



Branchline

Havant Friends of the Earth

Including East Hampshire

www.havantfoe.org.uk

Summer 2011

Havant Goes Greener success



Festival opening at the Spring by the Mayor of Havant

The Rolling Stones 1967 hit 'Let's Stick Together' played by guest band, Bubble Dubble in Havant Park, marked the end of Havant's first green festival. Launched at the Spring Arts Centre 6 days earlier with a screening of 'No Impact Man', the festival covered 10 events at as many venues throughout the Borough. Illustrated talks on buying solar technology, growing the organic way, greening the home and keeping bees were attended by groups of between 20 and 30 residents. The main event, an all-day family fair in Havant Park featuring 45 stalls, was well received by 1000 visitors on a blustery, cold day.

Festival round up.....

Mooted last October, Havant Goes Greener started out as an alternative transport day. It quickly grew and Havant Transition Network (HTN) joined FOE and Havant Council. The project was approved in January with funding from Havant Council, FOE and a private donation. Further contributions came from the 45 stall holders at the fair.



Two of the team with Cllr Mike Fairhurst and a van with the festival logo

It was decided that the programme should be seen in all parts of the borough so events were arranged in 10 locations. Everything was to be free. A working group of eight was set up drawn from the three partners.

The week began with a showing of 'Low Impact Man', a US-made documentary about a professional couple living in New York who decided to go seriously green for one year. The audience was urged in the introduction not to try it at home, but if they did, to come back next year and tell their story.

Power from the sun was the focus of a talk on Tuesday by Chichester Solar. Many have discovered that installing PV panels offers a better return on investment than a building society and it can make you feel better too. The session triggered lots of questions from the 30-strong audience. Wednesday it was the turn of the gardeners to hear from Maggie Haines who runs a smallholding near Emsworth

growing organic herbs, fruit and vegetables. Meanwhile, in Leigh Park, Havant Transition Network (HTN) showed a film about Peak Oil.

Keeping bees kept an audience buzzing in Bedhampton with an excellent introduction from Portsmouth Bee Keepers. Like so many other creatures they too are threatened by man as well as lethal mites, the varroa. Rob Veck from Bishop Waltham intrigued his audience in Hayling Island with a truly amazing account of how he greened his home. The result was a 75% reduction in carbon emissions.



It was well worth a trip to the church of the Sacred Heart in Waterlooville on Friday to view their £38,000 investment in green technology. Over 30 people made the journey. The cold wind and grey skies did little to dampen spirits at the Family Fair in the Havant Park. The 10 FOE members



Opened by the Mayor, the show touched on many aspects of green living, being active and helping nature and was judged a success by stall holders and visitors alike.

Jim took on the builders and won

400 letters, an 800 name petition plus two years campaigning is the way to win



Havant councillors have rejected unanimously an application to build 90 new homes on a green field site in Bedhampton. In a two-year long campaign, led by local resident and FOE member, Jim Graham, councillors decided that traffic noise from a nearby motorway would be a blight on future residents.

The developers wanted to build on a narrow strip of land sandwiched between existing homes and the A3M. The site was bisected by a tributary, access could only be achieved by demolishing property and the sewage management system was inadequate.

In the end, the decision rested on estimated traffic noise levels from the motorway next door to the site. Planning officers gave the go-ahead but the councillors took an opposite view - an unusual response as these cases go. This landmark victory was the result of Jim's unceasing pressure and success in rallying the support of local councillors and residents. At the finish the campaign raised over 400 letters and an 800-name petition.

Residents were organised by roads, letters had to be drafted and leaflets delivered to build support. As is often the case residents felt it was all done and dusted and there was no point in protesting. But arm twisting and persuasion yielded a committee to run the campaign that finally resulted in a famous victory

WHAT MAKES A WINNING CAMPAIGN?

- ◆ Organise early
- ◆ Contact local councillors
- ◆ Link up with community groups
- ◆ Mobilise the media
- ◆ Raise and spend money on leaflets and publicity
- ◆ Read the policy documents and ask what they mean

Havant keeps its Yew trees



Two Irish Yews have stood for 100 years at Havant's eastern gateway

Two Irish Yew trees in East Street, Havant, thought to be at least 100 years old, have been saved from the axe. Havant FOE joined Trees Wardens and other groups in blocking any move to fell the trees. They are in reasonable condition, are not a safety hazard and define Havant at a gateway location into the town.

The Yew trees serves as yet another reminder of the constant threat to Havant's tree population. Only through active membership of the borough's Tree Warden network and public vigilance can the process be slowed down.

NAME YOUR FAVOURITE TREE
More info on trees from www.havantboroughtreewardens.org.uk/

Thin plastic can now be returned to stores

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) have announced that supermarkets will now accept thin plastic film along with plastic bags. Carrier bag banks can be found in 4500 stores, say the BRC. The material itself is typically found wrapped around cans, toilet rolls etc and amounts to 43% of household goods packaging. Products will be identified by an on pack recycling label (see below) now used by over 100 companies. Retailers in the scheme include Waitrose, Co-op, Asda, Tesco and Morrison.

www.recyclenow.com



CARD
widely
recycled



**NOT AT
KERBSIDE**

CEREAL BAG

SOUTHAMPTON BIOMASS POWER PLANT 'NOT GREEN'

Hundreds of Southampton residents have taken to the streets in a bid to stop a 100MW biomass plant being built at the bottom of their street. The designers claim the plant is eco friendly. But the campaigners say that it is not sustainable. The wood fuel is grown thousands of miles away and shipped to site. The plant is poorly designed and sited next to a residential area. The Company, Helius, have agreed to revise their plans.



