

# North Herts Friends of the Earth

May 2010

[www.nhertsfoe.co.uk](http://www.nhertsfoe.co.uk)

## North Herts Friends of Earth turn out in force for The Wave

North Herts had its biggest turnout for many years for The Wave demo. Many of us travelled down together and we met others along the way, joining over 50,000 people on Saturday 5th Dec at The Wave; the biggest climate change march in the world ever! We called for the Government to take much more urgent and effective action on climate change.

Not only did Ed Miliband (Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change) come out and hear us, but Gordon Brown invited 24 Wave supporters to 10 Downing Street after the event to hear their demands.

People from all over the country dressed in blue encircled Parliament, calling on the UK government to settle for nothing less than a climate deal in Copenhagen that avoids dangerous climate change and protects the world's poorest who are already feeling its effects.

### Stevenage West Update.

On the 22nd December 2009 (a good time to bury bad news?), the Secretary of State GRANTED outline planning permission for the development of approximately 3,600 dwellings; and business premises; shops; leisure, social and community facilities; open space and landscaping; provision of infrastructure, highways and public transport facilities; and ancillary facilities. Condition 4 of the December 2009 permission states that: "The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission or before the expiration of 2 years from the date of approval of the last reserved matters to be approved, whichever is the later."

In accordance with the Planning Inspectors recommendations the Secretary of State has decided that the planning application for 5,000 dwellings be REFUSED, as it was not in accordance with extant planning policy at that time.

So, not as the bad as the 10,000 proposed a few years ago and still subject to providing all the infrastructure which is a major stumbling block to developers not least because there are serious questions about how possible it is to meet the transport and water needs of such a development.

Meanwhile North of Stevenage SNAP (Stevenage North Area Plan) rears its' head again. Residents of Gravely and Great Ashby are campaigning against the proposals. Gravely have held a public meeting and set up and have set up Gravely Against Snap Proposals.

### Message from Dan Gomm:

Dear North Herts Friend of the Earth members and supporters,  
First, apologies if you already know what follows, but not everyone receives the emails we send out (if you don't, but want to, please see box at back of newsletter).

I am stepping down as Coordinator of the group due to ill health. I have been diagnosed with cancer (unknown primary). I am now receiving chemotherapy to control the cancer, but it won't cure it. I am responding well to the chemotherapy and so far the side effects have been mild and I am able to enjoy life much better than the previous few months - so good news!

Thank you for the cards and good wishes I've had, they are very much appreciated.

I've had many happy years working with NHFOE and it has added greatly to my life. Thank you all for being part of it. I encourage everyone to enjoy the group and support it in its continuing campaigns.

As you'll understand my illness has meant a period of uncertainty and transition for the group, so apologies for any lapses we've had (such as the lateness of the newsletter - it should have been January!!). However, also, many thanks to the people who have stepped in and ensured that the group continues to be active and have made my decision to step down easier for me. Thank you also to those who are continuing in their roles. Please see the full list of contacts at the back of the newsletter. Please, if you are able to lend a hand in any way, do contact Matt.

All the best,

**Dan Gomm**



The beginning!



The middle!



And the end!

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009  
January.**

Luton North bypass events were attended and our opposition clearly put. A full written submission to the consultation objecting to the bypass from North Herts Friends of the Earth and objections from individual members were submitted.

**Why woolen clothing is cool**

- It's sustainable.
- It's biodegradable.
- It's antibacterial.
- It's chlorine free.

All good things, by the way.

But by far the biggest environmental impact of a garment comes from washing and ironing it.

The great thing about a jumper is that you don't wash them that often.

And when you do, it has to be hand wash.

Which is a cool wash, which is cool too.

And ironing wool! Why would you?

*From howies winter 2009*

*catalogue: [www.howies.co.uk](http://www.howies.co.uk)*

*Submitted by Ann*

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009  
February**

Hitchin Urban Transport consultation events were attended and our case made was against a bypass and for transport alternatives by several members.

This led to a prolonged and detailed struggle with consultants who misrepresented comments made by people at the event. Mostly these issues have not been fully resolved, leaving a report on the consultation event as being more pro- bypass than the consultees actually were.

**Coldest winter for years**

This year we saw snow in quantities many of us thought climate change would stop us seeing ever again.

However, soaring global temperatures do not guarantee hot weather for Britain. We may still get a poor summer, but that does not mean the world is not continuing to heat up, a point

ignored by most climate-change deniers.

