



# Branch Line

March 2009

## Havant Friends of the Earth

News from FoE covering Havant and East Hants. Edited by Richard Jannaway

[www.havantfoe.org.uk](http://www.havantfoe.org.uk)



### Presentation by Dr Stephanie Williamson Wednesday 18 March 7.30 pm.

Stephanie will be talking about the threat to people and wildlife from agricultural and other pesticides.

Details of the work of PAN-UK on [www.pan-uk.org](http://www.pan-uk.org)

The talk will be preceded by the **Havant FoE AGM** including the usual reports and election of officers.

**Venue: New Nineveh, 11 The Pallant, Havant**  
(round the corner from Waitrose).

## Fluoridation in Southampton do we get it next?

I expect most of you have already heard that the South Central Strategic Health Authority voted through the plan to fluoridate Southampton's water on Thursday 26 May. This was despite the 10,203 responses to the 'Consultation' received of which 72% were opposed to the idea.

One or two of the Board members asked pertinent questions of Professor John Newton. It could have been reasonably supposed that they might have voted against the proposal but at the end the vote 'For' was unanimous. The Chair, Dr Geoffrey Harris dug the knife in further by saying that, if he had needed a casting vote, he would have supported fluoridation.

At that point members of the public present in the hall burst out in fury because the decision was so obviously fixed beforehand and Professor Newton's information and advice to the Board so biased and false.

Now we have to be concerned about the fate of Portsmouth. Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones who leads the pro-fluoridation band in the City has already made it known via the press that he intends to put fluoridation on the PCTs agenda again as soon as April.

I understand from a previous conversation with Portsmouth Water that the water delivery point at Farlington serves not just Portsmouth but Hayling Island and parts of Havant as well and it would be very difficult to alter the flow. This must obviously be checked but potentially we have a wide fight on our hands.

The bad news is that Hampshire PCT supported fluoridation for Eastleigh, Totton as well as Portsmouth but the good news is that Hampshire County Council is on our side – although the SCSHA was pleased to ignore its and other Council's opposition.

*Ann Richards*

## Tesco Extra to go ahead after all



**The five-year saga over whether the new monster Tesco in Solent Road goes ahead looks like ending.**

**After saying it would be delayed for another year, the company have said work will**

**start in April and finish in December.**

In 2007, Havant FoE joined forces with 2,000 residents and traders' groups to oppose the new store, which will be over twice the size of the existing one. We argued that the store would drain trade from the struggling town centre shops. The Council's own survey showed that up to 30 shops could be hit by the giant Tesco Extra selling clothes, consumer goods and books.

FoE said the new store would substantially increase air pollution specifically, nitrogen dioxide, particulate pollution (PM 10) and CO2 to create a larger carbon footprint than the existing store. The area is also a protected zone for ground water catchments. FoE nationally has campaigned for the government to intervene in the supermarket sector with their unsustainable supply chains. Meanwhile, the plight of small shops in the town centre worsens as the credit crunch takes its toll.

Tesco has broken out in a green rash with promises of a wind generator, carbon labelling on food products and cutting their carbon footprint 50% by 2020.

*Ray Cobbett*

### Subs are due for renewal NOW!

Please pay either at next FoE meeting on 18 March or by hand/post to: Patricia Williamson, 6 Clovelly Road, Emsworth, PO10 7HL. Pay by cash or cheque payable to Havant Friends of the Earth. Rates are:- Individual - £6.00, Family - £10.00, Concessions - £1.00, Life - £30.00. Thank you to all who have renewed.



## Transition Town comes to Chichester

The idea behind Transition Towns is that if you have little confidence that

governments are serious about climate change and "peak oil", then you team up as a community to do something about it.

Dr David Fleming who used to run the Soil Association and speaks and writes on lean energy solutions was the guest speaker at a recent talk in Chichester. The title

'Resilience and the Art of Coping with Surprise' sounds pretty obscure but got an audience of almost 100 people on a Friday night in February. Dr Fleming promised from the start to hurt our brains and he did.