Local water company fined for pollution



Dusk at Langstone Harbour

Fines of £150,000 have been levied on Southern Water for over 40 illegal discharges of raw sewage into Langstone Harbour in 2008 and 2009. The prosecutions, brought by the Environment Agency, are for dumping unscreened waste from the company's plants in Eastney and Budds Farm in Havant.

The problem arose during heavy rainfall when water volumes overwhelmed the system's capacity leading to untreated discharges directly into the harbour. There is also anxiety among environmentalist that the pollution will upset the delicate eco balance in an area with sensitive, protected sites.

Residents groups are concerned that plans to build 6000 more homes in Havant can only worsen the problem. A motion to have this debated at a recent council meeting was heavily defeated.

Havant says YES to going greener

In a survey made by Havant FOE, borough residents say emphatically they want a greener town. About 150 people responded at events held during Green Week in May.

Half the respondents said they knew the basics of climate change. Two thirds were every interested in knowing more and the same number felt they knew enough to reduce their carbon footprints. The Internet and newspapers emerged as the main source of green information.

Walking and shopping locally were the greenest activities for most while car sharing was the lowest. Energy saving measures such as turning down thermostats, switching-off standbys and boiling just enough water are widely adopted as was double glazing. Water butts are rising in popularity.

An impressive 90% of people reckoned they knew a lot about recycling. Glass was the most widely recycled material followed by textiles and shoes with books and DVD's at the bottom of the list. Others mentioned were foil, spectacles, metals. paper based products and composting household waste. Surprisingly, 68% would favour some green taxes.

Havant could become greener with more local shops stocking more locally grown food. Affordable public transport would reduce car use while higher levels of recycling would benefit everybody in the long term.

FOE'S BIG PUSH

The FOE is lobbying for changes to the Energy Bill now going through Parliament. They include more guidance to councils on curbing carbon, warmer homes for all and pressure on private landlords to improve energy efficiency for tenants. FOE suggest three ways members can be active. Phone David Willetts office (02072) 193000 or, write to him or make an appointment to see him in South St (usually Friday's).

Further information: www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/energy_bill_overview.pdf

BRANCHLINE OPINION

Why low carbon is the only way forward

The UK is faced with a triple threat, peak oil, an unbalanced economy and climate change. Peak oil may seem a long time coming but it's here.

Risky new ventures in the Arctic seas, potentially disastrous fracking and polluting shale mining are being forced on a world hungry for new sources of energy. Britain's energy balance has moved firmly into the red with more imports from politically unstable areas.

The UK economy itself is now running several points below its peak. Again, it's a question of balance with housing, health, finance, defence and public sector taking up almost 60% of GDP and all funded by public borrowing.

The third threat is climate change. Latest data from the International Energy Agency show that 30.6 giga tonnes of carbon dioxide were pumped into the atmosphere last year, a sharp rise over 2009.

The government's aim to be 'the greenest ever' may have been boosted with the green investment bank and aggressive carbon reduction targets for 2050. But is it just hot air and won't the reality be business as usual?

It does not have to be so. Low carbon green growth is within the bounds of possibility and some countries are heading that way, China no less and Germany (which has just renounced nuclear energy). Tough, new international deals on carbon emissions will not be easy and are still some way off. But come they must for the sake of humanity's future survival.

Grow your own

Maggie Haines of Tuppenny Barn urges everybody to have a go

Five years ago I started out with no experience of fruit or vegetable growing & today have a hectare plot that flourishes throughout the growing season. My message to all of you that have never tried to 'grow their own' is to give it a shot. You need a surprisingly small amount of land to get a bountiful return of fruit or veggies. There are lots of good books to help you get started. Joy Larkcom offers a 'no nonsense' approach to

vegetable growing or try one of the many websites that have tips for the beginners (www.gardenorganic is a good one to start with). Once our sustainable education centre at Tuppenny Barn is up & running we will be teaching beginners the fundamentals of starting their own vegetable & fruit garden. For those of you that don't have a garden try your hand at growing in containers. There are a surprising number of traditional vegetables that can be grown in pots. The secret is to keep them well watered & not to let them dry out as can easily happen with this dry weather we are having.

I can guarantee once you harvest your first crop of fruit or vegetables you will be able to taste the difference to that bought in the supermarket. The satisfaction of having 'grown your own' is immense. So give it a go! Come & see how we do it at Tuppenny Barn – we are holding an open afternoon on Sunday July 10th from 2 – 5pm and will be there to answer all your gardening questions. There will be craft activities for the children & cream teas to savour once you have done a tour with the inevitable plant sales.....come & join us!



**Havant Friends of the Earth
ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
7.30pm September 15th
The Crown
8 High St, Emsworth
Followed by drinks
Open to old friends and new**

WHAT'S ON

- 25th June** FOE SE Regional Gathering
London - havantfoe@talk21.com
- 25th June** Portsmouth Summer Fair
Victoria Park - portsmouthcan.co.uk
- 6/7th July** South Downs Wood Fair
QE Park www.woodlandcrafts.co.uk
- 15th July** - Little Green Gathering
East Meon www.greenparty.org.uk
- 16th July** Zero Carbon Day
- 16&17th July** Hants Water Festival
Staunton Park Havant
www.hampshirewaterfestival.co.uk
- 9th September** Local FOE Groups
Conference Nottingham University
- 15th September** HavantFOE AGM & Social
Emsworth ray.cobbett@talk21.com



**Help Friends of the Earth
make Havant greener.
Join us today**

www.havantfoe@talk21.com

We campaign to care for our natural environment, manage resources in the interests of everyone and inspire solutions to environmental problems

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