In fact, there is a world of difference between the British weather at any given time and the inexorable shift that is taking place in the climate of the planet, as Peter Inness, a Reading University meteorologist, makes clear. "Britain covers only a very small part of the globe. It takes up less than one thousandth of the world's surface. The temperature here is almost irrelevant when considering the issue of global climate change."

Yes, we felt the cold but many other parts of the world are having no such problems, as Richard Betts, head of climate impact at the Met Office, argues.

"It is true that Britain is having a spell of extremely cold weather, as is much of northern Europe and the United States. But at the same time, Canada and the Mediterranean region are having unusually warm weather for the time of year. We shouldn't get so absorbed with what is going on in our backyard."

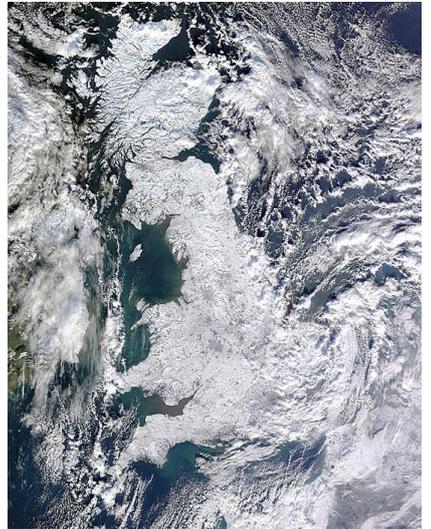
This argument is also made by Inness – though rather more forcibly. "I think it is really stupid to say that the current cold weather proves that climate change is not happening. Climate refers to changes in the weather patterns over a 20- to 40-year period. What is happening in Britain at present represents little more than a point on a graph."

This takes us to the heart of the matter. Meteorologists may make errors with specific long-range forecasts. (This winter was more likely to be mild than severe, they thought.) There is no doubt about the overall trend. Each year, humanity pumps billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The inevitable result

will be global warming and major, catastrophic climate change.

It is a bit like playing Pooh sticks, says Betts. "When you throw sticks off a bridge, you know they will all be swept downstream. You just don't know which one will move the fastest. It is the same with climate and the weather. We know the world is warming inexorably but we cannot say specifically which year is going to be the warmest. We can only indicate what are the general prospects of getting a record-breaking year. And despite the horrible weather at present, it is quite possible that we will get one this year."

*Adapted from The Observer, Sunday 10 January 2010 Robin McKie*



**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009  
February**

Dan attended "Six billion ways" event in London –planning and building up to the G20 summit and protests. A inspiring event organised by Friends of the Earth, Jubilee Debt Campaign, People and Planet, War on Want and the World Development Movement and addressed by speakers as diverse as Mark Thomas (comedian activist), Bianca Jagger (international human rights advocate), Meena Raman (Friends of the Earth Malaysia and a leading campaigner for climate justice) and Susan George (one of the leading and founding figures in the global justice movement).

## Rantology to Reality

We *rant* about a lot of issues in Hitchin. Luton east expansion, Stevenage west expansion, East of England development proposals, Land Allocation in and around Hitchin, Luton and possibly a Hitchin bypass, overdevelopment in Hitchin, Churchgate, Hitchin Conservation area, Hitchin Urban Transport Plan, possible incineration in Hertfordshire, recycling and zero waste, NHDC's Climate Change Strategy, the Town Hall, Hitchin Museum, pigeon infestation, the effects of the expanding night life in Hitchin, the state of the public realm and many more.

Have I left any out? Oh yes the High Ropes Project for the Dell. Why? Because it will not leave enough *sand* for people who ignore the consequences of Peak Oil and Climate Change in which to bury their heads! Not only do these people realize that rejecting these threats will reduce their life quality and shorten others, but that they will have suffocated in the *sand* anyway and that their survivors will have to waste energy digging them in deeper (6 foot?) into the *sand*. You might argue that this is an altruistic act providing nutrient to the *sand* for green growth as a new sustainable energy source. Stop, you need not pay such a high price!

Instead I suggest extracting fellow Hitchinites from the *sand* enacting CPR and joining me in starting Hitchin Transition Town to reduce fossil fuel energy, increase renewable energy and revive Hitchin's economy by using local shops and services as much as possible. This will produce a much more sustainable future built on rock rather than *sand* and a raw material useful for double glazing and for casting wind turbine blades, bicycles and other low energy artifacts. Much more useful than having to fill bags with it to combat rising water levels!

