

BRANCHLINE

News from Friends of the Earth

Havant, Hayling, Emsworth, Bedhampton, Leigh Park, East Hants
Edited by Sophie and Ray Cobbett



Friends of
the Earth

www.foe.co.uk
February 2006



Fears for famous Havant plane tree

A tip off from a member that a landmark Havant tree could be felled led to swift action by the Havant FOE

The plane tree, located on the corner of Elm Lane and Park Road North, is near a proposed retail development on the site of Potash Terrace in central Havant. The scheme means a modified road junction to manage the extra traffic. The left turns for this junction must meet county highways standards and the one turning into Elm Lane may not without removing the plane tree.

At present there is no plan to cut it down but the possibility exists if road engineers insist on it.

Surprisingly, the tree is not protected by a preservation order and the group is looking at making a formal application. Each year hundreds of prime trees are felled without any forewarning. Plane trees go back to 100 million years and can grow to over 50 metres. The one in Havant is 100 years old and in very good condition.

Climate change remains top campaign priority

Last year the FOE launched the **Big Ask** campaign to persuade government to tackle climate change through the development of low-carbon nuclear-free economy. FOE is calling for a new law that would cut carbon dioxide emissions by 3% every year.

So far over 300 MP s- including local members Michael Mates, Mike Hancock and Sarah McCarthy-Fry-have signed an EDM supporting a Climate Change Bill placing the issue at the heart of all new government policies. Havant MP, David Willetts, has been asked for his support.

Worryingly, the latest figures for 2004 show that UK carbon dioxide emissions are the worst since Labour came to power in 1997. **Even more Labour is a long way off meeting promises made in all its manifestos to reduce carbon dioxide levels by 20% of 1990 level by 2010.** The FOE have consistently argued that dramatic savings can be made through a combination of greater energy efficiency and renewable generation.

FACTS ABOUT ENERGY USE IN THE UK

- Only 18% of houses in the UK meet the highest efficiency rating
- 84 % of the energy used in households in 2002 was for space or water heating.
- Since 1974 the UK government has spent £6.8 billion in research and development funding for nuclear fission (compared to £540 million for renewables)
- It is currently estimated that the cost of nuclear waste disposal will be around £56 billion
- Nuclear power produces waste that stays dangerous for tens of thousands of years.
- Fuel use by cars has increased by 71 per cent since 1970
- One return flight from the United Kingdom to Florida produces as much carbon dioxide (CO₂) as a year's driving by the average British motorist.
- A typical UK family produces yearly 10 tonnes of CO₂

A special meeting for FOE members and guests

WASTE MATTERS

Presentation from Hampshire County Council

BEDHAMPTON SOCIAL HALL

22nd February 7.30

**Guest Speaker: Bob Lisney,
Head of Natural Resources**

Limited Parking-Railway and Bus service stops nearby

Sue's Column

Good wishes to everyone for the New Year-a year to enjoy, whatever happens. Surrounded by changes and threats seemingly beyond our control, it's easy to forget sometimes that there is a lot to enjoy, to relish and to wonder over in the world. It sounds as if I'm advocating standing and staring or curling up by the fire-well, yes and no. It's about achieving a balance: keeping the global balance needs some help now so we have to keep up the pressure this year.

Locally there are a few events coming up and anyone can get involved to a smaller or greater extent at any time: let me know if there is an issue you feel our local group ought to be speaking up about.

On 22nd of this month (Feb), Bob Lisney, one of the country's foremost experts on waste management, is coming to Bedhampton Social Hall to make a presentation on waste (or resource) in Hampshire. There's only 40 chairs so best come early.

This year's AGM will be held on **15th March** in Havant and our guest speaker is **Jennie Owens** talking about Fairtrade.

The group has set itself three local priorities for 2006. Climate change will take centre stage with various national and local events. These will include working with other groups to highlight the risks to Hayling, Emsworth and other areas of flooding. Recycling, is another area for major improvement, as we plan to pressure the council for more doorstep collections including glass and practical ways of dealing with garden waste and upgrading recycling centres like Harts Farm Way. We will be actively campaigning on to oppose unsustainable development proposals (like Idelwood, Broadmarsh, Hooks Lane and Tesco's) and playing a full part as consultees in the local planning process. We are drafting responses to Havant Council on their new plans for the town centre and Leigh Park

Another important county issue, led by **Ray Cobbett**, is the massive expansion of Southampton Airport. FOE and other groups from Portsmouth, Southampton, Fareham, Gosport, Winchester and the New Forest are meeting in Eastleigh next month to plan the campaign.

In January some of us went to London to hear **Tony Juniper**, FOE's Chief Executive, tell us about his hopes and fears for the future. Not a day goes by without FOE being mentioned in the national media and we also appear to have become the must join for politicians of all parties. We welcome them all and hope between us to make the difference.

See you soon Sue

Think of **tomorrow** and join Friends of the Earth **today**

Name.....
Address.....
Phone.....
Email.....

Single membership £6
Family membership £12
Life membership £30
Unwaged/pensioner £1

Cheques payable please to
Havant FOE
Send to: **Pat Williamson,**
6 Clovelly Road
Emsworth PO10 7HL



For the Diary

When	What	Where
2nd Feb 7-9 pm	Biodiversity Workshop	Bordon Hants
22nd Feb 7.30 pm	Waste Matters HCC talk	Bedhampton Social Hall
25th Feb 10.30	Soton Airport campaign launch	The Point Eastleigh
March TBA	Farlington Marshes Bird Sanctuary	Farlington
4th March	Fairtrade Development	Southampton
15th March	Havant FOE AGM & talk on Fairtrade	South St Havant
19th April	Havant FOE meeting & talk on local plan	South St Havant
4th May	FOE SE meeting	London

Would you like to give a talk on an environmental topic or know a group who would- contact Sue

Key contacts in Havant FOE

Branch Coordinator	Sue Holt	02392780943
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