

Branchline

Havant & East Hants Friends of the Earth

Havant Green Week back in 2012



See You There!

Plans are under way for another Green Week in June. Last year the Borough Council, Havant Transition Network and FOE teamed up to present a week of activities focused on greener lifestyle options. The various events around the borough attracted hundreds of people. Now the same team has got together again with the aim of delivering a bigger event over the six-day period. Ideas have been pouring in and include a specially written drama, a green trail showing how residents have met the low carbon challenge, talks and tips on buying and saving energy and practical ways of going greener

like grow-your-own food and local shopping. Anyone or group or company that would like to link their own events to the main programme would be more than welcome and should contact Sue Holt (01243) 389487 or visit www.havantgoesgreener.org.uk



GREEN WEEK OPENING NIGHT

Residents set for new battle with the builders

Bedhampton residents, led by FOE member Jim Graham, are preparing to play a full part in a Public Inquiry into a controversial new housing estate. Crayfern Homes want to build 92 new houses only metres from a busy and polluting motorway. An application made by the company earlier was thrown out by councillors on the grounds of unacceptable noise levels from nearby traffic. In a letter to planning inspectors Havant FOE has backed the council's stand and says, "We believe the construction of new homes on a green field site only metres from an increasingly noisy and polluting motorway strikes at the heart of the principle of providing a better quality of life now and in the future."

THE RISE AND RISE OF GREEN HOUSE GASES

Reports from world weather watchers, the UN and Energy Agency show that carbon dioxide levels are rising year over year. Last year 30.6 giga tonnes (Gt) poured into the atmosphere, a rise of 1.6 Gt on 2009. Were this trend to continue, a 2% rise in temperatures, that many scientists believe is a critical tipping point, would be achieved well before the end of the century. The prospects of containing the problem look increasingly remote in a world under siege from debt. Most of the rise comes from developing

countries making goods for consumption in the West. Pressure from some nations is adding to the problem as they switch, including Japan, from nuclear to fossil fuels after Fukushima. A global deal on reducing Carbon is not, as Chris Huhne said, a luxury or an optional extra but an absolute necessity. All the more amazing that in the Autumn Statement not a mention of a greener economy but a £250m handout to some the biggest users of power and polluters in the country.

Send an FOE e-card this year
www.foe.co.uk/living/cards.html



Happy Xmas everybody

Minister challenged over PV subsidy cuts

FOE is one of three groups taking action against DECC over the government's proposal to cut solar panel subsidies on 11th December. FOE centres on the legality of changing the scheme before the consultation period runs out on 23rd December. FOE also wants a longer period to minimise the damage to firms

affected by the cuts. The present Feed In Tariffs will be reduced to 20p per KWh from 41p thus extending the pay-back period from 10 to 20 years. PV has led to hundreds of new companies creating 25000 new jobs now facing the axe. For many solar is seen as the only challenge to the present Big Six energy cartel.



Longer lorries spark bike safety concerns

Plans to allow longer lorries on British roads have been criticised by cycling groups. The government's Road Safety Minister is moving to allow an additional two metres to the present maximum length of HGVs.

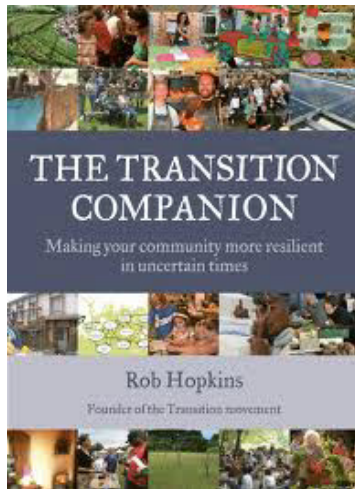
The longer lorries pose a particular hazard for cyclist as it increases the number of driver blind spots.

The CTC is urging the Minister to think again and instead of adding to the risks, take action to reduce cycling deaths caused by lorry tail swing.



Book choice

The Transition Companion
By Rob Hopkins £19.95



With hard times ahead the age of self-reliance may be nearer than we think. Since the transition idea was born in 2008 it has spread throughout the world, Hopkins, a former permaculture teacher, puts the emphasis on solutions, positive action and self-help. Cooperation rather than competition is seen as the key to making sustainable communities. The book offers advice, tools for getting started and inspiring case studies from around the world.

Make it a Green Xmas

St Nicholas hailed from Turkey in the 3rd century and, it's reckoned, was brought to England with the Normans and quickly embraced by the locals. He made his appearances at pagan winter festivals doing what he always does, bearing gifts and telling stories. He wore a cloak made up of holly, ivy and mistletoe which accounts for him being green. People fed and watered him to earn favours. The Vikings made further changes influenced by their God, Odin, so in came the white beard and flying reindeers And so it was until the thirties when a US soft drinks firm turned Father Xmas into his present red

CARDS

Send virtual ones or make your own

TREE

Artificial ones last longer or grow a real one from the garden. Otherwise, make sure it's from a sustainable source.

Home-made decorations can look better and work out cheaper

GIFTS

Charity shops are a great source of recycled presents. Homemade ones like photos and paintings, surplus books, plants and Fair-trade produce can work very well. Tickets and subscriptions are nearly always welcome and if it's electrical, recyclable batteries work out cheaper. Wrap sparingly in recyclable paper.

FOOD

The Soil Association reckoned that a typical family Xmas dinner racked up 49,000 food miles.

First off buy local, buy seasonal and buy organic for a much better taste. Puddings are best homemade-you know what's in them.

WASTE

The amount waste we produce is fairly staggering and equal to an extra bin for every family. Don't over buy food and then bin it. If you've got too much give it to a charity or less fortunate neighbours.



There's no place like home

Help us keep it that way

JOIN FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

E-mail: havantfoe@talk21.com

Call: (01243) 389487

Write: 26 Beach Road, Emsworth, PO10 7JS