

North Herts Friends of the Earth

September 2009

www.nhertsfoe.co.uk

Go Forth & Multiply!!

North Herts Friends of the Earth members: **88**

People on e-mail list: **69**

Stalls held this summer: **4**

Attendance at Age of Stupid showing: **83**

Get Serious cards signed (x2): around **200**

May newsletter distributed: **150**

Now do some maths. Each stall sees dozens of people, newsletters are shared, cards go to many different councillors, and we work with at least 9 other active green groups in Hertfordshire. How many people do you think we've influenced?

We're all multipliers (even if we don't like maths!). For this reason with this newsletter you will find two **Get Serious cards**. Please multiply your influence by getting them signed by someone from the North Herts or Stevenage area.



More maths!

North Herts Friends of the Earth would like to double our active campaigners. Are you interested in a particular aspect of Friends of the Earth campaigning? - Transport, wildlife/bio-diversity, renewable energy, green belt development, food, transition towns, for instance, but don't feel ready to take action on your own? We'll try to put you in touch with others who share your interests so every campaigner has a 'buddy' and everyone can learn from each other. We urgently need people to work on the Herts Transport Contact Dan if you want to get more active.



North Herts Friends of the Earth stall at Rhythms of the World 2009



Be part of The Wave

On 5 December, Friends of the Earth activists will join others from all over the country to march and urge a fair and sufficient deal at the climate talks happening in Copenhagen at that time.

We're expecting it to be the **largest climate march ever in the UK**: make sure you're there to join us in London, and put the date in your diary now!

North Herts Friends of the Earth will be travelling down together. Let Dan know if you want to come. We can pay travel expenses.

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

TAKE ACTION: Getting our councils to act on climate change can help reduce fuel poverty, increase local employment and save money as well as help protect our future.

1. Please fill in the cards with a clearly written name and address and most importantly, postcode.
 2. If the person signing knows their district or borough (not county) councillor they can fill in the name on the top card. If they don't know, we can fill it in *if* the postcode is clear.
 3. The second attached card is for the leader of the council - F. J. Smith for NHDC and Sharon Taylor for Stevenage or we can fill this in.
 4. Send them back to us in the stamped addressed envelope provided.
 5. Please do this as soon as you can and if you can't, send them back unsigned so they are not wasted. Thank you.
- For more information on the Get Serious campaign see www.getseriousaboutCO2.com or our last newsletter.**

Copenhagen 2009 – The Most Important Meeting in Human History

In December the Danish capital of Copenhagen is hosting crucial talks on climate change.



The talks run from 7-18 December and are the latest in a series of efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

Origins of the talks

The big push began at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. More than 100 world leaders agreed to take action on climate change.

They signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The UNFCCC was set up to look at how to:

- **Reduce global warming**
Preventing dangerous climate change.

- **Support poorer countries**
To develop cleanly and cope with climate impacts.

Global deal

The process continued with the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

The Protocol is the **first legally enforceable international treaty** designed to reduce emissions. It requires rich countries to take urgent action. It was signed by 141 countries and came into force in 2005.

The time is now

World leaders are expected to attend the Copenhagen talks. The summit is crucial if we are to take **serious action** to avoid dangerous climate change.

The talks will focus on setting new targets for the next stage of the Kyoto Protocol and securing financial commitments to tackle climate change internationally.

Demand climate *change*

Friends of the Earth want to see **rich countries commit to:**

- **Real action not dodgy accounting**

Cut emissions at home by at least 40% without offsetting.

- **Provide funding to developing countries**

Enabling them to adapt to climate change and develop low carbon technologies.

- **A fair and transparent process**
Funding for the developing world should not be controlled by the World Bank

- **Stop gambling with our forests**
Scrap proposals to reduce emissions from deforestation through offsetting.



Get Serious About CO2 update

The Government has agreed that councils will have new planning rules to tackle climate change, thanks to campaigning by Friends of the Earth. This means that councils must approve more green energy projects. Now we need to make sure these rules are strong enough to ensure climate change and community benefit are at the heart of councils' plans.



<http://www.350.org/>

Less than 100 Days to Copenhagen –

"Shame us into action." - U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon.