To prevent capital punishment by *sand* and to change *rant* into *reality* contact me before the

*sand*glass runs out at [chrishoney\\_design@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrishoney_design@yahoo.co.uk)

### Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009 January

Four North Herts members attended the Friends of the Earth Regional gathering for the East of England in London. Great venue, good free coffee and interesting workshops! The national Get Serious campaign was launched.

### Empty skies proved that airports cause pollution, say researchers

Wasn't it wonderful to have quiet clear skies for a while earlier this year? And have you noticed how much grayer the skies are since, now that the vapour trails are back and disperse and merge to hide the blue? Well, according to this article it isn't only our peace of mind that is suffering from the excessive flying we've become used to.

"Scientists have used the no-flying period caused by the ash cloud to show for the first time that airports are themselves significant causes of pollution. Although long suspected, the fact that mass take-offs and landings are large pollution sources could never be proved before, because aircraft pollution could not be measured as separate from the pollution caused by vehicles operating near by. But an analysis of the first three days of the unprecedented closure of UK airspace, at Heathrow and Gatwick, shows that there is a definite air pollution caused by air traffic in the vicinity of airport hubs.

Pollution near both airports dropped significantly during the first three days of the shutdown. During last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, levels of two major pollutants, NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) and NO<sub>x</sub> (the generic term for oxides of nitrogen, taken together) fell virtually to zero.

Such nitrogen pollutants can exacerbate breathing difficulties in older people and those suffering from cardiac conditions, and can

react with sunlight to form an even more damaging pollutant, ozone, which causes the sort of "urban smogs" seen in Los Angeles. NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> are particularly associated with jet aircraft, as they are produced by the high-temperature mix of aviation with fuel.

The new analysis has been produced by Ben Barratt and Gary Fuller of the Environmental Research Group at King's College, London. The group said yesterday: "This period of unprecedented closure during unexceptional weather conditions has allowed us to demonstrate that the airports have a clear measurable effect on NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and that this effect disappeared entirely during the period of closure, leading to a temporary but significant fall in pollutant concentrations adjacent to the airport perimeters."

"We have always been fairly confident that there was this 'airport effect' but we have never been able to show it," Dr Barratt commented. "The closure gave us the opportunity to look at it, and there is a very strong indication that it is the case."

Ed Dearnley, of Environmental Protection UK, which specialises in air quality campaigning, said yesterday: "This has been an excellent opportunity to find out exactly what the environmental impact of airports really is."

*Adapted from The Independent By Michael McCarthy, Environment Editor and Phil Boucher*

### Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009

#### May

A major effort was put into the Age of Stupid showing in Hitchin and 83 people attended with all four main political parties taking part in a debate afterwards. Our Get Serious campaign was launched with nearly all attendees signing cards. A big success despite lack of media coverage.

## **Climategate**

The Climatic Research Unit email controversy (dubbed "Climategate" in the media) began in November 2009 with the Internet leak of thousands of emails and other documents from the University of East Anglia's (UEA) Climatic Research Unit (CRU). According to the university, the emails and documents were obtained through the hacking of a server. The emails were used to support widely-publicised allegations by climate change sceptics that the emails showed scientific misconduct and mishandling of Freedom of Information requests. The UEA and CRU issued rebuttals of the allegations. Three independent reviews into the affair were initiated in the UK, two of which were concluded by the end of March 2010. The CRU's director, Professor Phil Jones, stood aside temporarily from his post during the reviews. Reports by the House of Commons' Science and Technology Select Committee and an independent Science Assessment Panel commissioned by the UEA concluded that there was no evidence of malpractice on the part of the CRU and Phil Jones, though they did find that there was room for improvement in some of the CRU's working practices. The scientific consensus that "global warming is happening and that it is induced by human activity" was determined to not be challenged by the emails and there was "no evidence of any deliberate scientific malpractice in any of the work of the Climatic Research Unit." The UEA was criticised for a "culture of withholding information"[10] and although the CRU's use of statistics was generally commended, some of their methods may not have been the best for the purpose. The reports concluded that Phil Jones had no case to answer and that better statistical methods might not have produced significantly different results. The CRU's detractors were also criticised,

with one of the reports deploring the tone of their criticism and finding that some of the criticism had been "selective and uncharitable". The findings of the third review have yet to be published. In the United States, a review by Pennsylvania State University of the work of Michael E. Mann, whose correspondence was among the stolen e-mails, cleared him of wrongdoing.

