



Sue's Column

It's quite amazing how quickly the winds of change shift the economic and social climate as well as the physical one.

The year for the Havant group started well. The January, February and March meetings were surprisingly full – but the last few have been disappointing. Since the Spring newsletter, the 'energy crisis' has bitten us all. There appears to be some confusion about the role of FoE particularly with the proliferation of community-based greening groups. We will have to re-think our aims and objectives to take account of the changed situation.

FoE groups in other areas are working with Transition Towns and other community-based groups. Ray and I attended one such group in Petersfield to talk about banning plastic bags, it does seem to be getting people together and there is a lot of energy and desire for change out there. For more information see <http://www.greening-campaign.co.uk>.

As a beginning of a similar initiative in our Borough, we are planning a 'Greening Havant' (working title) conference day at the end of October. The idea is for a wide variety of groups to get together to share aims, skills and ideas in order to make things happen and encourage people to help themselves live a truly sustainable life-style. This will mean focusing on local sustainable resources and the measures needed to make our homes as nearly zero carbon as possible. Also how we can work with the local authorities to reduce local carbon emissions and ensure new building regulations and standards match the EU ones.

Havant FoE Meetings

Monthly meetings are no longer necessarily held on the *third* Wednesday of the month. Please check overleaf in the newsletter, on the website and/or email to get the correct day.

Would more people be able to come if we held the monthly meeting on a different day of the week? If changing the day would be better for you, please let me know. Also what would you would like to see in the meetings? Do you want more themed meetings? We still need to hold six business meetings a year. Please let me know any ideas you may have.
Sue Holt

One wind turbine doesn't make a power station

Much fuss followed a report in the local newspaper that Langstone Bridge could be the site of a 60 metre high wind turbine. Under the emerging Local Development Framework the council must find sites for renewable energy. The site near Langstone is thought to have an acceptable wind profile for the viable production of electricity for local homes. The down side is that the site is part of Langstone Harbour which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, an internationally important Wetland in Farlington Marshes under the Ramsar Convention, a Special Protection Area under the Birds Directive and part of the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation under the Habitats Directive.

So does it make sense to put this site into a plan without an in depth environmental risk assessment? The council says that one would be carried out. The Langstone turbine debate typifies the conflict between perceptions of the natural world and our demand for energy and energy usually wins.

Ray Cobbett

Night flight ban at Eastleigh retained

AXE (Against eXpansion of Eastleigh) has welcomed the decision of Eastleigh Borough Council to retain the Flying Controls Agreement, despite a request from Royal Mail for the landing of scheduled night mail flights at Southampton Airport. As well as opposing any relaxation of the ban on night flights, AXE believes that domestic mail should not be transported by air, as road and rail options have far lower environmental impacts.

Royal Mail sought a relaxation in the Flying Controls Agreement to allow a mail flight to land at around 2.15 am every weekday whilst Bournemouth runway was being resurfaced.

For more information, contact Chris Bluemel: 02380 550246/07985 982288.



Original painting by artist and Havant FoE member
Kathleen Durnford

LUSH cuts use of palm oil

LUSH is a cosmetics company with an outlet in East Street, Chichester. They have now switched all their UK soap production to a new palm-free base, developed in partnership with soap manufacturer KAY'S; reducing their palm oil use by approx. 250,000 kg a year. They are involved with FoE, the Orangutan Society and others to urge producers to cut their palm oil use by at least half, as a step towards stopping the deforestation of the last refuge of the Orangutan. They have produced a leaflet, obtainable from their Head Office - Lush Ltd 29 High St Poole BH15 1AB (www.lush.com) or from their Chichester shop. Why not pick one up from there next time you're in Chichester and congratulate them on their campaigning.

Patricia

Sustainable Communities Act!