On Copenhagen, *"The industrialised nations have an obligation to lead, and the developing countries have to join pretty soon, or we're going to be cooked."* - President Barack Obama's science adviser, John Holdren

Join Friends of the Earth in Copenhagen

Friends of the Earth are inviting people to come to the climate talks in Copenhagen to support The Flood action on 12 December. Find out how you can book one of the limited number of subsidised, overland travel places available to Friends of the Earth local group members at

http://www.foe.co.uk/community/campaigns/climate/go_copenhagen_20794.html

Congratulations North Herts - 50% recycling achieved.

The people of North Herts have been enthusiastically recycling and just over 50% of the waste NHDC collects is recycled.

The 2003 Household Waste Recycling Act came about after a Friends of the Earth campaign drew widespread support from the public nationally. It is this public support for recycling which will keep the rates of recycling high.

We need to keep aiming high and Friends of the Earth are asking for 75% of our waste to be recycled by 2015.

Maybe North Herts should apply for a DEFRA award of £10,000 for local authorities who are working 'Towards Zero Waste'

But, a local council can't be expected to deliver without wider support. We need businesses to be selling less waste to us and we need manufacturers to use more recycled materials to make their goods.

We also need to be sure that recycling is done in this country, creating jobs and reducing transport pollution.

Nationally, the levels of waste going to landfill has reduced from around 13,000 tonnes per quarter in 2002 to around 8,000 tonnes per quarter now with the sharpest decline over the last two years. We need to accelerate this trend by buying only the food we need, buying food with minimal packaging (shopping at the local markets reduces packaging significantly, compared to supermarket shopping) and buying fewer consumables that are obsolete or broken within a month.

The green slogan has always been Reduce, Reuse (Repair is also an option) and Recycle in that order, with the priority being creating less waste in the first place.

Let's give ourselves (the people of North Herts) a pat on the back and keep working to live within the limits of the world's resources and reduce pollution.

Oppose the Herts incinerator see <http://hertswow.webs.com/>

Campaign success



Last year, along with many other groups, North Herts Friends of the Earth campaigned for a strong and sustainable renewable energy strategy. Thousands of postcards were signed backing the campaign.

We've done it! The Government has announced a new low-carbon transition plan and confirmed that the role of Ofgem will be changed. The energy regulator will now prioritize climate change and security of supply. This is exactly what we've been campaigning for.

Read all about it:

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/news/res_20790.html

It's down to us

As usual the success of the campaign comes down to us, the people who went out there and acted.

Want to know more

You can read Friends of the Earth's full reaction to the Government's plans at http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/low_carbon_transition_plan.pdf

10:10



10:10 is an ambitious project to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in the UK's carbon emissions in 2010.

<http://www.1010uk.org>

Why Bother?

Why bother jumping out of the way of a speeding car? Why bother removing a burst appendix? Cutting 10% in one year is a bold target, but for most of us it's an achievable one, and is in line with what scientists say we need over the next 18 months. It's now or never for the climate.

By signing up to a 10% target we're not just supporting 10:10 – we're making it happen. In our homes, in our workplaces, our schools and our hospitals, our galleries and football clubs and universities, we'll be backing each other up as we take the first steps on the road to becoming a zero-carbon society. It's easy to feel powerless in the face of a huge problem like climate change, but by uniting everyone behind immediate, effective and achievable action, 10:10 enables all of us to make a meaningful difference.

10:10 is the perfect opportunity to discover what's possible when we work together.

This huge new campaign has had excellent publicity; even the Sun gave it coverage:

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/Green/2615970/Campaign-to-save-you-energy-and-cash-kicks-off-today.html>

Get a 10:10 piece of recycled plane when you sign up!

International Day Against Monoculture Tree Plantations

21 September 2009
International Declaration: Stop the expansion of monoculture tree plantations !

Throughout the world, millions of hectares of productive land are rapidly being converted into green deserts presented under the guise of "forests". Local communities are displaced to give way to endless rows of identical trees – eucalyptus, pine, oil palm, rubber, jatropha and other species - that displace most other forms of life from the area.

Farmland, which is crucial for the food sovereignty of local communities, is converted to monoculture tree plantations producing raw materials for export. Water resources become depleted and polluted by the plantations while soils become degraded.

Human rights violations are rife, ranging from the loss of livelihoods and displacement to repression and even cases of torture and death. While communities suffer as a whole, plantations result in differentiated gender impacts, where women are the most affected.

The motive is simple: to grab people's lands for corporations operating in the pulp and paper, timber, rubber, palm oil and recently also biochar (*) businesses, so that they can have access to more and cheaper raw material to increase their profits even further. Wasteful over consumption of the products of these plantations by nations in the affluent North plays a big role in increasing their spread.

