thatcher tells us more.

What's the aim of the campaign?

We need to ensure that the Government is 100 per cent behind a strong and sustainable renewables strategy at home and in Europe. This means making sure the UK commits to its current target in the EU Renewables Directive - 15 per cent of energy generated by renewables by 2020. And we need to ensure that this 15 per cent comes just from domestic sources.

Recently there has been a lot of media coverage around the launch of the UK Government's Renewables Strategy Consultation, applauding how ambitious it is. But at an EU level, the Government is trying to undermine the strength of the Directive by arguing that the targets should include renewable energy imported from overseas - similar to offsetting.

The Renewables Directive should be finalised between the end of this year and April 2009. Until then, we have a crucial opportunity to shape the UK's energy future. If we make the right choices now, we can build a renewables industry that will bring millions of pounds, thousands of jobs and a clean and secure energy supply to the UK. We have to wean ourselves off fossil fuels and tap into the UK's rich renewable sources.

This autumn we will launch a campaign to put pressure on the Government to deliver in Europe on renewables - and we need your help.

Day of action and beyond...

On 25 October we will hold a day of action for local groups on renewables, asking people to sign postcards addressed to their MPs asking them to ensure the UK Government backs a strong Renewables Directive. There will also be opportunities to meet with your MP and get coverage in the local media.

However the campaign won't stop there. One of the big challenges on this issue is that the Government needs convincing that a lot of people, from as broad a cross-section of society as possible, support serious, committed action on renewable energy. We need the Government to feel empowered by society to deliver on their commitment by showing them that this is what communities want.

After the day of action on renewables we will move into a new phase of the campaign. From November until the end of the campaign (around late March) we want as many communities across the country as possible to tell their MPs about their support for strong UK action on renewables. You will be on the frontline, working across your communities. We hope that you will be able to help during this crucial phase, by bringing together varied voices where you live.

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FoE's CYW - FoE's big plan to find solutions

Friends of the Earth has an increasing number of local groups -- such as Bromley FoE -- and a five-year plan has been created to harness the power of this growth.

The plan is based on a more cohesive and positive approach to campaigning.

David Babbs, head of capacity building at national FoE, said: 'We know that the threats now facing us are now imminent dangers in our own lifetime, let alone future generations. So now we are looking for solutions to address these challenges -- real solutions that will make life better for us all'.

The overall thrust of the plan is concentrate campaigning efforts on two over-riding challenges: preventing climate change and protecting biodiversity and natural resources. Babbs said: 'We will advocate changes to economies in the UK and globally so that they become more sustainable, and we will defend and strengthen people's rights to participate in decisions affecting their environment'

There will also be an internal agenda: FoE will present a clearer image of who we are and what we do and communicate campaigning messages powerfully to decision-makers and public audiences, boost local activism, increase income and improve the organisation's structure with the aim of becoming a more powerful campaigning force.

FoE UK will also aim to grow the overseas arm Friends of the Earth

International to reflect the new need to campaign on a more global basis.

Overall, the plan aims to produce these outcomes: a stable, climate, a thriving natural world, people with rights to take part in environmental decisions and economics that work for people and the planet.

The full strategic plan can be downloaded at
<http://community.foe.co.uk/strategicplan/>

Autumn Action - continued

This isn't about asking you to build big, complicated coalitions. We're looking for a much simpler level of community buy-in where residents in your town, district or area pledge their support.

Of course, as you'd expect, we will provide you with an action pack for this phase of the campaign, with all the resources and information that you need to succeed. A lot more information on this will come to you further down the line. It's a new area of work for some of you and we'll be on hand to help.

Get involved

To find out more about the Renewables campaign and the day of action as they develop, go to <http://community.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/renewables>. You can also sign up to receive campaign resources online, or by contacting Tom Wright on 020 7566 1673 or tom.wright@foe.co.uk.

Waste and recycling in Bromley – Cllr Colin Smith

This is an abbreviated version of an article Cllr Colin Smith, Bromley's portfolio holder for the environment, wrote for a residents' association recently.

I have been invited to write this article by your Resident Association Chairman updating you on the subject of Waste and Recycling, as well as Bromley Council's future plans concerning both.

I am particularly delighted to do so at this time given the apocalyptic nature of the reports on related matters being carried in the National press on a virtually daily basis!

With this in mind, please allow me to begin by telling you what Bromley isn't going to do.

- * We are not going to move to Fortnightly Waste collections for food waste
- * We are not going to put microchips in waste bins
- * We are not going to charge per weight of waste produced
- * We are not going to introduce an extra annual charge to collect your waste on top of Council Tax
- * We are not going to ban black bag side waste when your bins are full
- * We are not going to send people to snoop through your bins ! (Though any household seen not to be recycling will receive a visit from a Waste Advisor to enquire whether the Council can help them in any way to begin doing so)

Driven by the European Union's Landfill directive, the Government has imposed massive extra Landfill

taxation on Local Authorities across the Country to 'encourage' them to do more to recycle, thereby reducing Landfill. Last year the tax stood at £ 24 per tonne, this year it stands at £32 next year it jumps to £40 per tonne and in 2010 to £48. Whatever the outcome of the next general election, there is widespread expectation that this trend will continue.

