

In Contact

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www.harrowagenda21.org



COMMUNITY SUMMIT 11 NOVEMBER 2010

Liz Binney, Member of Consumer Group writes

This summit was to update us on Harrow's bid to achieve its aim to become a Fairtrade borough by the next Fairtrade Fortnight in March 2011. Councillor Nana Asante started by reminding us that there are two billion people living on under two dollars a day. Many are not paid a fair wage for a fair days work. It is by us buying and using fairtrade goods, where people are paid a fair wage for a fair days work along with a 10% community premium to be spent on projects such as schools that will help them out of poverty with dignity rather than by aid. There are seven and a half million people benefiting from fairtrade today.

At the meeting there was a representative from the Fairtrade Foundation who told us there were 838 Fairtrade towns throughout the world of which there are 500 in Britain. In London there are 33 boroughs of which 21 are Fairtrade.

At the Councillor Action Group on 4 November a motion was passed where each of the twenty one wards will work towards the Fairtrade status. It was stressed at this meeting, that the aim of the council is not to just become a fairtrade borough by going for the certificate, but that the council wants to promote and sustain the principles of fairtrade throughout the borough encouraging people to take on the fairtrade habit.

The summit was to revitalise our campaign by forming a Fairtrade Steering Group to ensure our campaign continues. The council will lead and co-ordinate the bid but there must be a community and business commitment to sustain the principles beyond the award. The steering group will also help to plan Fairtrade Fortnight in 2011, the theme for this is 'Show Off Your Label' with the focus on Fairtrade cotton.

There will be help and support from the council, from all the political parties, the Fairtrade Foundation, business and partner links in our bid.

We can help by promotional work, commitment to support Fairtrade fortnight and spreading the message about fairtrade.

WANTED.....

Challenging things are happening in Harrow with plans to develop the Harrow & Wealdstone intensification area, the Kodak site, and possibly to build a waste management installation.

HA21 would like to examine proposals for development, to comment on these, to make its own counter-proposals and to take a full part in this work.

Marion Garner-Patel has agreed to chair our **Planning Group** and we need members who are interested in planning to join her – please contact her for more information.

Exciting things are happening in Harrow as it is seeking to become a Fair Trade borough (see above). HA21 would like to promote Fair Trade and to encourage the Borough in the moves it is making, so it needs **members to join in the work of the Ethical Consumer Group** – please contact **Mick Oliver** for more details.

Eve Swabe handles HA21's day-to-day administration wonderfully well, and Himesh Chavda is Minutes Secretary for the Executive Committee, but HA21 needs a **Secretary** to handle the other secretarial duties which HA21's work involves. If anyone is interested contact **Mick Oliver**.

Members and friends are invited to the HA21 Social and Premiere of "What Happens to Waste?" at HAVS, 64 Pinner Road Harrow, HA1 4HZ on Saturday, 15 January 2011 from 7 - 10 pm

RSVP by 10 January 2011 admin@harrowagenda21.org or 020 3114 6020



EDUCATION GROUP UPDATE.....

Marilyn Raymond, Education Group Chair writes

In October we paid our annual visit to the Veolia Environment Centre, Clay Lane, Bushey. After refreshments, we spent some time investigating the advantages of raised beds and their ease of construction; then moved inside where various user-friendly experiments were laid out. Before we left we were all given a choice of free water saving devices to easily install in our homes.

We have been invited back to Veolia in the late spring –

Thursday, 24 March 2011 to actually make some small raised bed constructions plus bird boxes &/or mini beast hotels – all to take away. HA21 will pay charges and

participants will pay for their materials used; there will also be the incentive of some free plants! The raised beds could be completed or in sections to take away, dependant on car size. Places will be limited and of course teachers have preference.

Nick White of Alexandra School has made sure that we are keeping an eye on the future of the Earth Project -

To quote him – “Letting it die would be an appalling waste of public money. Conversely, maintaining and nourishing it would be an ideal means of demonstrating ways of living a more sustainable, more thrifty and more independent lifestyle to the children - and adults - of Harrow. Plot-holders on the site became

impressed with what had been done and were keen to help. So much was being planned by the staff - they could see that the Earth Project was capable of moving beyond just the already worthwhile aim of teaching children about gardening & the environment. Hopefully councillors can show an equal level of vision and foresight. A time of economic hardship is just the sort of period when the Earth Project could come into its own. It ticks every box!”

We do know that the ‘Shaw Trust’ has put in a proposal for the site and we support them in their endeavour, in the hope that it once again becomes available for Harrow schools to use.

marilyn.raymond@tiscali.co.uk

ETHICAL CONSUMER GROUP UPDATE..... Mick Oliver writes

Congratulations to Liz Binney for her successful 3-day at home event in October, which sold £1500 worth of Traidcraft products.

Apologies to members of the Consumer Group for calling off the meeting scheduled for 9 November. I had hoped to chair it but was in Birmingham for a Waste conference and Mick Campbell, the obvious deputy was out of the country – but I hope members of the Group were able to meet at the Civic Centre Fair Trade event on the 11 November.

We would like to hold a meeting soon, with me or Mick in the chair – could members please let me know the dates they would prefer?

DID YOU KNOW?....



Linda Robinson

our former secretary, together with John Ratcliff of Friends of the Earth Harrow and Ellen Teague of St. Joseph’s Parish in Wealdstone met with Harrow East MP Robert Blackman on 5 November. The meeting was part of the **Big Climate Connection**, organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition, where people across the UK from all walks of life – from supporters of

environment and development groups from unions; to local community groups and health professionals - all joined up to lobby more than 250 MPs on the climate change. Mr Blackman informed his meeting group that he is a member of a new grouping of Conservative MPs with expertise on climate change.