The problem has been further compounded with the arrival of new corporate actors aiming at profiting from climate change by promoting false solutions through the establishment of so-called "carbon sink" plantations, the promotion of agrofuels – agrodiesel and wood ethanol- and the introduction of genetically engineered trees.

However, corporate plans are facing increased opposition. In country after country, people are standing up to oppose the expansion of tree plantations and a worldwide movement has been growing over the years, bringing together the numerous local struggles and helping to raise the voices of those who suffer from plantations.

On this International Day Against Tree Monocultures in 2009, the message is loud and clear: Plantations are not forests: stop the expansion of monoculture tree plantations!

(*) Biochar: charcoal which would be buried in the soil where it is supposed to act as a fertiliser and as a carbon store (***) FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes), SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative), RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil)

Take Action: Sign the petition here: <http://www.wrm.org.uy/>

Green tea -a low-carbon cuppa

In Britain we drink 229 million cups of tea and coffee every day.



In fact, about a **quarter of all electricity** used in domestic cooking is consumed by electric kettles.

It's unthinkable that we could make do without, but you can make tea without using so much energy.

You can simply change the way you use your existing kettle or you can buy an eco-friendly model.

Save energy and money, and measure how much water you use. Simply **fill your mug** with water and pour it in. Or **mark your kettle** with a pen or sticker to indicate the level for 1 cup, 2 cups, etc.

Do it this way and you'll **save around £40** (the cost of the Eco Kettle). That's enough to add thermostatic radiator valves to five radiators around your home.

After 14 months of cyber attacks GM Watch website is relaunched.

The GM Watch site has profiles on the PR players in the promotion of GM crops, and George Monbiot has called it the world's most comprehensive database on the impact and politics of GM crops. For some strange reason it has been the subject of highly specific and professional hacking for 14 months, but now it is up and running again.

Maybe the two articles (fully referenced online) below give some idea of why it is so disliked: [GM \(not so\) sweet potato.](#)

The virus-resistant sweet potato has been the ultimate GM showcase project for Africa, generating a vast amount of global media coverage. The Monsanto-trained scientist fronting the project has been proclaimed an

African heroine and the saviour of millions, based on her claims about the GM sweet potato doubling output in Kenya. Forbes magazine even declared her one of a tiny handful of people around the globe who would "reinvent the future". It eventually emerged, however, that the claims being made for the GM sweet potato were bogus, with field trial results showing the GM crop to be a dud. The actual results of the 3-year trials showed that far from dramatically out-yielding the non-GM sweet potatoes, the exact opposite was the case: "The report indicates that during the trials non-transgenic crops used as a control yielded much more tuber compared to the transgenic". The GM crop was also found to be susceptible to viral attack - the very thing it had been created to resist.

Tarnished Golden Rice

Golden Rice has been hyped for almost a decade as a life saver for millions suffering from vitamin A deficiency (VAD). The United States Congress to a Special Congressional Forum, "Can Biotechnology Solve World Hunger?" went further, declaring that "golden rice", which has been modified to include certain vitamins... is already saving the sight of thousands of children in the poorest parts of Asia."

But none of these claims were true. Not only was Golden Rice not "already saving the sight of thousands of children", there was no evidence to support the claim that it was capable of doing so.

The critical issue was the levels of expression of beta-carotene. The available figures showed Golden Rice produced only small amounts of this vitamin A precursor, or provitamin A. Worse still, after the rice was cooked, the amount of provitamin A was reduced by another 50 per cent.

In addition, the World Health Organisation states that there are already tried-and-tested programmes for treating Vitamin

A deficiency involving cheap, traditional, and readily available solutions. Although under-resourced, these programmes make Golden Rice completely unnecessary.

Vitamin A supplementation, WHO says has already “averted an estimated 1.25 million deaths since 1998 in 40 countries.” According to WHO malnutrition expert Francesco Branca, giving out supplements, fortifying existing foods with vitamin A, and teaching people to grow carrots or certain leafy vegetables are, as things stand, more promising ways to fight VAD than Golden Rice.

<http://www.gmwatch.org>

We all know the Gov are fully committed to fighting climate change don't we?

So, of course, we all know the answer to this complicated multiple-choice question then:

1. Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, offered to keep Vestas wind turbine factory in the Isle Of Wight (the UK 's ONLY turbine company) open and save 400 jobs (and the climate).