Campaigning by Local Works has finally born fruit. By October the government will have to invited every local council to submit suggestions of ways in which it can help them and the residents to make their community more sustainable. The council must ask residents what is needed, through citizens panels and listen to the answers. The government is then required to listen and respond. A real reversal of the power structure — a bottom-up process rather than top down. To take advantage of this opportunity we need to get involved in the process and ensure that Havant 'opts in', they don't have to under the act, which will allow them to take over more functions, and the money that goes with them, from central government. The Act is designed to make communities more sustainable by encouraging local jobs and economic activity. Local jobs involves companies spending a considerable proportion of their turnover in the local economy. Sustainable housing, local food production and reducing traffic are some of the ways the Act can be used. The local authority can use planning policies to increase affordable housing and use the rating system to help small businesses compete with out-of-town hypermarkets. Havant Borough Council (HBC) has had a 'citizens panel' since 1999. The excellent questionnaire on waste and recycling was a recent consultation. It is now up to concerned groups, such as FoE, to act to make citizens panels effective, ensure they are genuinely inclusive and the results are taken into account.

Sustainable housing

HBC already has good policies on sustainability in new social housing, signing up to the full BREEM standards. It is now up to FoE and other local green groups to get this extended to existing housing, through developing the grants system for insulation for example. Havant FoE intends to make this task its main focus in the coming months. This will be the theme of our stall at he

Dates and Events

Havant FOE Meetings are now on variable Wednesdays in the month. Please check in the newsletter, on the website or check your email to get the correct day.

July

All month: Emsworth tree exhibition foyer of council offices.

Saturday 12 Cobbett's Rural Ride - cycle ride around the harbour (semi-rural!), for details ring Ray or Sue.

Wednesday 23 Havant Foe meeting, New Nineveh, 11, The Pallant, (round the corner from Waitrose) 7.00: short business meeting, 7.30: edited viewing of film that started the 'ban plastic bags' campaigns, set in Hawaii. Followed by talk and discussion.

August

No Havant group meeting in August

Saturday 9 Vigil at Chichester Cathedral in remembrance of Hiroshima/Nagasaki - SEHPG

Monday 25 (Bank Holiday) : Stall At the Emsworth Show , volunteers needed. This year's theme will be "Greening Your Home"

September

Weds 10 Havant Foe meeting. Planning the October 'Greening Havant' conference.

Fri 12 –Sun 14 FoE Conference, University of Loughborough, see below.

October

One Day conference 'Greening Havant' date & venue to be confirmed.

Action on Climate Change:

Camp at Kingsnorth Power Station 3-11 August!

This summer the Camp for Climate Action (CCA) will pitch its tents outside Kingsnorth coal-fired power station in Kent for a week of education, sustainable living and direct action. CCA is now part of an international movement, with eight climate camps on four continents planned for this summer. The insane pursuit of economic growth at any cost is to blame for the CO² emissions and ecosystem destruction.

Day of creative direct action against agrofuels

Agrofuels are being supported by UK and EU governments despite being confirmed by the UN reports as a major cause of deforestation and climate change. Millions of hectares of precious climate-stabilising ecosystems being replaced by monoculture crops for fuel to feed our cars.

On Wednesday 6 August people from the camp will meet with many others at the Eros Piccadilly Circus 12.30 pm for a walking tour of the key agrofuel corporate allies. For more information on CCA and the day of action go to: <http://www.climatecamp.org.uk>

How to keep your BBQ green

Your first thought is that green BBQ sounds absurd. After all, doesn't it mean setting fire to charcoal laced with an accelerant, or burning gas and creating smoke?

You can avoid most of this with a few fire bricks, a grill from your kitchen oven and genuine charcoal approved by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Go for the lump sort rather than the briquettes made from compressed coal dust with added chemicals. Britain uses about 50,000 tones of charcoal over the season mostly imported from tropical hardwood forests. Home grown charcoal with the FSC logo is available from local stores. Proper charcoal is carbon-neutral, so it puts back into the atmosphere the CO₂ that the tree absorbed during its life. Firelighters mean more chemicals so use tightly rolled up newspaper or some dry bracken or tinder from the garden. Give the instant BBQ from supermarkets the widest berth. The aluminum tray is theoretically recyclable but usually too contaminated with burnt food for processing.

A re-useable BBQ galvanized bucket would be better if its portability you're after. Avoid buying meats that have been dipped or coated with various flavours. The best marinades and sauces are home made and you know what goes in them. Buy your meat locally and unpackaged-it will taste better and you won't pay for unwanted packaging.

Ray Cobbett

FoE National Conference

If anyone would like to attend one day or all three, let me know before 20 August, please. I'm sure the new members would find it inspiring and useful. *Sue Holt*

Contacts: By email use the form on our website to contact any of the below

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