Whether one agrees with such measures is secondary to the fact that they exist. Recycling more is clearly a good idea and one impact this tax has had has been the desired effect of forcing recycling rates higher. Against that, the additional pressure it has added to Council Tax levels is extremely worrying. Every penny the Council spends putting waste into the ground is a penny it can't spend on either good causes elsewhere or using to help contain future Council Tax rises.

So what are we planning to do that's so different from elsewhere, why do we think we can do better and how do we plan to go about it?

The first benefit we have is the power of hindsight - a truly wonderful gift! We have deliberately avoided being in the first wave of Boroughs introducing such measures to enable us to learn from their mistakes and ensure that whatever we do introduce not only works - but works well. Add to this the fact that Bromley starts from a position of already having the best 'dry' (paper, glass, tins and plastic) recycling record of any London Borough and we know we are well placed to do so.

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Waste and recycling in Bromley - *continued*

As some of you might have picked up from the local press over the past few months, we have already been trialling schemes in various parts of the Borough to see what can be achieved by collecting waste in different ways.

The plan in the trial area is that anything putrescible (smelly food waste) will continue to be collected weekly but from dedicated Council supplied bins that are both airtight and rodent proof.

If the trials works, not only would recycling levels rise, but associated concerns around vermin and hygiene would reduce, as too will tales of foxes ripping open black plastic sacks as there will be both more space for rubbish available within what is currently the 'main' bin (soon hopefully to be known as the 'non recycling' bin) as well that with nothing putrescible being left in 'black sack' overflow to attract them, foxes/rodents will be less interested in them to begin with.

Black box paper recycling will also be upgraded to a weekly service at the same time as the trials have demonstrated that up to 20% extra material can be salvaged by providing a weekly service (the implication being that having filled the fortnightly 'black box' prematurely, some residents choose to discard additional recyclable paper with the main waste)

In addition, in the trial area only, the Council is going to suspend the 'plastic bottles only' rule for plastics and widen the range of plastics accepted to include washed items such as yogurt

pots, margarine tubs, food and ice cream containers.

Although for the time being the plastics collected will subsequently have to be separated and the 'non bottle' types sent to incineration (we can still only recycle plastic types '1' '2' & '3' - the grade of plastic that bottles are made from - thus the rule !) As the plastics recycling market matures (estimated to be about a year or so away) these types of plastic too will be recycled.

This is important, because despite the total number of annual doorstep collections rising from 13 to 17 million should the trial prove successful and it become rolled out Boroughwide, it is intended to then collect the 'non recyclable' waste bin every other week in exactly the same way that the green recycling box container is collected today.

To those of you wishing to learn more, may I draw your attention to this hopefully helpful weblink containing an oft asked question and answer link : http://www.bromley.gov.uk/environment/recycling/composting_for_all.htm

If you would like to know more still, I will always be pleased to hear from you at colin.smith@bromley.gov.uk or 0208 462 5061.

LATEST INFO RE SITE B, TWEEDY ROAD, BROMLEY: A revised application has been submitted and there has apparently been pressure for it to be discussed at the relevant Council committee meeting on August 26th, in the middle of the holiday season.

Info from CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade)

Merchants of Death walk

London CAAT decided on a 'Merchants of Death' walk as one part of our Stop the Arms Trade Week. Rather than a series of protests, this was a more sedate tour of Central London, with descriptions of certain companies thrown in. So thirteen of us met outside Victoria station and even had the sun shining on us. In terms of the types of companies we went to, there was a clear distinction.

Obviously, we took in major military producers and arms dealers such as BAe Systems, Boeing UK, Rolls Royce, Lockheed Martin (including INSYS), QinetiQ, MATRA BAe, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics and Land Rover Leyland International Holdings.

Among such 'Merchants of Death' there is a long history of corruption allegations, sometimes involving countries with serious records of human rights abuse, which underlines the indiscriminate nature of the trade.

In addition, the knowledgeable guides informed those present of the details of some of the numerous corporate mercenaries who have their offices in Central London. These include Spear Communications, Aegis Defence Services, Erinys International and ArmorGroup. These Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) are making a killing out of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in a trade worth more than \$100 billion. PMSCs outnumber British soldiers in Iraq by a ratio of more than 6:1.

Merchants of Death walk repeated

This walk is being repeated on Saturday 13 September. Following June's successful guided tour of central London based international arms manufacturers and mercenary companies, the CAAT London group is once more providing you with the opportunity to learn all about the "Merchants of Death" in our midst. Meet at the clock tower outside Victoria Station on Saturday, 13 September at 11am, followed by pub lunch at 1pm. For further information, contact londoncaat@riseup.net.

Wanted – Members for CAAT's Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is CAAT's ultimate decision-making body, making the final decisions on campaigns and policy as well as making sure that the organisation's administration and internal workings are legal and efficient.

We are looking for four supporters to stand for election to the committee - if you are campaigning locally we would particularly like to hear from you. To stand, you must have received CAATnews for more than 12 months. The nominations deadline is 8th October.

Register to vote

Elections will be held if more people are nominated than there are places. Ballot papers will only be sent to supporters or groups who have registered as wishing to vote. If you have not previously registered, or for more info, please ask Ann for a card to do so by emailing ann@caat.org.uk or sending an SAE to the office.

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Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

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Letters to the Editor

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

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact 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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