OR

2. Mandelson is “lending” £340 MILLION to Airbus to keep producing planes.

Tough one eh?

BING! Time's up. Yes – you were right! It's option 2!

East of England Plan > 2031 - Public consultation

Twelve public consultation events are being held across the region in September (see

<http://events.eera.gov.uk/conferences/> to provide an opportunity to debate and hear more about planning for the future of the region. These interactive events will provide plenty of opportunity for the audience to question the East of England Regional Assembly and an expert panel about planning for the thousands of new homes needed across the East of England by 2031.

Attending one of these meetings will inform you about the public consultation and give you an opportunity to participate in the regional debate on how we should plan for new homes over the next 20 years. Related issues, such as the economy, transport, climate change and the environment will also be discussed. By getting involved at this early stage, you are in the best position to influence growth in your area and the East of England as a whole.

www.hertsclimateaction.org.uk
Herts Climate Links
helping to fight climate change

supported by Watford Friends of the Earth

link up!

Tackle climate change problems!

Herts Climate Links at <http://www.hertsclimateaction.org.uk/>

This web site is for everyone in Hertfordshire who wants to work towards a sustainable environment and reduce the effects of climate change.

The site is growing - could you help to improve it? Suggestions for links and other features very welcome.

Online campaigning works!

Avaaz, the online campaigning NGO, has recently put together a short report about "What happened after I signed the petition?" It gives positive examples on how online campaigning can make a difference.

For example, leading up to the July G8 Summit, 130,000 Avaaz members signed a petition in 48 hours calling for the G8 industrial countries to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius - focusing on shaming 3 countries who were blocking progress. As Avaaz and partners built pressure in Italy and around the world, the blocking countries relented, and the G8 leaders agreed to the 2-degree goal!

When monks and democracy protesters filled the streets of Burma in October 2007, Avaaz members rose in support of them worldwide. **More than 800,000**

Get serious about local transport - come and learn more

Fancy learning more about how to get serious about cutting carbon from local transport?

Friends of the Earth, Campaign for Better Transport, CTC, Sustrans, and CPRE are holding a local transport activist day in September:

- 26 September - London : 10am-4.30pm

What's the plan?

We'll start by bringing you up to date on the latest developments in local, regional and national transport policy.

The main focus of the day will be **skills workshops** - where you'll share your experiences of local campaigning and explore the most effective ways of influencing your local authority.

Make connections

There'll also be plenty of **opportunities for networking** and talking to staff and local activists.

Download the draft agenda.

Register now

http://www.foe.co.uk/community/news/tp_day_21085.html

Please contact Dan if you are interested in going. We can cover costs.

members from every country on earth signed a petition urging China and the UN Security Council to oppose the violent crackdown and support genuine dialogue and reconciliation, a message **publicly delivered to UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown** and sent through diplomatic channels and newspaper ads to Chinese officials. Thousands of Avaaz members in Europe successfully pressed for stronger targeted EU sanctions on the Burmese junta, more than **2000 members in Singapore sent messages to their foreign minister** urging a stronger stance with Burmese officials, and **50,000 pledged to boycott Chevron and Total Oil** for doing business with the Burmese regime. When the junta banned cameras, cell phones, and internet connections as part of its crackdown

For more positive examples, see: https://secure.avaaz.org/en/report_back_2/.

Eating oil!

From 2006 to 2008, global food prices rose rapidly – caused by global market failures, fluctuating oil prices, increases in extreme weather events, and the unsustainable and immoral dash to grow crops to 'feed' cars rather than people. Social and political unrest at the cost and scarcity of staple foods followed in 14 countries worldwide – from 'tortilla riots' in Mexico to protests over the price of pasta in Italy. In the UK, we have not yet experienced the worst effects of a globally imbalanced food system, but here too, food security is an issue of concern. The first review Gordon Brown commissioned was an analysis of food issues. The resulting report concluded that: 'existing patterns of food production are not fit for a low-carbon, more resource-constrained future', and 'existing patterns of food consumption will result in our society being loaded with a heavy burden of obesity and diet-

related ill health.' Hence the Soil Association's campaign to mobilise the UK to change its food and farming system to a more resilient, climate-friendly, organic, local model, less vulnerable to external shocks and challenges. **The case for change - some sobering statistics**

- Intensive agriculture needs ten calories of energy to produce one calorie of food.

