

# Hammersmith and Fulham Friends of the Earth Newsletter

January 2005



Editor: Sarah

**Friends of  
the Earth**

## Review of the Year

It's that time of year again when we reflect on what we've achieved as a group over the last 12 months, and think about what we want to do over the next year.

### **Waste**

#### **Achievements in 2004**

We have achieved a lot this year on waste. We put on a very good waste display at the information centre in early summer. This was shortly before the launch of the local waste guide, which was achieved through a local partnership. The waste guide looks superb and is helping to let borough residents know what recycling schemes are available to them and how to recycling difficult items of waste, as well as including information on reducing waste and buying recycled. 60,000 copies have been printed and we have our contact details clearly shown so it is also good publicity for our group. A number of members of the group also attended a one-day trip to our local (in terms of this is where our orange sack waste is taken for sorting) Materials Recovery Facility at Slade Green. We saw how the various materials are sorted and were able to ask questions in the discussion session at the end of the visit.

### **Days of action/campaigns**

FOE's main focus of the waste campaign is the prioritisation of recycling, the minimisation of waste and anti-incineration. A national day of action was planned to put pressure on local councils to provide a doorstep recycling scheme. This was not appropriate to our borough as we already have a doorstep recycling scheme (and rather a good one at that) so we changed the accent of the day to suit our local situation - we promoted recycling in our borough, the improvement of the recycling scheme and devoted some our stall to a display on buying products made from post-consumer waste.



### **Future plans**

We need to discuss our future plans in this area as a group. One possibility is getting involved in the anti-incinerator campaigns at either Belvedere or Slough. We could do a survey of the availability of recycled products from the main retailers, including

supermarkets, to encourage those making a slight effort.

*Karen Rogers.*

### **Real Food**

We produced a real food guide, providing information on where to buy organic and fair trade in the borough.

We took part in a nation wide surveys of the apples, potatoes and carrots on sale in supermarkets that showed the lack of sourcing from the UK and high prices for fresh produce. In October, we held a day of action as part of a national day of action involving around 50 local Friends of the Earth groups across the country and comes as the Government prepares to consult over GM crop "coexistence" with conventional crops. We called on local MPs to back new laws to keep Hammersmith and Fulham food GM-Free and encouraged people to sign "Scarecrow post cards" to send to local MPs challenging them to support tough new laws preventing GM contamination. 150 local people signed the cards, reflecting the strength of people's feelings on this subject.

*Paula White and Carolyn Dyer.*

## Fair Trade

### Squeezed, crushed and ground down – and that's just the farmers!

HFFoE, West London Greenpeace and local Woodcraft Folk joined forces on a freezing Saturday morning as part of UK-wide Fair Trade town initiative. The aim was to find out which businesses currently stock fair trade goods and to attempt to persuade others to switch to or sell fair trade products.



Campaigners setting out from the Information Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The fair trade mark guarantees farmers and producers in developing countries a better deal. FoE has joined the Hammersmith and Fulham fair trade network in working for the borough to be accredited fair trade status next March. This will guarantee that the council operates a fair trade purchasing agreement and supports and promotes fair trade products and retailers throughout the borough.

We are compiling the results and hope to have a finished database for the council by 17<sup>th</sup> January, though help is still needed! We have also been asked to sit on the Fair Trade network steering group. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Paula. *Eugene Cooper*.

There is widespread community support for the borough gaining Fairtrade status. The council plans to put a resolution supporting Fairtrade to the Leaders' Committee in February. The race is now on to achieve the other four goals set by the Fairtrade Foundation for the target date of March 1. Croydon, Lambeth or Camden have all gone fair trade. When London has 17 Fair Trade

boroughs, it will be declared a Fair Trade City.

In order to become a Fairtrade Town, Hammersmith and Fulham must have the following:

- a local council resolution supporting Fairtrade
- a range of Fairtrade products readily available in the area's shops.
- Fairtrade products used by a number of local work places
- media coverage and popular support for the campaign.
- a local Fairtrade steering group.

#### Contacts:

Richard Adam (local campaign)

☎ 020 8753 3332

✉ [richard.adam@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:richard.adam@lbhf.gov.uk)

Fairtrade Foundation (Fairtrade Town Initiative):

☎ 020 7405 5942

🌐 <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

## Climate change

In May, we took part in the Kyoto march, which aimed to draw attention to global environmental degradation and climate change, and the refusal by President Bush to sign the Kyoto Protocol.

