



A decade of action and promise of more to come

Havant Friends of the Earth was re-launched 10 years ago. The group was originally started in the eighties but Portsmouth FOE managed it for some years before. The aims in 2001 are much the same as now, namely, raising public awareness of threats to our local environment, promoting low carbon solutions and influencing change. Havant FOE has much to be proud of since its re-birth ten years ago. The need for FOE and like-minded people has never been greater. Through its 200 local groups in England and operating in

placed to make the world aware of the threats and opportunities ahead. Since 1971, the year the charity was formed, the global situation has got worse. CO2 continues to grow year on year as more species disappear while next month sees the arrival of the seven billionth human being on the planet. The quest for global agreement on emissions continues. Copenhagen, Cancun and Durban, there is some progress but crucially no agreement yet among the biggest polluters. But one massive reality has emerged. And that is the tradi-

tional growth model is now history. Mention sustainable growth and you'll end up with definitions a mile long. The only important one is living within our means and working in a way that enables the Earth's natural capital to re-new itself.



Havant FOE's first campaign against toxic chemicals in products 2002.

Picture: courtesy Ealing FOE

10 years as told in Branchline

2001

Havant FOE launched in the Bear Hotel. First Coordinator, Ray Cobbett.

2002

Cleaner air study along Havant main traffic routes, south coast transport study submission and concerns over the future of Broadmarsh. FOE joins residents fight over Wessex tip. Toxic Ted comes to Havant.

2003

Petition successfully presented to Hampshire County Council to ban GM on council-owned farms. Havant FOE meet David Willetts to urge government support for Fair Trade in Africa. First Green Fair run in Havant and opened by Mayor. Havant FOE joins Hants groups network.

2004

Start of round 1 of the campaign to stop the expansion of Tesco in Solent Road. Attempt to get local recycling facilities for Tetrapak.

2005

Campaign against palm oil launched on the streets and outside stores. FOE join residents to defend small Cowplain ancient forest from development.

2006

AXE campaign on Southampton Airport. Willetts declines to support EDM 178 on Climate Change.

2007

Focus on trees in Havant. Climate change action locally with petitions and postcards to Willetts.

2008

Emphasis on various home greening measures in Havant and work with Portsmouth developing green strategies.

2009

Tesco campaign, 2000-name petition, 400 objections, planners approve new store. Emsworth shopping survey, plastic bag Campaign.

2010

Havant Green Hustings for the general election.

2011

Havant Goes Greener Week.



FOE sounds warning bells over planning changes



What can we do about it?

Sign the National Trust Petition

<https://www.planningforpeople.org.uk/>

Write to the Rt. Hon Gregg Clarke MP

<http://www.greggclark.org/>

Register your views

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KZKH35Z>

Urged on by a combination of major developers and the CBI, the government is proposing to scrap present planning policies. In their place, all 1000 pages of them, would be just 50 pages of guidance for decision-makers dealing with planning applications. Called the Draft National Planning Framework its central proposition is a general presumption that the response to future planning applications is YES provided they deliver 'sustainable' growth. As with so much that originates in government the word 'sustainable' remains undefined although they have said that it would include social and environmental factors as well economic ones. So far so confusing so what would it all mean? Without the protection on various present policies it nets down to a pro-growth strategy. Though far from perfect, present policies have afforded some degree of defence against the impact of new development on flooding, habitats, the use of brown land and green belts. Among the loudest critics of the new thinking is the National Trust which has raised a 100,000 plus petition to get the matter openly debated in parliament **The NT has been joined by the CPRE, RSPB, Womens Institute, FOE, Greenpeace and 22 other groups throughout the country urging Cameron and Clegg to think again.**

ENERGY, BEES & GREENER PRODUCTS IN NEW CAMPAIGNS



Energy has rapidly moved up the agenda to become the number one talking topic. Confusing tariffs, rocketing bills and rapidly growing fuel poverty have triggered a massive interest in the future of energy in the UK. FOE has tabled numerous amendments to the Energy Bill now going through parliament. The Energy