The Norfolk Constabulary is conducting a criminal investigation of the server breach.

*From Wikipedia*

### **Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009 March**

12 North Herts Friends of the Earth supporters travelled down together to the "Put people first" march at the G20 summit and we met more NHFOE members in the crowd of 35,000 at the G20. It was an excellent turn-out from us.

### **February, March, April**

A North Herts Friends of the Earth review of group structure and effectiveness was started. Several member offered to take on more responsibilities. This is an ongoing process and we'll need to review where we are again in 2010.

### **US oil company donated millions to climate sceptic groups, says Greenpeace**

The report identifies little-known US oil company, Koch Industries as the paymaster of global warming sceptics in the US and Europe, giving \$73m to climate sceptic groups across the US and Europe.

Greenpeace says that Koch Industries donated nearly \$48m (£31.8m) to climate opposition groups between 1997-2008. From 2005-2008, it donated \$25m to groups opposed to climate change, nearly three times as much as ExxonMobil. Koch also spent \$5.7m on political campaigns and \$37m on direct lobbying to support fossil fuels. In a hard-hitting report, which confirms

environmentalists' suspicions that there is a well-funded opposition to the science of climate change, Greenpeace accuses the funded groups of "spreading inaccurate and misleading information" about climate science and clean energy companies.

"The company's network of lobbyists, former executives and organisations has created a forceful stream of misinformation that Koch-funded entities produce and disseminate. The propaganda is then replicated, repackaged and echoed many times throughout the Koch-funded web of political front groups and thinktanks," said Greenpeace.

"Koch industries is playing a quiet but dominant role in the global warming debate. This private, out-of-sight corporation has become a financial kingpin of climate science denial and clean energy opposition. On repeated occasions organisations funded by Koch foundations have led the assault on climate science and scientists, 'green jobs', renewable energy and climate policy progress," it says.

The groups include many of the best-known conservative thinktanks in the US. All have been involved in "spinning" the "climategate" story or are at the forefront of the anti-global warming debate, says Greenpeace. Koch has also contributed money to politicians, the report said, listing 17 Republicans and four Democrats whose campaign funds got more than \$10,000 from the company.

Koch Industries is a \$100bn-a-year conglomerate dominated by petroleum and chemical interests, with operations in nearly 60 countries and 70,000 employees. It owns refineries which process more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day in the US, as well as a refinery in Holland. It has held leases on the heavily polluting tar-sand fields of Alberta, Canada and has interests in coal, oil exploration, chemicals, forestry, and pipelines.

The majority of the group's assets are owned and controlled by

Charles and David Koch. They have been identified by Forbes magazine as the joint ninth richest Americans and the 19th richest men in the world, each worth between \$14-16bn.



### **Wanted for crimes against the climate**

Greenpeace accuses the Koch companies of having a notorious environmental record. In 2000 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fined Koch industries \$30m for its role in 300 oil spills that resulted in more than 3m gallons of crude oil leaking into ponds, lakes and coastal waters.

Report available at: <http://www.greenpeace.org/kochindustries>

### **Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

#### **April**

9 people attended an introduction night for new(ish) members. It was a social night mixed with some activities and discussion and of course, organic beer and wine! Maybe we should have another one?

#### **May**

4 members attended Get Serious training day in London.

#### **June and July**

Triangle Garden and Rhythm of the World stalls great success with around 200 Get Serious cards signed. Good amount of volunteers, although more would have meant less work. Transition towns, anti incinerator campaign and group also promoted.

#### **July**

Age of Stupid showing in Kimpton – following discussion chaired by Dan on behalf of NHFOE.

### **Low energy cooking tips**

Here's a few common sense tips to get your started on the road to energy-efficient cooking

#### **1. Hot and Cold**

The first thing that you should become aware of around the kitchen is hot & cold. It takes a lot of energy to cool something down, and it takes a lot of energy to heat it up. That's where the savings can be made.

For example, don't leave the fridge or freezer door open longer than necessary. When the cold air escapes, this means that your fridge or freezer will have to work overtime to bring the temperature back down. Conversely, don't use more hot water than you need to. Don't boil a big pan full of water if you only need a little bit!