### West London Green Festival

An enjoyable day in June brought over 20 environmental groups together as a part of a Bike Week event to promote cycling. Many groups used it to network with other groups there. We have applied for funding for a similar event next year. Anyone wish to be involved in organising or promoting it?

### Cycling

We have been pressing for better consultation processes with the Council, having largely been shut out of what is happening at the Broadway. We will now have regular meetings with Chris Bainbridge (council

transport officer), and are included in cycle route planning at Shepherd's Bush Green. The council has a contract on how it deals with the voluntary and community sector, though I'm surprised it's not better known.

We have had several rides, mainly going out to Richmond Park. We would like to have a much wider base and have people involved in regular cycle rides. Please contact me if interested. *John Griffiths*

🌐 <http://www.hfcyclists.org.uk>

## Biodiversity

Earlier this year, we worked alongside Local Agenda 21 and HF Council to produce a guide to biodiversity in the borough. The guide unfolds into an A3 poster which highlights some of the rarer species in our borough such as lizards, stag beetles and hedgehogs. The guide provides simple ideas to encourage wildlife into the borough such as:

- composting (the council is offering subsidised compost bins and water butts to all households - just call 020 8753 5686).
- volunteering to help with the Thames clean-up along the foreshore (go to [www.thames21.org.uk](http://www.thames21.org.uk)), or help plant trees at Wormwood Scrubs (Groundwork West London: ☎ 020 8743 3040), or help in one of Hammersmith's community gardens (☎ 07813 468981).
- Giving birds a helping hand by providing nesting materials - such as bundles of dried straw and sticks, and providing food for them throughout the year - (the London Wetland Centre in Barnes has a good selection of bird feeders, seeds and nest boxes, as well as helpful advice on attracting birds into your garden).

Hopefully our biodiversity campaign will continue to grow and flourish, so we can all enjoy the benefits of living in a greener borough alive with the sound of bees, birds and rustling trees - instead of yet more traffic! Why not make it your New Year's resolution to help biodiversity! *Jane Knight*

## Education

Helen worked with Lena Gardens Primary, raising awareness about waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The children learnt about the work of Friends of the Earth, and produced colourful posters to raise awareness about waste issues. Doing more work with schools could be a target in 2005.

Mike took part in an event at St Paul's School for Boys in March, where he spoke and answered questions about fair trade. He also took part in a couple of sessions at the Urban Studies Centre in spring/summer talking about fair trade and transport. All the sessions were lively and showed how motivated young people are about protecting the environment.

**Thanks to everyone for all their hard work this year. Keep up the good work in 2005!**

## Climate News

Ten years after the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force, and seven years after the Kyoto Protocol was drawn up, governments have approved a compromise proposal on the format of future discussions.



However, more promising signs have emerged from the COP10 meeting in Argentina than more acronyms and hot air.

Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett, who represented the UK at the conference, said climate change would be a priority for the UK's presidencies of the EU and G8 next year. This all makes 2005 is a crucial time to put pressure on the government.

Firstly, the government will review its policies on climate change. So far, it is not on track to meet its own target for CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. Friends of the Earth believes that the UK and other

developed countries should commit themselves to achieving a year-on-year reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> by about 3%, and has drafted a Climate Bill to ensure that the UK carries this through.

Secondly, the UK will lead the G8 negotiations at the G8 summit in Scotland later this summer. Friends of the Earth plans to have an array of actions, in conjunction with other environmental groups, to make sure that climate change remains at the forefront of the issues to be debated.

Finally, the second half of 2005 will see the UK holding the presidency of the EU, a role that entails shaping the agenda for that period. Friends of the Earth will put pressure on the Government to set tough targets for the EU CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which represent around 15% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Friends of the Earth will also be active when the UK leads the EU in the next round of negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol, likely to be in November or December 2005.

## GM-Free Britain

### ***Sign up to the GM-free Britain lobby of Parliament***

The Government has now started to consult over GM contamination and liability to pave the way for GM crops to be grown. And the US is trying to force GM food into Europe. Make sure your voice is heard!



A mass lobby of Parliament is taking place on Wednesday 23rd February to demand the right to choose GM-free food, strict laws to prevent GM contamination and liability laws to ensure biotechnology companies pay out if anything goes wrong.