His central proposition is that small is not only beautiful but essential to our future survival. He described the nature and properties of what he termed the resilience of life forms and species to survive and went on to talk about 'presence' or what is sometimes termed 'the middle voice', neither active nor passive which he likened to a dance.

There are five characteristics to resilience and several stages of shock from slight to catastrophic. Human organisation could be classified as: command and control, market driven or anarchic. Anarchy has a bad press but by and large people are better at organising themselves than being organised by governments. Globalisation has no scale. Incentives and targets consume their own logic eventually. Small systems in a large-scale network are sustainable but large systems without any framework, today's scenario, are doomed to catastrophic failure. Look no further than the credit crunch.

Target setting and the whole central control apparatus disempower people to change anything including climate change and a say over their local environment. It is too easy to say it's the government's problem. It isn't, it's everybody's problem and so we should all be part of the solution but how?

Transition Chichester was launched in June 2008 and is not a membership-based organisation but an activity-based one and is still growing driven by cooperation and localism.

Chichester has several different forums working together on housing, transport, local economy, energy, etc. Peak Oil - growing demand against diminishing supply- means that 'energy descent' planning is now vital for the survival of world communities.

The Transition Town model does seem to inspire with dozens of groups throughout the country since it first appeared in 2003 led by Rob Hopkins in Totnes, Devon. Much of the appeal arises from individuals who feel powerless to alone change society's disastrous behaviours towards the planet but find strength in working with like-minded citizens on specific community responses.

[www.transitionchichester.org](http://www.transitionchichester.org)

*Ray Cobbett*

## Havant discovers climate change

News that Havant Council is advertising for a Climate Change Officer deserves two cheers. The new officer is likely to be busy as councils everywhere prepare climate change



strategies to demonstrate not only their own green credentials but inspire other emitters of carbon in their areas to sign up to reductions.

Portsmouth for example has now published their draft strategy [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/13093.html](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/13093.html) prepared with ideas from FoE groups among others in the city itself and Havant. Winchester has launched WINacc as a fully funded social enterprise with an ambitious programme of actions. 2005 DEFRA figures for CO2 put Havant Borough over halfway down the table led by the Hampshire's cities and the New Forest which includes Fawley refinery and power station.

Havant is part of the County Council managed Local Area Agreement which has set a target of 10% reduction by 2011 over a base year of 2005. The government reckons that much of the reduction will be achieved nationally leaving councils little to do in reality. FoE's new draft strategy calls for reductions of 40% by 2020 and is enlisting the support of local groups to help drive it. FoE Hampshire has already explored with Hampshire County Council officers how the network could help in raising public awareness.

*Ray Cobbett*

## Pesticide ban to save honey bee

The Co-op has become the first UK supermarket to ban the use of certain pesticides implicated in the death of honeybees.

It is prohibiting suppliers of its own-brand fresh produce from using eight pesticides already restricted in parts of Europe. Among these are the neonicotinoid family of chemicals banned until they are shown to be safe. The Co-op is the largest farmer in the UK and in 2001 decided to ban 98 pesticides.

The Co-op say that the recent losses in bee populations need definitive action, and as a result are temporarily prohibiting the eight neonicotinoid pesticides until they have evidence that refutes their involvement in the decline.

Laboratory tests suggest that imidacloprid can impede honeybees' sophisticated communication and navigation systems. It has been banned in France for a decade as a seed dressing on sunflowers. Italy, Slovenia and Germany have acted after the loss of millions of honeybees. The EU voted earlier in January for tougher controls on bee-toxic chemicals. The UK government has totally failed to protect bees that pollinate a third of the average diet. It says that banning pesticides would reduce crop yields!

On 18th March after Havant FoE's AGM at 7.30pm, Dr Stephanie Williamson of the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) will give a talk on the use of pesticides in food production.

*Ray Cobbett*

## Talking Rubbish

Radio 4's normally high standards of journalism came near to being compromised in its recent programme on recycling called 'The Investigation'. We learn that the waste industry does not care much for incineration preferring to describe their monster plants as 'Energy from Waste' facilities. It sounds so much more pleasant even though 80% of the heat goes up a chimney making it less than half as efficient for energy generation than coal. The programme began with the Environment Agency claiming recycling starts with the householder. They should not co-mingle material and so ensure high quality recycle. But then with the recent drop in world raw material prices the programme suggested it was probably better to burn than recover.