Most foods continue to cook after the heat has been turned off, so see if you can turn things off early. Most rice only needs to be brought to the boil, covered and turned off. Then just leave until the water (2:1 water to rice) is absorbed.

#### **2. Size Matters**

When heating something, make sure that the heat actually goes where you want it to. This means that you should be careful to match your pots and pans to the appropriate burners on your range. Otherwise a lot of the energy you're using is just heating up the air in your kitchen.

#### **3. Use a pressure cooker**

Dan and I had a pressure cooker for years and never used it very much. We bought it to speed up cooking dry beans and pulses. Pressure-cooking works because as the air pressure increases inside the sealed pot, the boiling point of water decreases. It is amazing the difference it makes! Cooking chickpeas takes a couple of hours but in a pressure cooker about 20 min. After an exciting phase of cooking every pulse or bean under the sun, it got forgotten.

We recently rediscovered it and now use it nearly every day for rice, potatoes... You can also use it for vegetables. I did find the pressure cooker a bit scary to use

at first but you soon get used to it! Most of the timings in the manual are a bit ambitious and often you need to add an extra couple of minutes to the cooking time depending on what you are cooking. But pressure cookers are brilliant! They reduce the time and so the energy you are using to cook.

Look out for more low energy cooking tips in the next newsletter or if you can't wait check out [www.planetgreen.discovery.com](http://www.planetgreen.discovery.com)

Submitted by Ann De Bock

### **Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

#### **July**

Get Serious strategy meeting held. 7 people were in attendance, actions agreed and long term strategy mapped out.

#### **July**

Meeting held with North Herts Labour party on cutting CO2 locally and Get Serious campaign. Many ideas subsequently adopted by the Labour group from the Get Serious campaign.

#### **September**

NHFOE put in objection to Housing allocations based on assumption of a Hitchin bypass. The arguments against a bypass were also made in the submission.

#### **September**

Full council NHDC debate on incineration addressed by Dan in support of motion: "That, bearing in mind the effect on climate change of more incineration, this Council strongly urges Hertfordshire County Council to select a more benign alternative to incineration for future large scale waste disposal, and to procure a contract with reducing waste tonnage targets for the contractor to process." Put forward by Labour Cllr Deepak Sangha and Cllr David Billing. The motion was lost, but with a much closer margin than expected.

#### **September**

Get Serious cards sent to all HNFOE members with the newsletter but a low return rate shows this was not a simple operation and needs to be seriously considered as a tactic before being used again.



The delegates came and the delegates sat and they talked and they talked until their bums all went flat,  
 Then a delegate said of the country he knew  
 "We must do something quick, but just what shall we do?"  
 So they sat again thinking and there they stayed seated,  
 sitting and thinking: the planet's been heated.  
 "I think" said a delegate from Peru  
 "that we all must agree on some things we can do,  
 like reducing emissions, at least CO<sub>2</sub>",  
 So they nodded and noted, then vetoed and voted and one of them stood up and suddenly quoted  
 "It's the science, you see, that's the thing that must guide us.  
 When the leaders all get here they're certain to chide us"  
 So they sat again thinking about what to think,  
 then decided to ponder what colour of ink  
 to use on the paper when they'd all agreed to be selfless, not greedy, Mc Greedy, Mc Greed.  
 "But how do we choose just what colour to use?"  
 said a delegate there who'd been having a snooze.  
 "We need clear binding targets, definitive action.  
 We must all agree clearly, without more distraction"  
 So they sat again thinking about targets for ink, but the ink in their thinking had started to stink and they started to think that the ink was a kink in the thinking about real things they should think.  
 "If the climate needs mending, then this is our chance" said the nuclear delegate sent there by France, " we need to agree on one thing to agree on, something we all want a fixed guarantee on".  
 "Yes," said another, who thought this made sense, "some value for carbon, in dollars or pence"  
 But the mention of money and thoughts of expense had stifled the progress and things became tense.

