

SEAR ACTION

South East Animal Rights - November 2007 Newsletter 33

www.se-ar.org.uk info@se-ar.org.uk 07810 024098
additional new contact number - 07948036746

Please come to our next meeting
Tuesday 6th Nov
Ruskin House, Croydon
23 Coombe Road, CR0 1BD
7.30pm
Vegan Campaigns guest

Few people would themselves keep a hen in a shoebox for her egg-laying life; but practically everyone will eat "farm fresh" eggs from battery hens.
The Economist



warming, widespread pollution, deforestation, land degradation and species extinction are just some of the problems we now face. The full consequences of large-scale environmental degradation are impossible to judge, but the impacts on humanity will be most devastating in the developing world. With hundreds of millions of people unable to obtain enough food to meet basic needs and billions lacking access to safe water, it is imperative that we find sustainable methods of food production that do not further degrade planetary health.

Agriculture in general is one of the most resource-intensive and environmentally damaging aspects of industrialised living. If we are trying to reduce our car use, limit the amount of water we waste, become more 'energy-efficient' and generally lessen our environmental impact, then we should also examine our eating habits.

People are increasingly becoming aware of the direct correlation between what they eat every day and the health of the planet. Environmentally conscious consumers are concerned not only with food miles, over-packaging, pesticide use and GM foods, but also question the environmental sustainability of modern animal husbandry. Farmers used to be seen as 'custodian's of the countryside,' but the overriding image of modern industrial farming is one of destruction and waste.

SEAR are happy to support Vegan Campaigns and the Veggie food fair in Croydon, to promote Veganism and bring delicious food to sample and share information about nutrition and the environment etc.

Vegan Food Fair - 17th Nov, Ruskin House, Croydon - bring friends & family!

www.vegancampaigns.org.uk www.vegansociety.com www.veganmonth.com



Pigeon Demo a success!

On Sat 13th Oct from 1 'til 4pm, 31 protestors with leaflets, banners, petitions and a loudhailer gathered on the North Terrace of Trafalgar Square in opposition to a new anti-feeding bye-law extension which was recently passed by the Secretary of State. The bye-law will now criminalises anybody caught feeding on WESTMINSTER'S forbidden land, (outside, and around the National Gallery). A map of the area is available on request. The 'lively' demo went smoothly, generated huge public support and was also to highlight the plight of the pigeons which are now beginning to show signs of starvation. Apart from the authorities, most people know these harmless pigeons are semi-domestic and will perish without a regular source of food. They will continue to be fed legally by Pigeon Action Group supporters.

Hundreds of members of the public, including tourists, who cannot believe they are now not allowed to feed, took leaflets and signed petitions. We are calling on Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears MP, the new Secretary of State for the Department for Communities & Local Government to reverse this cruel and unpopular byelaw, and not to make criminals of people for feeding wildlife. There is NO justification for this bye-law!

Complaints and objections can be sent to: Rt. Hon. HAZEL BLEARS MP, Secretary of State, Department for Communities & Local Government, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU.

e-mail: blearsh@parliament.uk Tel: 0161 925 0705

If anybody would like petitions or leaflets please get in touch.

More demonstrations are planned. Watch this space!



Badger Cull - Criticised

The Badger Trust today ridiculed Prof David King, Chief Scientific Adviser to the government for recommending badger culling to control bovine TB in cattle. The recommendation comes without consideration of the cost involved which makes a mockery the entire policy.

This review was conducted in secret and involved advice from the Republic of Ireland where 30 years of badger culling have left Eire with twice the level of bTB in the national herd compared to that in the UK.

Trevor Lawson public affairs advisor to Badger Trust commented: " Prof King's list of recommendations repeat virtually verbatim the opinions of farming unions and the cull mad vets in Defra. This is a highly-politicised rush to judgment, with no cost benefit analysis.

"Prof King says his aim is to control bTB in cattle but he ignores the fact that this can be achieved by improving the cattle testing regime. The science shows that cattle are the primary source of infection for both each other and for badgers. His shallow report amounts to a shamelessly one sided examination of the problem."

