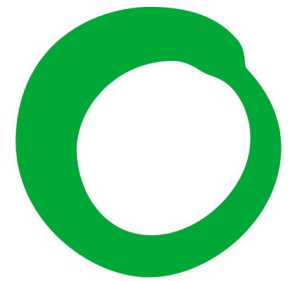


Harrow Friends of the Earth

Summer Newsletter 2004

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**Harrow Friends
of the Earth**

Harrow FOE AGM and Talk – Solar Energy

8pm Wednesday 8 September

Location: Scout Headquarters in Northumberland Road, North Harrow.

This meeting is free, light refreshments provided. The speaker is David Matthews of Themba Technology [Zulu for Trust]. He will talk about Solar Energy and specifically the Renewable Heat Obligation (RHO). Hope was raised at a meeting of the Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group [PRASEG, www.praseg.org.uk] by Steven Timms the Energy Minister who said he would listen over the next 6 to 12 months to more ideas around the RHO. David Matthews is on the sidelines of the team working on this RHO. Our groups' support of this work could make the biggest long term difference to the UK's CO₂ output as heating makes up 40% of our national energy consumption.

Waste Incineration For Harrow?

Public Meeting – 7:30pm Thursday 23 September

Speakers: Dr Jerry Thompson GP – SAIN, Margaret Salasidis – FOE

Location: Northolt Road Hall, opposite police station, Northolt Road, South Harrow.

Harrow Council and the five other boroughs of the West London Waste Authority have been approached by a company called Grundon to sign a 20 year, £100 million contract to burn our waste at a new incinerator in Colnbrook, near Slough. Grundon already has planning permission, but needs a contract to fund the building of the incinerator, which would be the largest in the UK. A decision will be made in early October. Come to this meeting and find out about the health and environmental impacts. For more information, contact: Jo/Stuart on 01628 662774.

Harrow FOE strongly opposes this incinerator. What goes into our bins is valuable. It can be re-used, recycled or composted. If these resources are destroyed, more natural resources and energy must be used to replace them. Burning our waste would discourage recycling. We would be contributing air pollution to the already overpolluted area around Heathrow. The ash after burning still needs disposal and its volume is up to 40% of the unburnt waste but it is far more liable to leach toxins.

What else you can do: -

- Write to Councillor Alan Blann, PO Box 2, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow. HA1 2UH. He is Harrow's rep on the West London Waste Authority.
- Ask your MP to support an incinerator tax. Find your MP with: www.locata.co.uk/commons
- Sign the petition calling for WLWA not to sign the contract.
- Reduce and recycle your waste and get your friends and neighbours to.
- Join the campaign – find out more at www.sainslough.co.uk

West London Tram – Public Debate

7:30pm, Thursday 9 September, Queen's Hall, Ealing Town Hall

Chaired by Lindsay Coulson, Editor of the Ealing Gazette; Ealing Friends of the Earth will be speaking in support of the tram and Save Ealing's Streets against it. The debate will follow the format of the BBC's "Straw Poll" programme: opening speeches for and against from 2 speakers from each side, followed by questions and points from the audience. At the end each side will make a closing submission and then there will be a show of hands vote. Transport for London will not be participating in the debate, but will be present and have undertaken to respond direct on points of technical information. For more details, contact Christine Eborall, Ealing FOE, 020 8991 0006.

Regular group meetings

Harrow Friends of the Earth meet on the **second Wednesday of every month**. The meetings take place in the Scout headquarters in Northumberland Road, North Harrow, from 8:00pm. till 10:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. [Safe indoor bicycle storage!]

Tree Fund News

The group's tree fund has been a regular source of discussion at monthly meetings. The fund had money ring fenced for spending on trees in the local area. The original plan was to pay for street trees but the Council no longer needed our help. Therefore when we found out that Priestmead School in Kenton was planning to plant trees and other plants in its grounds we stepped in to assist with £1000.

Roxeth Show 2004

This popular local show saw Harrow FOE manning a stall over the two days. Wet on Saturday but dry on Sunday. Visitors to the stall were asked to fill in questionnaires on recycling and sign a petition opposing the establishment of a Waste incinerator near to Heathrow airport. [See above.]

Builders are in!

We have commenced on having our loft space converted into a bed room and a second shower room. The drivers for this work was a) to have the roof renewed and b) to have solar hot water heating installed. Six weeks into the work and the five square meter solar panel was lifted onto the roof and tilling has begun. The solar panel is a roof integrated unit and lies on the rafters like a Velux window so saving on the number of tiles that are required and the panel is better insulated against heat loss. The system should supply all our family's hot water during the summer months and contribute most of the hot water during the darker months. It is hoped that the complete job will be finished by the end of August when normality and decorating can commence. For details of the system installed please contact me at the address on the membership slip at the bottom of this newsletter.

Boycott goods with unnecessary packaging

I, like a number of people, do what we can to recycle or compost. Eg paper, card, glass and garden waste etc. But what we can't recycle is plastic wrappings and polystyrene packaging. I will buy Bosch items because they use cardboard for packaging rather than polystyrene. I buy ketchup in glass bottles rather than plastic. Nothing then goes into the wheely bin. Nothing in the bin so no waste.

Websites

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| Harrow Friends of the Earth: | www.foe.co.uk/harrow |
| Centre for Alternative Technology: | www.cat.org.uk |
| The UK's National cyclist's organisation: | www.ctc.org.uk |
| The green directory: | www.greendirectory.net |
| Harrow in leaf, allotments: | www.harrowleaf.org |
| Themba Technology, solar and renewable energy: | www.thembatech.com |

All articles by Jacob Gloor unless otherwise stated.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

I/We wish to join/renew membership with Harrow Friends of the Earth: -

- NAME:.....
- ADDRESS:.....
- TELEPHONE and EMAIL:.....

Subscription rates: Individual £5....Household £8.... Unwaged £2.... Donation.....

Please send to: Jacob Gloor, 53, The Ridgeway, North Harrow, Middlesex. HA2 7QL.

Cheques made payable to 'Harrow Friends of the Earth'.