The fellow from China, with a smile on his face said  
 “Who put the carbon there in the first place?”  
 “Wasn’t us” said the US. Then Europe did too.  
 Then a silence descended and no words were spoken  
 Until a delegate stood up, voice nervous and broken,  
 “Is there nothing upon which we all can decide, because on Wednesday my chickens  
 laid eggs that were fried.”  
 “We all like a sing song” said the bloke from down under,  
 but then the great hall was all shouting and thunder.  
 Policemen had entered and were wearing protesters, who’d they’d beaten and  
 flattened like blooded southwesters.  
 Ban Ki Moon put his head in another man’s lap and was last heard muttering  
 something like “crap”.  
 But the chap next to him said “It’s more like it’s pooh”  
 So the great hall debated, not what they should do, but whether it was crap, cack or  
 pooh. “It is pooh!” “It is cack!” “It is Crap!” - “We agree!”  
 It was written and labelled as document three.  
 “I think if we find one thing that we all agree on the maybe Brazil will be left with a  
 tree on”  
 So they sat again thinking of trees in Brazil and glaciers retreating up hill and  
 thought of the poor folks whose homes were in flood, but less of the protesters  
 covered in blood. They pondered the species so nearly extinct; it was as if they all  
 thought these things might be linked.  
 “We need a solution, we need action, please” said a lady who’d come from the  
 sinking Maldives.  
 The others all nodded and said it was fact  
 that the time must be now, not to talk but to act.  
 Then Obama arrived and said, most rhetorical “Action is action and not  
 metaphorical”  
 Wow, they all thought, he must mean allegorical.  
 “I love it when Barak goes all oratorical”  
 “But the problem I have is that congress won’t pass it”  
 “Bugger” said Ban Ki, then “sorry”, then “arse it”  
 Then Brown said “Now how does this strike you, it’s simpler when voters already  
 dislike you.”  
 He suggested the EU should lead from the front.  
 So the Mail and the Telegraph called him *something very rude indeed*.  
 So the delegates stared at the texts with red marks on, ignoring the gales of laughter  
 from Clarkeson.  
 No one was satisfied, nobody won, except the morons convinced it is really the sun.  
 And they blew it and wasted the greatest of chances. Instead they all frolicked in  
 diplomat dances and decided decisively right there and then that the best way to  
 solve it is to meet up again and decide on a future that’s greener and greater, not  
 with action right now, but something else –later.

*Abridged from Radio 4’s the Now Show, 18/12/09. Marcus Brigstocke gives us a Dr Seuss-style take on  
 events at Copenhagen. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_RlKxz\\_ymQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_RlKxz_ymQ)*

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**August**

Royston kite festival stall successful with new contacts being made in Royston and Get Serious and group promoted.

**September**

Stevenage Borough council agreed to dialogue with North Herts Friends of the Earth on cutting their CO2 emissions and meeting held with SBC's Emma Rose. Some positive influence being had.

Ongoing.

Pressure on NHDC to communicate is still ongoing with little enthusiasm on their part, but they are aware and have relevant details and documents. Cards to be handed over at next discussion of NHDC climate change strategy.

**“ The significant problems that exist today cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.” Albert Einstein**

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**May**

Walsworth fair stall was attended by the most volunteers ever, but only 28 cards signed – this showed a need for leadership and training in getting cards signed and communicating with the public. Also, showed that Get Serious is a more difficult campaign to promote than others we have run. Also £37.50 made.



**“Activism is my rent for living on this planet” Alice Walker- Author**

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**October**

NHFOE funded the public meeting in Hatfield that launched the anti incineration campaign there. NHFOE members and the group were major supporters of Herts Without Waste throughout the year, contributing to strategy, policy, demos and dialogue with Herts County Council officers and councillors.

**October**

Hitchin Library display held to promote “The Wave” and NHFOE.

**October**

4 members attended the launch of NHDC Climate Change Strategy. Stall held and a lively conversation was held with NHDC's Jim Brown and councillors. The event was part of wider Local Strategic Partnership meeting and subsequent discussions were influenced by the need to address climate change.

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**October**

Apple day stall held to promote The Wave demo and the group.



**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**November**

The official NHFOE consultation response to the Herts County Council waste consultation was written and sent and many others were sent from group members.

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**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**Ongoing**

Chris continued to build support for Transition Town Hitchin and attended several events.

**"First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, and then you win" - Gandhi**

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**December**

14 NHFOE supporters went to the Wave demo in London to put pressure on the COP Copenhagen meeting

**Actively campaigning with North Herts Friends of the Earth 2009**

**Throughout year.**

Notable change of attitude at The Comet, who in the past have often followed up press releases and letters from North Herts Friends of the Earth. This year we were almost totally ignored, even to the extent of The Comet not reporting the only North Herts election hustings organised (Age of Stupid showing) by us! This despite two press releases and a phone call.