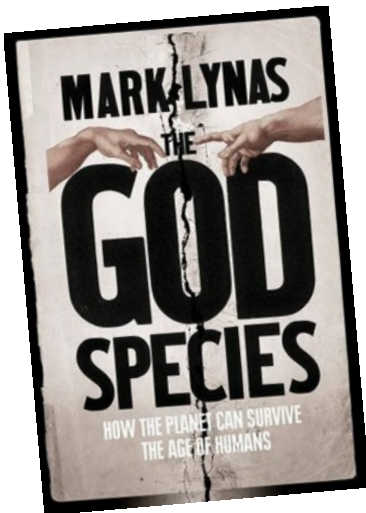
Minister says he means business when dealing with the Big Six providers. His hopes are pinned on the New Green Deal which he claims could create up to ¼ million new jobs in retrofitting the housing stock. FOE wants to show there is also another way via the clean-energy route that will deliver jobs as well as a low carbon future.

The number of honey bees between 1985 and 2005 has halved. Scientists call it Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and it poses a serious threat to agriculture. Obviously, the first step is finding out what causes the disaster. High among the suspects are certain kinds of pesticides (banned in some countries but not Britain) various insect diseases, particularly infected by mites as well as travel stress. FOE hopes that by choosing bees it will raise awareness of wider biodiversity issues.



We need to understand better the environmental impact of the goods and services we buy. Carbon footprint is the emissions from all materials starting with their origin to their final disposal. Industry is beginning to get

ment is needed so FOE will be calling on the EU for new community standards. Experts call it 'whole life' measuring and eventually it should help us make informed choices about the 'greenness' of what we buy.



Book review

Paperback and on Kindle about £7

Mark Lynas will be familiar to green book fans. His previous books include *Six Degrees*, *Our Future on a Hot Planet*, numerous articles, work on the film *Age of Stupid* and now *The God Species*. Lynas, a former GM activist, argues that it's time for the Green movement to switch from rejecting materialism to embracing it. It's hardly new. Lovelock and Monbiot have said much the same. Lynas identifies nine critical planetary limits such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land use, ozone depletion and others. Some, he says, have already exceeded their limits and the jury is out on the rest. Some will no doubt be appalled at what they may regard as Lynas' heresies while others may find them hopeful and even reassuring that all is not quite doomed yet.

Hampshire's bird population declines

Hampshire's bird population is continuing to decline according to the latest survey evidence. It's part of a trend that sees species dwindling in the south while increasing in the north of England. The rate of decline is higher among woodland birds than farmland birds with woodpeckers and certain tits affected. Corn bunting and lapwing numbers are worrying too. Ornithologists say there are a number of reasons for the thinning out. Most have to do with human occupation, and the changing land use it brings away from managed woodland and hedgerows. The ever larger abstraction of water from rivers and industrial farming methods also take their toll as well as global warming.



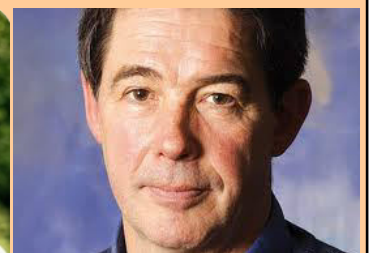
Former FOE Directors share halcyon days

It was all misty-eyed memories when four former Friends of the Earth directors, Messrs Juniper, Secrett, Burke and Porritt met recently. **The occasion was the opening event at FOE's Local Groups 40th Conference at Nottingham University in September among whose 250 delegates were Sue Holt and Ray Cobbett.**

Allowing for nostalgic exaggerations, FOE life in the seventies and eighties sounded like a lot of fun. There were stunts galore and not just the time when thousands of empty Schweppes bottles got left at their door. Or the time when the inflatable whale being towed on the Thames past The House of Commons actually sank in full view of everybody.

Tony Juniper was lucky to be let off with a caution after dressing up with other activists as posh guests at Davos, talking their way past tight security and reaching the VIP's with a message for them on trade justice.

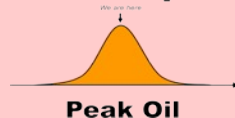
The greatest achievement, widely agreed, was the influential part FOE members played in securing the world's first Climate Change Act in 2008.



