

Two feet good but two wheels even better

June means Bike Week, the UK's annual "celebration of cycling" that aims to get "more people cycling more often". Over 2,000 local cycling events and rides were held attracting at least 300,000 participants, most of whom will be new or returning to cycling. Cycling England, who support the bike ride, would like to see the number of people cycling to work more than double by the end of 2007. To help achieve this target, it has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the Cycle to Work scheme. Employers can provide bikes to their staff as a tax-free benefit, provided the bikes are used mainly for travel to and from work. At the end of the agreed loan period, employees may then have the opportunity to buy the bike, resulting in an overall saving of up to 40 per cent of the retail price.

Havant FOE members joined with colleagues from Portsmouth FOE for a joint tour of the City ending with a well earned lunch on Southsea Common.



Tour de Portsmouth honours for doughty FOE members

Conference report

By Gill Leek

In May John Auric (Portsmouth FOE) and myself attended a conference in the New Forest about recycling organised by DEFRA, around an initiative called "small changes...big difference". We were given a diary and asked to record what happens to our waste focused on Reduce - Reuse - Recycle. The speakers included Bridget and Richard Strawbridge from the T.V series 'It's not easy being green'. They shared some innovative ideas with us including 'soap pods' from India, kernels from a tree which can be placed, after crushing, in an odd sock in the washing machine.

Adrian Hall (HCC Recycling) said we produce enough waste per hour to fill the Albert Hall. We cannot continue in this way and each of us can make a difference. Green Cones Ltd. had a stall displaying a food waste digester which composts everything including all kitchen waste. Also on display was the 'Green Johanna' which is a hot compost bin built up in sections. Both bins can be obtained in W. Sussex at discount prices but as yet there is no such scheme in Hampshire. New Forest FoE had an interesting stall and told us about plans to save a wild flower meadow in the area; anyone with botanical expertise please contact Enid Knight at eeny0@lycos.com.

FOE LOCAL CONTACTS

Sue Holt Coordinator Tel 02392 780943
 Ray Cobbett Treasurer Tel 01243 389487
 Patricia Williamson Membership Tel 01243 378560
 Email: HavantFOE@talk21.com

Branchline

News from the FOE covering, Havant, Emsworth, Hayling Island, Bedhampton, Leigh Park, Waterlooville and East Hants

Edited by Ray and Sophie Cobbett



Friends of the Earth

SUMMER 2006

AXE campaigners gather at Southampton Airport

Havant FOE joined groups from across Hampshire, Greenpeace, the Green Party and local residents to say NO to massive expansion plans for Southampton Airport.

The protest was one of many demonstrations throughout the UK against government plans to treble the number of passengers through Britain's Airports by 2030. The event drew attention from the county's media with interviews by the BBC, various radio stations and local papers, including the News, Hampshire Chronicle and Echo.

Havant Co-ordinator, Sue Holt, said that the expansion for Eastleigh would have an impact across the county.

"We are already over flown by Southampton traffic but with flights expected to increase to 90,000 (from 30,000) we could all expect to suffer eventually."

AXE (Against Expansion at Eastleigh) dismisses the economic case for a bigger airport.

Aviation is already massively subsidised by the taxpayer and there is a colossal imbalance between what we spend abroad and what visitors spend here. As for jobs these would be mainly low skill, low pay manual work in an area of low unemployment. The government is set to review its aviation plans shortly but AXE says it should be revising not reviewing them.

"Emissions from aviation are rapidly outpacing all other sources of greenhouse gas and must be tightly controlled," says Hampshire FOE co-ordinator, Ray Cobbett

Meanwhile, Green Party MEP, Dr Caroline Lucas, has won the backing of the EU parliament on a range of measures to bring the growth of aviation under tighter control.

"Doing nothing is not option" she told members. "We simply have no choice but to clip the airlines wings and force them to reduce their impact on climate change."



Protesters at Southampton

GREAT RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN



Havant FOE members Ray Cobbett, Sue Holt, John Pilkington, Tim Dawes and Patricia Williamson met shoppers in town centres to ask for support

Over 200 residents in Havant and Hayling have joined an FOE campaign asking for more government action on carbon emissions. Called the 'Big Ask' people sign post-cards asking their MP to press for a new Climate Change Bill. Most local MPs are among the 380 who have already signed but requests to Havant MP, David Willetts, to join them have so far not been successful. A deputiation met Mr Willetts in May to discuss the campaign and he agreed to review his earlier decision not to support the Early Day Motion

Hampshire's Water

Festival Romsey

- Sat Aug 19th Memorial Park
- * Water Market
 - * Music & Theatre
 - * Crafts, Films,
 - * Exhibitions,
 - * Garden things,
 - * Lots for kids,
 - * FOE STALL.
- MORE INFO: 0800 028 0888**



2006 FOE CONFERENCE
8-10 September
More information
020 7566 1677

Fluoride information leaflet attacked

A leaflet intended to provide advice to parents on fluoridation has been attacked by campaigners. The leaflet is called 'Water Fluoridation and Children' published by National Fluoride Information Centre (NFIC). The Centre claims to be independent but last year received government grants of up to £125,000. Havant FOE members, Ann and Peter Richards, who lead Hampshire Against Fluoridation, say that the leaflet is misleading.