Report by John Ratcliff to Friends of the Earth

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Three concerns about water

❖ **This water is hard and damages wildlife**

A WWF appeal shows a tiger with the text:

“My home is vanishing. The forests where I once ruled are being cut down. When they are gone, so am I. It’s not too late. But it soon will be.”

One of the reasons is that the forests are felled to create palm oil plantations, to supply our demand for food products, cosmetics and soap.

A glance at the Persil packet shows that we need to use twice the quantity of soap that soft water areas do, to compensate for the hard

water scum we are creating, (16-23p for a wash that costs 9p with soft water). The consequence is to increase our demand for the palm oil that soap is manufactured from, hence to increase the pressure on rainforests to create plantations to grow it.

There is more information on the Waste & Recycling Group’s page on the HA21 website – and if anyone has expertise in this subject to add to our campaign, please contact Mick Oliver.

❖ **Caution – very hot water**

Often seen in public toilets, as the hot water supply is at a high temperature because of fears about Legionnaires’ Disease (with what implications for energy use?) Why not fit Safemix, which mixes the hot and cold supplies to deliver water at a sensible **temperature to the tap?**

❖ **This water is metered. Please use sparingly.**

This notice was seen in the gents’ toilet in a **hall in Harrow, prompting two thoughts:**

- **The** water supply we have is a valuable resource, fit to drink, which takes energy to produce and distribute, and which many people in the world, who have no safe piped supply of their own would envy. We should be using it responsibly, whether or not it is metered.

- **The** urinals were fitted with the Cistermiser, which restricts the water supply to the times the toilets are being used. The owner of the hall is obviously aware of water-saving technology. So why not fit spray taps or taps which deliver a measured quantity of water?

NEWSROUND - by Mick Oliver

Wasted miles

The Arriva bus garage at Garston, north of Watford runs buses 142, 258, 288, 340 and H18/19 in Harrow. Two routes start at Watford Junction, 2 miles from the garage, but others start at Edgware or Harrow, 14 or 16 miles away. You can often see buses out of service returning to the garage, sometimes from the remote termini of South Harrow or Brent Cross.

Simultaneously, Metro-Line is running school buses in Watford.

This represents a large mileage when the bus is not in service, staff time and fuel used to no purpose, a cost to the operator and an environmental burden to all of us.

We have asked the HPTUA to investigate and find what justification there can be for this practice

Piracy

We were pleased to hear news of the release of the Chandlers, probably as a result of influence by Somalis in this country. The Chandlers, yachtsmen from Tunbridge Wells were captured off Somalia and imprisoned there for 7 months.

But:

- the Guardian reported from Kilybegs in Co. Donegal on November 25th, and described Irish factory fishing ships based there that did not fish locally, but travelled as far as Australia,
- the BBC 2 programme “Making Scotland’s Landscape” on November 28th showed the damage to the seabed and depletion of fish stocks caused by 150 years of trawling,
- an earlier report in November described the rescue off Cornwall of a factory fishing ship with a crew of 100.

What do you think has removed the legitimate livelihood of Somali fishermen and left them with no alternative but to turn to piracy?

TIME CAPSULE DUG UP..... by Daniel McKeon, Waste Group Member

My name is Daniel McKeon and I am 15 years old. I am also a member of the Harrow Agenda 21 Waste and Recycling Group.

Last year I wrote an article about an experiment that Nower Hill School was taking part in with the help of Mick Oliver, Chair of Harrow Agenda 21. It consisted of burying two rubbish 'Time Capsules' underground and digging them back up in a year or two.

The aim of this experiment is to see what happens to the waste that we send to landfill. In my last article I wrote about the burial of the Waste 'Time Capsules'.

Two of these capsules were buried at Nower Hill in 2009. Before the summer holidays this year we dug up the first of the time capsules. From just looking at it you could notice that some of the items buried had started or had already decomposed. Other items had not changed at all since being buried; this just shows that some of the things we throw away will stay with us for many years to come.

The last Waste Time Capsule will be dug up in July 2011.

Here are some pictures of the Time Capsule we dug up this year



GREENER HARROW.....

Congratulations to **Eileen Kinnear**, who was elected to chair Greener Harrow at its meeting on 23 November.

Eileen is the second member of HA21 to chair Greener Harrow, and replaces David Summers who chaired it with distinction for four years, a period when Harrow signed the Nottingham Declaration.

We wish Eileen every success with this new task and assure her of HA21's full and enthusiastic cooperation.

ACTION GROUP MEETING DATES.....

Education Group

Thursday, 24 March 2011
4 - 6pm Committee / Open
meeting at Veolia Environment
Centre, Clay Lane, Bushey

Waste & Recycling Group

Wednesday, 26 January 2011,
7pm, Members' Lounge, Harrow
Civic Centre

HA21 WELCOMES.....

Our new Individual Members
**Vishal Vikaria and Marion
Garner-Patel and
Organisation Member,
Heathfield School**

HA21's office is open
Mondays, 10.30am-1pm
Room 3, Community Premises,
27 Northolt Road,
South Harrow, HA2 0LH
020 3114 6020

USEFUL CONTACTS.....

**Mick Oliver – Chairman &
Waste Chair**

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Mick Campbell – Vice Chair
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**Marilyn Raymond – Education
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**Marion Garner-Patel – Planning
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