**[http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real\\_food/press\\_for\\_change/lobby/](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/press_for_change/lobby/)**

## Member in the spotlight



**Name:** Eugene Cooper

**Age:** Old enough to buy alcohol

**Occupation:** Conservation work in West London with local groups, including London Wildlife Trust, BTCV and sometimes Groundwork

**Why did you join HFFoE?** I wanted to make a difference in the area and to campaign for a better local environment. I've been gardening since the age of four or five and have always loved plants and nature in general, and have a strong connection to looking after the planet.

**Role in the group:** I have been the group's representative on the council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel since last spring, and have helped organise and carry out most of the days of action.

**What are your plans for the future?** I'd like to carry on with my work on the scrutiny panel and get more involved in the fair trade campaign.

**Favourite day of action?** Tractors and trolleys was the highlight, followed by the Kyoto March to the US embassy in May.

**Favourite hair colour?** I think it has to be purple.

**Volunteers are needed to go in the hot seat! Please contact Sarah if you are interested.**

## No web access?

If you do not have web access and would like information from the web about campaigning, please contact national Friends of the Earth on 020 7490 1555 and ask for any documents you need to be downloaded or for print-outs of web actions.



**And finally...Happy New Year everyone!**

## Diary Dates

**Monday 10 January, 14 February 7.15 for 7.30pm**

**General meeting, Hammersmith Information Centre, Hammersmith Broadway. New members always welcome.**

Sat 22nd January	<b>The Future of Food: An Afternoon to Discuss Organic, Local &amp; Tasty Food on a Tasty Planet!</b> City of London School for Girls. ☎ 0208 809 239 ✉ <a href="mailto:peterlang@resurgence.org">peterlang@resurgence.org</a>	Mon 21st February	<b>Induction and welcome event for people new to Friends of the Earth local groups</b> • <a href="mailto:davidb@foe.co.uk">davidb@foe.co.uk</a> ☎ 020 7566 1690
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> January	South East, London and East of England Local Groups' regional gathering, 11-4:30, Conway Hall, London. ✉ <a href="mailto:davidb@foe.co.uk">davidb@foe.co.uk</a> ☎ 020 7566 1690	Wed 23rd February	<b>GM Parliamentary lobby, Houses of Parliament</b> ✉ <a href="mailto:lizw@foe.co.uk">lizw@foe.co.uk</a>

## Contacts

Campaigns coordinator, real food campaigner (GM), website, e-mail groups	Paula ✉ <a href="mailto:paulaandsteve@btinternet.com">paulaandsteve@btinternet.com</a> ☎ 020 8898 1112	Cycling campaigner	John ✉ <a href="mailto:john@truefeelings.co.uk">john@truefeelings.co.uk</a> ☎ 020 7371 1290
Business coordinator real food campaigner(Supermarkets/pesticides)	Carolyn ✉ <a href="mailto:pandora@gn.apc.org">pandora@gn.apc.org</a> ☎ 020 8741 0295	Scrutiny panel	Eugene ✉ <a href="mailto:wildbluboi@aol.com">wildbluboi@aol.com</a> ☎ 020 7736 7582
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Membership secretary, and corporate social responsibility contact	Pam ☎ 020 8994 1239 ✉ <a href="mailto:panjandrum@wfour.demon.co.uk">panjandrum@wfour.demon.co.uk</a>	Waste campaigner	Karen ✉ <a href="mailto:karen.rogers25@virgin.net">karen.rogers25@virgin.net</a>
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Treasurer	Ruth ✉ <a href="mailto:ruth@wordshark.co.uk">ruth@wordshark.co.uk</a>	Aviation Contact	Sheila
Climate Change Contact	Giles		

If you have any friends or colleagues who live locally and are concerned about the environment why not ask them to become a Friend of the Earth. If they join now they will receive a free year's subscription to Earth Matters. Just ask them to fill out the form below, cut it from the newsletter and send it back to us.



**Yes, I'd like to join my local group**

Name

.....

Address

.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone (day).....(eve).....

Email.....

**I enclose a cheque/postal order for £\_\_\_\_\_ (Annual Membership costs £6 for individual/family membership, £3 for concessions.) Plus a donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ payable to "H&F FOE"**

Yes, I'd like to receive EarthMatters.

(free for one-year introductory offer)

Please do not contact me about national campaigns or fundraising.

Please do not pass my details to other organisations.

For more information **Telephone Pam on 020 89941239**

**or email [info@hffoe.org.uk](mailto:info@hffoe.org.uk)**

**Please return to:** Carolyn Dyer, 50 Overstone Road, Hammersmith, W6