It claims fluoride is natural but this applies to calcium fluoride not the hexafluoridic acid, a waste product never tested on humans. The leaflet agrees that brushing teeth twice a day greatly reduces decay but says for people who can't or won't do it fluoridation is the answer. Civil Liberties groups insist that any kind of mass medication is an attack on a human right that recognises the freedom of everybody to make their own choices. *More information: annpeter@richards177.fsnet.co.uk*

A look back over the first year of the Hampshire recycling campaign



Last year Project Integra (PI) launched a high profile campaign to raise the level of recycling across Hampshire. It was a bold programme involving focus groups, market research, residents associations, schools and front line staff. Special Advisers went door-stepping to help people understand what to recycle.

One year later and Hampshire FOE was among the 100 delegates at a conference in Winchester to review progress.

The result show progress on both soft and hard targets. In summary the recycling target of 30% was met, gross tonnages are up as was the capture rate. Contaminated loads are down and the rate at which waste is growing slowed down to below 3%.

The number of recyclers has increased. And there is evidence of a more positive attitude at all levels towards the recycling message.

Recycling is publicly measured in weight and therefore the improvements could be boosted by garden waste and alternative weekly collection (AWC). The impact of incineration is not taken into account so it is likely that less incineration would deliver still higher recycling levels. It's too tempting sometimes to burn rather than recover.

Hampshire ranks high in the recycling league but is currently threatened by moves to off load some of London's waste into the county which FOE opposes totally.



District Council Recycling League*

Fareham	35%
E. Hants	34%
Eastleigh	33%
Gosport	26%
N. Forest	25%
Havant	23%
Hart	23%
Test Valley	22%
Winchester	18%
Soton	17%
P' mouth	15%

* 3rd quarter 2005/6

We can meet future energy needs without going nuclear



Research by FOE shows the UK can deliver future energy needs without new nuclear power stations or over dependency on imported gas.

UK electricity generation accounts for about a third of UK's energy sector emissions. FOE's energy model shows that the UK could reduce carbon emissions from electricity generation by between 48 and 71% by 2020.

FOE's Director, Tony Juniper, said, "The truth is we already have the technology to meet our electricity needs as well as reduce our reliance on imported gas. Nuclear plant take 15 years to come on line."

Among specific measures FOE is urging on the government are

- More heat and power schemes, micro generation and small neighbourhood generation through solar, wind turbines and more efficient domestic boilers

- Using cleaner coal through carbon capture processes.
- Rapid development of renewable source to include biomass, wind, wave, solar, wind and geo thermal sources
- Reducing demand for electricity by around 10% by 2020

Carbon capture offers a potentially very exciting option. Instead of being released in the air, carbon dioxide is captured and piped into gas and oil fields and used to force out the field's remaining reserves. It fills the vacated space and remains stored underground out of harms way.

Biomass co-firing involves the burning of sugar beet alongside coal. Carbon levels are lowered provided harvested plants are replaced. The Carbon Trust estimates that wave and tide alone could provide up to 20% of UK electricity.

Planning changes could by-pass local concerns

In a new report on the present planning process market forces could take precedence over sustainability. That's the message from Kate Barker, a top advisor, commissioned by the Treasury to review the planning system. Ms Barker says that new projects are delayed by costly public inquiries and that many companies are dissatisfied with local authority planners.

FOE Chief Executive, Tony Juniper, described the interim report as an "attack on the regulations that safeguard our town, villages and countryside"

Her report lays down the framework for business to ride roughshod over the interests of local people."

Meanwhile, Hampshire FOE has joined South Hampshire Unheard Voices (SHUV), a coalition of conservationists, parish councils and local residents associations opposed to massive new building. In a 19-page submission to the South East Regional Assembly (SERA) the group says that economic growth should not be a goal in its own right. "The primary goal should be the well-being of society and the conservation of the resources and environment that sustain us."

The group argues that the numbers and locations proposed for new homes are unsustainable. They say the environment will clearly be unable "to absorb this level and speed of development; the environmental resources such as water and waste are clearly put under threat.."

Leigh Park will see no improvement in their facilities or infrastructure as a result of the development West of Waterlooville. "It will only serve to suck the already fragile services out of Leigh Park and into the larger new settlement. This was recognised by Havant Borough Council who themselves asked for a lower allocation to Waterlooville, in order to prioritise the regeneration of Leigh Park."

Sue's Column



Welcome to the long hot summer, talk about turning up the heat! But, of course, that's exactly what we've been doing as far as the Big Ask, the climate change campaign, is concerned. By putting the pressure on David Willetts to sign the EDM 178, by taking the message to everyone in the street, we are doing what we do best. As I've said before, everything we do and everything we campaign about is related to climate change, whether it's local planning issues or countywide action against airport expansions.

And, again, as I've said before, we need your support, all the members of Havant FOE. If you feel the urge to help at street events or to come along to the monthly meetings (3rd Thurs of the month) or to drum up support for a campaign issue you feel strongly about, then, please, DO.

To all of you, many thanks for renewing your membership, the continued fees enable us to do what we can to raise awareness of the many environmental issues locally.

Enjoy the summer, preferably under the shade of a large tree.

Sue Holt, Coordinator

Telephone 02392 780943

Email: s.l.holt@bt-internet.com