- Globally, agriculture is responsible for between 17 – 32% of the world's total greenhouse gases.

- Globally the production and use of artificial fertilisers are the largest single source of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas 310 times more damaging than carbon dioxide.

- To make one tonne of artificial fertiliser takes 108 tonnes of water, emits 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide, and uses one tonne of oil.

- Organic farming typically uses 26% less energy to produce the same amount of food as non-organic farming.

- Across Europe, soil erosion and degradation seriously affects near 157 million hectares (16% of Europe, nearly 3 times the total surface of France).

- 44% of the UK's arable soils are suffering from erosion, 36% at moderate to serious risk.

The Food 2030 discussion

The Government has launched a forum for public discussion. Visit Defra's Food 2030 discussion site now to give your views and help us make a difference to future Government policy:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodrin/security/food2030.htm>

Fish stocks recover as conservation measures take effect

Global efforts to combat overfishing are starting to turn the tide to allow some fish stocks to recover, new analysis shows. Research from an international team of scientists shows that a

handful of major fisheries across the world have managed to reduce the rate at which fish are exploited.

The experts say their study offers hope that overfishing can be brought under control, but they warn that fishermen in Ireland and the North Sea are still catching too many fish to allow stocks to recover. Some 63% of assessed fish stocks worldwide still require rebuilding, the scientists report.

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan

The Climate Change Act commits the UK Government to cutting green house gas emissions – the headline is an 80% cut by 2050, but there are interim targets too. Last year the Climate Change Commission recommended a cut of 34% by 2020 (compared with 1990 levels) and this was made law in the 2009 Budget. The Department of Energy and Climate Change has just published a report, *The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan*, to show how the Government intends to meet this target.

The good news is that UK emissions have already fallen about 20% since 1990: CO2 emissions are only about 10% down, but gases such as methane and nitrous oxide have been halved thanks to changes in landfill practices and some industrial practices. So the target becomes a cut of 18% in 2020 compared with 2008 emission levels. The report breaks this down into several sectors:

Sector	Proposed cut by 2020
Power	22%
Homes	29%
Work	13%
Transport	14%
Farming	6%
Waste	13%
All green house gas emissions	18%

While there are many new proposals in the report some of the biggest savings come from existing EU policies like the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, and rules on improving average car efficiency. Much of the plan is a continuation of current policies: for instance there is a target for all homes (that want it) to be properly insulated by 2015; and there is an aspiration to expand renewables so that by 2020 30% of electricity from comes from renewable sources compared with only 6% today.

Many people will be concerned that biofuels, nuclear power and coal with carbon capture and storage all feature strongly in the plans (although the last two are not expected to deliver much for the 2020 cuts). On the plus side the report does plan to meet targets by genuine UK emissions reductions, and not buying 'carbon credits' from abroad as had been rumoured in the press ahead of publication.

With a target cut of only 18% by 2020, the measures in the report do not need to be very revolutionary. The report acknowledges that to meet the deeper (80%+) cuts needed by 2050 much more radical changes will be required, and a 'Roadmap to 2050' is planned for Spring 2010. More radical action will also be required if tougher 2020 cuts are agreed in Copenhagen in December as part of a global deal. The full report of 220 pages can be downloaded free from:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx

or hard copies can be ordered from The Stationary Office.

Submitted by: Andy Holtham

"Activism is my rent for living on this planet" Alice Walker- Author

No To Bypasses

Harvey Ward our planning campaigner has submitted objections to development proposals to the west of Hitchin which are linked to a proposed bypass.

Recent analysis from the Highways Agency has shown that bypasses don't reduce traffic.

The analysis found that there are many reasons why bypasses don't work.

Bypasses don't always take traffic away from the old route

* A6 Alvaston Bypass: did not attract as many vehicles as expected. Traffic on the old route was 225% higher than expected, and down 29% on the bypass.

* A1(M) Wetherby to Walshford: The Highways Agency expected people to use the bypass. But drivers preferred the older, route, which has 1250% more traffic on than expected.

* A46 Norton Lenchwick Bypass: 58% more traffic on the old route, and 34% fewer vehicles on the bypass.

* A650 Bingley Relief Road: 15% higher traffic than expected.

Bypasses often pull in traffic from other parts of the region

* A43 Syresham & Silverstone Bypass: The bypass attracted traffic off the M40 and M1. Syresham had 40% more traffic on the bypass and Silverston had 26%.

