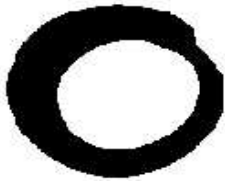


# Reading Friends of the Earth Newsletter

May/June 2006

For information see <http://www.readingfoe.org.uk> or email [info@readingfoe.org.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.org.uk) or 0118 9868260.



**Friends of the Earth**

## EVENTS DIARY

### General Meetings:

Reading FoE usually meet on the second Wednesday of each month, upstairs at RISC, 35-39 London Street, at 8 p.m.

### Weds. 10<sup>th</sup> May:

Group meeting – general meeting including AGM to elect new officers. Probably mainly to discuss summer actions.

### Weds. 14<sup>th</sup> June:

Group meeting – preparing for actions + response to the South East Plan are likely to be on the Agenda.

Other dates of interest:

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:

World Environment Day – Forbury Park – 11:00 to 15:00  
FoE Stall? Help please!

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June:

Climate Day of Action – focussing on Solutions – details awaited.

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June:

Reading Waterfest – FoE stall booked for this annual day by the river.

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June:

Climate Change Meeting with MPs – Reading Civic Offices – Provisional – see text.

8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September - FoE Conference – Nottingham.

## Action - March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our day of action on the Company Law Reform Bill went very well.

Attracted by Mike's magnificent Mike's magnificent Orang Utan costume lots of people were encouraged to sign postcards to their MPs.

The cards called for British companies to be legally bound to take a more responsible attitude to all aspects of their environmental impact.



Palm Oil is a frequent ingredient in foods marketed by British companies – but new palm plantations are destroying the habitat of the endangered Orang Utan.

## CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING in READING

A major public meeting on Climate Change with Martin Salter MP (West Reading) and Richard Benyon MP (Newbury) is being finalised for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Rob Wilson MP (East Reading) has not yet confirmed attendance and John Redwood MP (Wokingham) has declined.

The meeting will also be addressed by a national FoE campaigner and possibly also by local experts. We will invite displays on energy saving and renewable energy from local companies and organisations.

The aim is to show the MPs that there is strong local support for commitment to year-on-year reductions in carbon dioxide emissions in addition to the long-term targets the government has already adopted.

The meeting is expected to be in the Reading Council Chamber but details should be checked beforehand.

## Reading Local Development Framework

Reading's LDF consultation document contains a policy on Sustainable Buildings aimed at reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

National campaigner Alex Philips commented that it already looks 'a lot more positive than most' – but in our response to the consultation we have suggested the Council should seek much higher standards for insulation.

As Andris Piebalgs, EU Energy Commissioner,

recently said: "The only genuine silver bullet is energy efficiency and conservation".

Our response to the LDF consultation said that district and local centres should be enhanced and development must not be over-concentrated in the centre. Greater Reading is now too large for the centre to be accessible at low economic and environmental cost from the more peripheral areas.

### More Diary Dates ...

Reading Borough Council plan to mark World Environment Day on Saturday 3rd June.

We have been invited to join in "a fun, family-friendly event in the Forbury Gardens on Saturday 3rd June from 11am to 3pm" – but we need inspiration and staff!

Also be prepared for a rumoured action on airport expansion on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

### Reading FoE AGM – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Our next meeting will include our annual review – as well as some urgent planning for what should be a very busy June.

We also need to elect new officers – a co-ordinator, and a treasurer.

The co-ordinator role is to be the prime contact point with the group for FoE nationally.

### SEFS Elections

SEFS is the South East Forum for Sustainability – which has three representatives on the South East England Regional Assembly.

At the end of May new representatives are to be elected and Reading FoE has one vote.

At our May meeting we can decide either to abstain or to choose three from four candidates. There is no FoE candidate standing although FoE SE is heavily involved in SEFS. The organisations the four candidates represent are RSPB, CPRE, WWF and the Wildlife Trusts. <http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/>

### South East Plan Responses

We have until late June to respond to this – there should be guidance from FoE and SEFS on response to the general sections but it's worth thinking about our attitude to the sub-regional proposals for our area – (note - 3.66 MB).

[http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/pla n/march\\_2006/core\\_document/019\\_seera\\_sep\\_e06.pdf](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/pla n/march_2006/core_document/019_seera_sep_e06.pdf)

### WOMAD

The WOMAD festival is at Rivermead from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July. Doug Cresswell has agreed to co-ordinate our presence in the One World Tent.

We need more people who plan to attend the Festival to volunteer to give some time during the daytime to mind our stall. We should be able to refund part of the ticket price in return for your time.

Reading FoE has agreed to sponsor (not financially!) a theatre company to give a performance on the role of insects in the environment in the One World performance space. We hope this comes off – it certainly should be different!

### Recycling – WEEE & Tetra Pak Carrots ...

Local authorities have been told they will receive a one-off payment of £6,000 in order to pay for the upgrading of their sites to cope with WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment).

They say this is not adequate. The Local Government Association has suggested that more investment in upgrading sites could lead to savings further down the line, when the electronic waste is collected and reprocessed.

Also Tetra Pak UK are to provide £300,000 to help Local Authorities establish collection facilities – aiming to collect 10% of their 2 billion annual UK sales. <http://www.tetrapakrecycling.co.uk/>

... but Newport threaten Stick

Meanwhile Newport City Council has sent letters to 100 households warning those failing to use the fortnightly residual waste collection service properly (by including recyclable items) that they risk £100 spot fines, or a day in court and possible £5,000 fine.

## Useful Websites:

[www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk](http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk)  
[www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

New site for True Food Co-op: [www.truefood.coop](http://www.truefood.coop)

Renewable Energy Grants etc.: [www.clear-skies.org](http://www.clear-skies.org) [www.solarpvgrants.co.uk](http://www.solarpvgrants.co.uk)

### [Reading Borough Council Waste and Recycling](#)

South East Forum for Sustainability: <http://www.sefs.org.uk>

Citizens Committee on Oil Peak And Decline (COPAD) [www.copad.org](http://www.copad.org)

<http://www.fishonline.org/> gives info. on over-fishing, fish to avoid, and which are OK

[www.ejfoundation.org](http://www.ejfoundation.org) (Environmental Justice Foundation)

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/reading\\_freecycle](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/reading_freecycle) – Freecycle is basically a site (and e-mail list) on which to advertise stuff you don't want but don't want any money for.

And some more on Food, Agriculture Supermarkets and GM issues:

Local Food Directory, with links: [http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk/Local\\_Economy.htm](http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk/Local_Economy.htm)

Berkshire Organic Gardeners: <http://www.berks-organic-gardeners.fsnet.co.uk/>

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/Products/GM/>

<http://www.risc.org.uk/readingfairtrade/>

## Reading FoE e-mail communications

We've moved our group e-mail list to [readingfoe@foe.co.uk](mailto:readingfoe@foe.co.uk). If you would like to be on our list and join in our day-to-day communications please email [info@readingfoe.org.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.org.uk).

## Reading FoE Subscriptions – Subscribe NOW for 2006/7

To join or renew, just fill in the slip below and send it off with your subscription. We aim to provide a regular newsletter to keep members up to date with the group's activities. Our subscriptions run from April to March and are set at £5.00 / £3.00 (waged / unwaged) to cover newsletter costs, meeting room hire and campaign expenses. Further contributions would be greatly appreciated. Even if you don't have time to take an active part, your support is welcome and allows us to demonstrate more local support.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick  if you are able to take an active part in our campaigns. We may contact you by phone.

I heard about the group from: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to Reading Friends of the Earth, and return to the RFoE Treasurer, c/o 15 Barn Close, Reading, RG30 3EE