The problem with incinerators is that they have a 25-year life span and high capital cost. This means that over their long contract period some of the highest calorific waste has to go through them, i.e. the materials that give us the greatest benefit from being recycled, to make them pay. The problem is that councils get dazzled by big firms selling quick-fix kit to consign the whole beastly problem to the nearest furnace. Sometimes recycling risks ridicule as in the recent case of a bugged TV being dumped by Greenpeace on a Hampshire County Council managed tip in Basingstoke. Despite supposedly stringent controls and EU directives the TV ended up on a waste site in Lagos being picked over for material by young

## Hants Network Report: Greening Campaign or Transitions Town?

A discussion at the Hampshire FoE Network meeting in February revealed that some groups are getting involved in the 'Greening Campaign' that began in Petersfield and has spread across the region. Other groups are taking a wider view and backing the Transitions Town movement (see page 2). There was considerable discussion about the respective merits of the 'two approaches'. People who favoured **the greening route** felt that TT was a bit theoretical and failed to provide people who did not live in a self-contained, or potentially self-contained, community with effective practical things they could do. They emphasised practical actions that people could do now in their current situations. Those that advocated a full **Transitions Towns** approach did not think that greening went far enough and in-depth discussion of Climate Change and Peak Oil were needed to create awareness of the changes in lifestyle needed to approach real sustainability. It was pointed out that the two could



Transition Town  
**LEWES**

co-exist and that the actions performed by greening groups, such as pledge campaigns, would also be appropriate in a transitions town. Robert Hutchinson of **Winchester Action on Climate Change** (WinACC) [www.winacc.org.uk](http://www.winacc.org.uk) described its cooperation with Winchester City Council who favoured an approach which went between the two and emphasised cooperation to reduce Co2 emissions.

### Rotating Chair

It was agreed that future Hants Network FoE meetings would be rotated around the county and chaired by the local group (rotating chair as a 'virtual network'). The rotating role would include gathering items for the agenda and publishing it beforehand. *Richard Jannaway*

## 2008 Havant Group Members Survey

The Survey was conducted in November of all paid-up members with 40 forms sent out and 22 returned/completed.

### Question 1: I joined FOE because

**38 responses**

Interested in environment 19  
Speaks for me 5  
Want to take action 7  
Meet similar people 7

### Question 2: What are your major national concerns"

**86 responses**

Climate Change 17  
Transport 12  
Wildlife and habitats, trade justice 10  
Waste, carbon reduction, energy 9  
Real food 7  
Peak oil 3

### Question 3: Your local concerns

**63 responses**

Sustainable development 15  
Steams, rivers, coast 13  
Recycling, bikes buses and trains 12  
Small shops 11

### Question 4: How should the group campaign

**42 responses**

Put pressure in politics 20  
Public meetings 12  
Write letters to press and media 11  
Street demos 7  
Raising petitions 4

### Question 5: Personal contributions

**27 responses**

Pay my subs 12  
Write article 7  
Design campaigns, speak at public meetings  
organising street events 3

## CONCLUSIONS

- Big difference between being interested and doing anything about it
- Climate change heads the list of national concerns with peak oil seen as least important
- Fairly even spread of concerns locally headed by sustainable development
- Politicians seen as being major agents of change but letters, meetings and media important.

Almost half are content to just pay subs but some will write articles.

Thanks to all those who replied to the survey the replies will help guide our future plans for the group.

*Ray Cobbett*

# Tree felling along Horndean Road, Emsworth

You may have seen the enormous amount of tree felling work at the northern entrance to Emsworth (on the Horndean Road just north of the junction with Southleigh Road). This chainsaw devastation was carried out by HBC over several weeks in February.

The reason given for this work was to ensure traffic safety on a 60 mph road. This sort of tree felling is being carried out by councils all over England.

While I can appreciate that HBC does not want to be sued if an accident is caused by a tree falling across the road, I do not accept that so many trees had to be felled at one time and it may not have been necessary to cut them down so severely. This devastation could have been avoided if the trees had been properly maintained over a number of years.