* A34 Newbury Bypass: The bypass 'unlocked' the A34, attracting people from across the South of England. Traffic on the bypass was almost 50% higher than predicted.

Bypasses often don't reduce journey times

* A63 Selby Bypass: The route was supposed to substantially improve journey times, but 36% more traffic used the bypass than was expected, causing congestion. Journey time savings were 44% lower than expected. The scheme was also 60% more expensive than expected.

<http://www.bettertransport.org.uk>

"Bypasses are devices that allow some people to dash from point A to point B very fast while other people dash from point B to point A very fast. People living at point C, being a point directly in between, are often given to wonder what's so great about point A that so many people from point B are so keen to get there, and what's so great about point B that so many people from point A are so keen to get there. They often wish that people would just once and for all work out where the hell they wanted to be."
(Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy- Douglas Adams).

Forest Gardening:

Claire White Permaculture & Forest Garden Teacher.

Claire is a well known established teacher and practitioner.

Claire is running a 6 day Forest Garden Course where participants will learn and apply the principles of forest gardening in and around the 6 acre Kitchen Gardens.

Permaculture, of which Forest Gardening is a part, is about recognising, utilising and creating local resources with the minimum of energy inputs.

The course is for 6 consecutive Saturdays or you can pop into different sessions.

Please call Church Farm Ardeley direct on 01438 861 447 or 07522 466 355 to reserve your place.

Emails to North Herts Friends of the Earth supporters

I send out occasional action bulletins and invites to events such as film showings on this list. If you'd like to be on it and are not, then please contact me at dangomm@yahoo.com

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

Free downloadable books:

Climate Safety, by the Public Interest Research Centre, provides a simple summary of the latest science, delivering a clear message that to have any chance of maintaining a safe climate, we must rapidly decarbonise our society, preserve global carbon sinks, and address the problem with an unprecedented degree of seriousness. <http://www.climatesafety.org/>

Sustainable Energy – without the hot air, By Prof David MacKay

<http://www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/sustainable/book/tex/cft.pdf>

"For anyone with influence on energy policy, whether in government, business or a campaign group, this book should be compulsory reading." Tony Juniper
Former Executive Director, Friends of the Earth

"At last a book that comprehensively reveals the true facts about sustainable energy in a form that is both highly readable and entertaining." Robert Sansom,
EDF Energy

"...a tour de force..." The Economist

Kimpton for free, to learn about DomesticEnergy Efficiency and Planning a Community Energy Project. For more information see <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe> Contact Davina Malcolm davina.malcolm@tesco.net

12th November North Herts Friends of the Earth film night.
See 8th October for further details

5th December National Climate march- The Wave, London.
Contact Dan to travel down together

10th December North Herts Friends of the Earth film night.
See 8th October for further details

21st January 2010 North Herts Friends of the Earth AGM
(more details in next newsletter)

LOCAL GROUP MEETINGS

Please come along and get involved

Thursday 17th September

Thursday 15th October

Thursday 19th November

Thursday 17th December

A.G.M. 21st January 2010

All 7:30pm-9:15pm

Friends' Meeting House

1 Paynes Park, Hitchin

Come to the pub afterwards!

Dates for your diary:

17 September - Visit Renewable Energy Systems to see a wind turbine close up, on, leaving Kimpton about 5.00pm. See www.beaufortcourt.com for more information or contact Davina Malcolm at davina.malcolm@tesco.net

27th September - Bat Walk – Church Farm, Ardeley
Contact Jo on 01438 861 821 or jo@churchfarmardeley.co.uk

8th October - North Herts Friends of the Earth free film night and social in Hitchin. Films we're hoping to watch this season:
Home by Yann Artus-Bertrand
Stunningly beautiful portrait of the earth.

End of the line- about the fishing industry

The Corporation- How corporations are sociopaths

Koyaanisqatsi- Native American Hopi word meaning, in essence, that the human race is experiencing life that is "crazy, in turmoil, out of balance, and disintegrating to a point where another way of living is called for". Beautiful imagery and music.

Please contact Dan if you want to come-limited places available.

29th October All-day training session on Thursday in the Memorial Hall lounge,

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Transition Town Letchworth Website

The website is live and exciting!

See:

<http://ttletchworth.org>

Or call them to find out more:

07531490851

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

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

Deadline for the next newsletter:

Friday January 8th 2010