



Update

Demand Climate Change

Our Copenhagen Day of Action at Halloween challenged MP Dawn Butler

(pictured above) to urge Gordon Brown to ensure a strong and just agreement at the UN talks in December. Group member and magician Ian performed climate change-themed tricks and treats at our Wembley stall.



Photo: Viv Stein

Brent Cross Cricklewood (BXC)

Group members Lia and Viv formed the influential [Coalition for a Sustainable BXC Plan](#), bringing together politicians, residents and other campaign groups in Brent, Barnet and Camden opposing the current development. As a result Barnet delayed their planning committee several times, but finally approved plans at a special extended meeting in November. We have until 10th December to call this in to public inquiry. See the coalition blog to take urgent action: <http://brentcrosscoalition.blogspot.com/>

The Age of Stupid

We held a stall at a screening organised by the [Jewish Social Action Forum](#), and again met Ed Miliband. Our first free local [community screening](#) will be on December 11th at the [Kingsgate Community Centre](#) at 7.30pm.

Welsh Harp

Joining forces with residents, Brent Green party, LibDems, RSPB, Welsh Harp JCC and others we are campaigning against housing development plans at the Welsh Harp reservoir. Brent are likely to reject this current application; we hope Barnet will do the same.

Harvesting Fruit in Brent

Michael Stuart



Photo: www.jonnoch.com

Many of the apples, pears and plums that grow in our back gardens end up rotting on the ground. To reduce food waste, a new project starting this September has picked nearly a ton of local fruit. In the most exciting harvest, we shook a quarter of a ton of pears from two trees in Kilburn in an hour. The fruit landed in a tarpaulin held by four volunteers, was funnelled into boxes, taken by bicycle trailer and given away free to local schools.

We demonstrated pressing apple juice at community events, which generated a lot of interest, and sold 400 glasses of juice. It raised awareness of the connection between nature and food, showing that supermarkets are not essential.

Overall, 40 volunteers and 15 garden owners have helped save 850 kg of fruit and met near-neighbours with shared values and interests. The project is a partnership between Brent Friends of the Earth and [Transition Town Kensal to Kilburn](#). Plans for next year include pruning and pest management, working with local schools and researching local orchards.

The project runs in the Kensal to Kilburn area and is keen to encourage and advise similar schemes elsewhere in the borough.

For more details contact Michael.Stuart6@gmail.com

Green Tip

British weather is unpredictable at best, but instead of turning on the central heating why not bring out that cardigan or jumper that may not always look cool but keeps you warm without warming the planet. If you've got adjustable radiators in each room, when it comes to turning the heating on remember to turn off those ones you're not using. For more tips of how to save money and the environment visit: <http://www.greenrewards.co.uk/content/green-tips.aspx>

Read and recycle

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Please recycle once you have finished it or, better still, give it to a friend.

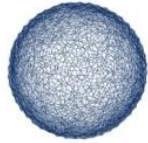


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Everyone's Talking about Copenhagen

Sandra De Andrade and Wytan Palm



COP15
COPENHAGEN
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

This December the UN Climate Change conference takes place in Copenhagen.

What is it?

The previous Kyoto agreement on greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) ends in 2012. It failed to achieve a meaningful global deal. At Copenhagen, leaders must formulate a binding worldwide agreement on emissions reduction.

Why you should care?

Our lifestyle in wealthy countries like the UK is responsible for the biggest proportion of GHGs. But those likely to feel the worst impacts of climate change will be the poor across the world and specially the Southern countries, ill-equipped to deal with consequences of climate change.

How do we sort it out?

Climate scientists recommend that industrialised countries reduce their carbon emissions 25-40% by 2020 and 80-95% by 2050. At the current temperatures the effect of global warming has already been felt. Over 2C we'll take the risk of irreversible climate run-away. FoE recommends that the talks:

- commit western industrialized nations to 40% cuts by 2020
- don't allow cuts to be faked by 'offsetting'
- agree funding to assist poor nations develop mitigation measures.

What can you do about it?

Tell your political leaders you want action - sign the petition:

<http://www.foe.co.uk/climatetalks/petition.html>

Join us to demonstrate in London at The Wave on 5th December:

<http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave>

National Conference and Earthmover Awards

Viv Stein and Jennifer Rea



Photo: Amelia Collins

Friends of the Earth's annual local groups conference took place in Nottingham in September. This year's theme was 'Now is Our Time'. It provided a chance for people to share their campaign experiences and celebrate successes.

Events included an 'Open Space' discussion session, workshops and networking. The annual Earthmover Awards were also presented. Brent FoE was a contender in the Photo and Quote of the Year category, and our Press Officer, Viv Stein, was runner-up in the '[Friend of the Earth](#)' category for individual campaigner. She also took part in a panel discussion, with organisations such as WWF, World Development Movement and FoE Europe on the future of activism.

Brent featured again in the [video Review of the Year](#) celebrating local groups' work in 2009.

At the end of conference came the Motions debate, where local groups debated and voted on campaign and organisational proposals. Issues included transport, population, bio-engineering and biofuels.

Attending conference is an excellent way to meet new people, get great ideas for running campaigns, and get motivated for the year ahead. Why not join us next year?

For more about this year's conference see <http://www.foe.co.uk/events/conference.html>

Our Earthmover nominations plus all the winners are at http://www.foe.co.uk/events/conference/earthmover_awards_8477.html

Monthly meetings Brent Friends of the Earth meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Why not come along and get involved? Visit www.brentfoe.com for details.