At least 60 trees have been felled including Ash,



Sycamore, Elm (which were dead) and an old Hawthorn hedge which may or may not revive and several Beech trees which are also earmarked to be felled in the future.

The reason given for doing all the work over a period of a few weeks was that in-house staff were available to do the work rather than a contractor. This saved money never mind what was good for the trees, the environment and wildlife or the appearance of one of the major gateways to Emsworth!

Emsworth Tree Wardens (ETW) are not happy with the way this work has been carried out and myself and Ann Jolly (ETW secretary) have spoken to Andrew Skeet. We understand that Andrew is planning to carry out similar work further north along the Horndean Road and also along Emsworth Common Road on the boundary of Hollybank Woods but not until later in the year. Andrew has agreed to let us know when he plans to do more work along these roads or anywhere else in Emsworth.

You may know that the ETW has started to plant trees along the eastern edge of the Horndean Road recreation

ground including 2 standard Oaks and 150 Hawthorn whips in the hedgerow. The tree felling further north makes a mockery of our efforts.

If you are not happy with what has happened at one of the main entrances to Emsworth, or other cases of inappropriate tree felling in the borough, I would urge you to contact HBC's Customer Services to make your complaint: 02392 44 6428/29. Or phone HBC's reception desk 02392 474174 and ask for Customer Services. This will send a clear message to HBC that the people of Havant Borough care about their environment and the trees and hedgerows which are an essential part of the street scene for both people and wildlife.

Other parts of the borough also have many tree-lined roads with old hedgerows and many could be under threat if this heavy-handed policy is allowed to continue. If you are a Tree Warden, please ask HBC arborist Andrew Skeet to let you know when he is doing any tree work in the area where you live within Havant Borough. FoE members who are also Tree Wardens are: Jim Graham (Bedhampton), Gill Hibbs (Leigh Park), Sue Holt (Hayling Island) and Ann Jolly (Emsworth). I should point out that Andrew is only responsible for trees on public land such as parks, recreation grounds and some grass verges. Street trees are usually the responsibility of HCC Highways.

I have just learnt that similar treatment has been given to the trees on recreation grounds at Stockheath Lane and Bartons Road as well as the corner of the ASDA roundabout behind B & Q.

*Frances Jannaway*

## Events Diary

**Wednesday 18 March:** AGM

19th March- Havant: Workshop out about Energy organised by the Energy Saving Trust email [CAfE@est.org.uk](mailto:CAfE@est.org.uk)

**21 March** Nottingham: UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN) starting 11am <http://www.ukwin.org.uk/>

**22 March** is World Water Day. [www.wateraid.org/wwd](http://www.wateraid.org/wwd)

**28 March** London: Climate Change Rally urging at G20 meeting in London the following week. Assemble 11.00 am on Embankment ( Temple Tube, Charing Cross, Waterloo)

**Wednesday 15 April:** Monthly meeting, Nirvana 7.30

**26 April** Birmingham: Power Up is a weekend of workshops and networking run by the Rights and Justice team at Friends of the Earth. (Contact Ray Cobbett)

**Sunday 10 May:** we have a stall booked at Green Fair Sustainability Centre, East Meon. Volunteers needed especially with transport as it's a tricky place to get to by PT.

**Wednesday 13 May:** Monthly meeting, Nirvana 7.30pm.

**30th May** Petersfield: Greening Hampshire Conference, Festival Hall, begins 10am Sara Grimes from the Greening Campaign on 07552126333

**13-21 June:** National Bike Week , details to follow.

**8-10 July:** the G8 meeting.

**Saturday 25 July:** Hampshire Water Festival in Staunton Country Park. Come and help organise FoE participation.

**Visit our website for confirmation of meetings and events** [www.havantfoe.org.uk](http://www.havantfoe.org.uk)

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

**Sue Holt** Coordinator Tel 02392 780943

**Patricia Williamson** Membership Tel 01243 378560

**Ray Cobbett** Treasurer & Hants FoE coordinator Tel 01243 389487

**Richard Jannaway**-Website & Newsletter Tel 01243 430361