Leading FOE from the front
Tony Juniper &
Jonathan Porritt

Going nowhere faster

Wake up!!!



The government plans to increase the national speed limit to 80 mph after a period of 'consultation'. It says it wants to move the economy into the fast lane' and has offered, as a sop, to extend 20 mph zones in urban areas. The real winners are oil producers. Concerns about peak oil, CO2 emissions and road safety have been parked in a lay-by along with the ambition to be the greenest ever government. Most people see that 90 mph will become the new 80 and faster speed limits do not lead to faster journeys and that the opposite may be true. Recent gridlocks in the Portsmouth area show that the road system is well beyond its capacity. Meanwhile, fares are rocketing and villages are cut off by bus subsidy removals.

Rescuing our marine animals

British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) is a registered charity dedicated to the rescue and well-being of all marine animals in distress around the UK. The organization is operated entirely by volunteers and we have a network of trained and professional marine mammal medics on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our rescue teams respond to call-outs from HM Coastguard, RSPCA, the police and members of the public. Marine mammal medics initially attend a one-day training course during which they learn about cetacean and pinniped biology, identification, physiology, first aid and rescue techniques. Delegates also train with life-sized and realistically weighted seal, dolphin and whale models in order to gain experience in handling and lifting animals and using our specialized rescue equipment including the rescue pontoons. Once qualified, marine mammal medics have the opportunity to further develop their skills by attending sessions including mass-stranding, oiled bird and seal hospital training.

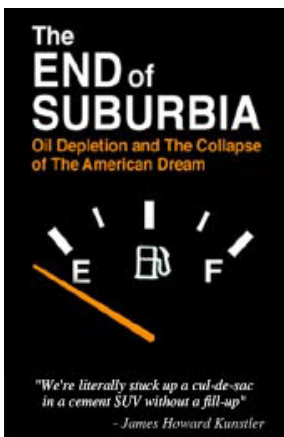
They may also choose to work towards an advanced medic qualification. BDMLR medics attend an average of 45 live strandings annually in the UK, from our smallest cetacean, the harbour porpoise, to the giant sperm whale. In addition, medics respond to hundreds of call-outs to orphaned, sick and injured grey and harbour seals each year. **Locally, BDMLR Hampshire medics have been involved in a number of harbour seal rescues, attended 3 stranded harbour porpoises in the past 6 years and were the first to respond to the Hayling Island northern bottlenose whale in 2008.**

Claire Stares
British Divers Marine Life Rescue
Hampshire Coordinator



Havant FOE Highlights since last AGM

- Held Hampshire's only environmental election Question Time in Havant
- Presentation from the GYO schools project that won Portsmouth FOE project of the year
- Carried out a Shoppers Survey in Emsworth
- Chaired the Hants Water Festival
- Supported the Flame of Hope as it passed through Havant en route to the UN New York conference on nuclear disarmament
- Teamed up with HTN and HBC for Green Week
- Quizzed Southern Water about continued pollution of Langstone Harbour
- Jim Graham won a famous victory over local development in Bedhampton
- Reported our views on bike paths to HBC
- Explored Hants Green Senate idea with other Hants groups
- Joined the battle for Havant Yews.
- Helped judge Havant schools solar awards
- Got over a dozen mentions in News and other papers
- Nominated for FOE national awards for our website and for Green Week.



THE END OF SUBURBIA (FILM)

YouTube and other Sources

Released in 2004 this 57-minute film still packs a powerful punch. What started out 60 years ago as the American dream escape from the cities to the country has morphed into a nightmare.

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-end-of-suburbia/>

Branchline is edited by Ray Cobbett and published and printed by Havant & East Hants FOE, 26 Beach Road, Emsworth, Hants. We welcome contributions of 2-300 words relating to our aims. Next deadline December 31st 2011.

We could do more WITH YOUR HELP

Membership enquiries and/or donations to
Patricia Williamson
8 Clovelly Road
Emsworth
PO10 7HL
havantfoe@talk21.com
01243 389487