North Herts Friends of the Earth  
CONTACTS:

Main Contact:  
Matt Sutcliffe  
23 Baliol Road  
Hitchin  
mattysut@hotmail.com  
07706897365

Treasurer & Membership  
secretary:  
Jill Bracy  
44 Chiswick Quay  
London W4 3UR  
0780 2211767  
[jill.bb@virgin.net](mailto:jill.bb@virgin.net)

Planning Campaigner:  
Harvey Ward  
32 Laurel Avenue  
Potters Bar  
EN6 2AB  
01707 659742  
07913476202  
[harvey@thewards.org.uk](mailto:harvey@thewards.org.uk)

Food Coordinator:  
Ann De Bock  
147 Common Rise, Hitchin  
01462 632479  
[anndebock@yahoo.com](mailto:anndebock@yahoo.com)

Transition Towns Coordinator:  
Chris Honey  
34 Woodcote House  
Hitchin  
Herts  
SG4 9TL  
01462 441843  
[chrishoney\\_design@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrishoney_design@yahoo.co.uk)

Stalls Coordinator:  
Simon Webb  
siwebb@ntlworld.com  
07958114275

Email bulletin Coordinator:  
Peter Foord  
peterfoord@googlemail.com

**Please help with the newsletter.**  
Please send your letters or articles to  
Tracy at: 84 Jackmans Place,  
Letchworth SG6 1RQ, or  
[tracy@tracypez.co.uk](mailto:tracy@tracypez.co.uk)  
**Deadline for the next newsletter:**  
**Friday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**GREEN DRINKS**

Join us for Green Drinks on the  
first Tuesday of the month at  
8:30pm. We meet at:  
The Millstream Pub  
Cambridge Road  
Hitchin  
SG4 0JH

*LOCAL GROUP MEETINGS*  
*Please come along and get*  
*involved*

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September**  
**All 7:30pm-9:15pm**  
**Friends' Meeting House**  
**1 Paynes Park, Hitchin**  
**Come to the pub**  
**afterwards!**

Emails to North Herts Friends  
of the Earth supporters  
**We send out occasional**  
**(monthly) action email**  
**bulletins.**  
**If you'd like to be sent these**  
**please contact Peter on**  
**[peterfoord@googlemail.com](mailto:peterfoord@googlemail.com)**  
**If you want an action to be**  
**included in our email bulletins**  
**please let Peter know well in**  
**advance so it can be added to**  
**the email**

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Film Nights:**



Every (or nearly every!) second  
Thursday of the month:

North Herts Friends of the Earth  
Film night. Watch email bulletins  
for details.

**23 May (Sun) - Walsworth  
Festival,**  
Hitchin 10:00- 4:00  
PLEASE GIVE AN HOUR OF  
TWO OF YOUR TIME TO  
HELP!

Please let Simon know times  
when you can help-  
[siwebb@ntlworld.com](mailto:siwebb@ntlworld.com)  
07958114275

We also need a car at the  
beginning and end of the day.  
THANK YOU.

**5<sup>th</sup> June - Friends of the Earth  
Greater South East Gathering**  
The next regional gathering for  
active FoE members in the south  
east takes place in central London  
on Saturday 5 June 2010.  
The Gathering brings together  
group members and staff to  
discuss:

- \*environmental issues
- \*campaign tactics
- \*everything in between.

If you're interested in attending,  
please let us know. Further details  
are at:

[http://www.foe.co.uk/community/  
news/regional\\_gatherings\\_23250.  
html](http://www.foe.co.uk/community/news/regional_gatherings_23250.html)

**13 June (Sun) - Stevenage Day**  
Please let Simon know times  
when you can help-  
[siwebb@ntlworld.com](mailto:siwebb@ntlworld.com)  
07958114275

**24-25 July (Sat and Sun)**  
Rhythms of the World, Hitchin  
Please let Simon know times  
when you can help-  
[siwebb@ntlworld.com](mailto:siwebb@ntlworld.com)  
07958114275

**1 Aug (Sun) – Royston Kite  
Festival.** Please let Simon know  
times when you can help-  
[siwebb@ntlworld.com](mailto:siwebb@ntlworld.com)  
07958114275