The Badger Trust points out that Prof King's advice contradicts:

- the advice of Prof Sir John Krebs who recently told Lord Rooker, Animal Health Minister, there was "no wriggle room on bovine TB policy and that badger culling was not viable; [3]

- the advice of Defra Science Advisory Council who for two years have accepted the scientific research first published in 2005 and concluded that badger culling should not be considered until all possible cattle measures had been implemented successfully and in full. [4]

The Independent Scientific Group advises that TB can be rapidly reversed and brought under control by improving the cattle testing regime which misses around 1 in 3 infected cattle leaving them to infect other cattle in the herd.

Remembering Barry Horne who died 5th Nov 2001, in prison on hunger strike for animals, serving an 18 year sentence for animal rights activities. He was vegan, hunt saboteur for many years, convicted of trying to release a dolphin from an aquarium, attended demos and fought against all forms of animal abuse.

Norwegian Whaling Vessel's Career is Finished

The Willassen Senior, the Norwegian whaling vessel that was scuttled on August 30, 2007 in the northern city of Svolvær in the Lofoten Islands, will not be killing any more whales—ever again. The damage sustained by the vessel that was deliberately sunk by whale defenders exceeded \$22 million kroner (over US \$2 million). Sea Shepherd Conservation Society was pleased to learn that the Willassen Senior was not insured. The owners of the vessel have decided to scrap the ship, because they cannot afford to pay to repair the extensive damage caused to electrical and mechanical systems by salt water. A group called Agenda 21 has taken credit for scuttling the whaling ship.

"One less whaling ship on the water translates into fewer whales being killed by these criminal whalers," said Sea Shepherd Founder and President Captain Paul Watson. "The Agenda 21 team did an excellent job: no injuries, no evidence, no mistakes, and no more whaling. These are results that we can appreciate and admire."

Immediately after the whaler was scuttled, the owners of other whaling vessels in Norway placed their ships under 24-hour guard. This translates into increased security costs for whaling ships, which cuts into whaling profits. "The whalers should be afraid of being scuttled," said Captain Watson. "A vessel that is being operated in clear defiance of international conservation law and is involved with the illegal slaughter of these intelligent and gentle creatures has only one place—on the bottom of the sea!"

Norwegian police have been unsuccessful in identifying the Agenda 21 team members. All they have done so far is to seize a hard drive from an internet cafe in Svolvær, based on a report that one of the sabotage team members may have been using a computer there. Police have confirmed the Willassen Senior was deliberately sunk by a saboteur (or saboteurs) unknown. It was sunk when a pipe used to provide salt water cooling to the engine was removed. It took four hours for the ship to sink, allowing the whale defenders plenty of time to leave the area.



"This was not a crime," said Captain Watson. "The Willassen Senior was a ship engaged in criminal activity specifically violating the International Whaling Commission's global moratorium on commercial whaling activities. Sinking this whaler was an act of law enforcement, and we applaud this successful retirement of an illegal killing machine."

www.seashepherd.org

GET INVOLVED - ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP NOW



You can make a real difference to animals lives, get involved in what ever way you can. Its surprising what can be achieved with determination and a conscience. If you can manage emails, write letters, make phone calls, text, photocopy, make placards and banners, raise funds, organise a gig, help out on a stall, plan a publicity stunt, would like to be trained to speak in schools, organise a campaign - whatever your skill or ability - we and the animals need your help. It is hugely rewarding to save animals lives, spend time with like minded people and get support and encouragement along the way. You will be warmly welcomed.



SO - what will you do?

please drop us a line, email or text, or come to our next meeting

Please consider a monthly donation towards our running costs, apart from leaflets, speaker expenses & transport
Newsletter £25 • Postage £30 • Room hire £30 • Food £10 • phones £10 • photocopies £5

SEAR tel: 07810 024098

DIARY

FOR FULL NATIONWIDE LISTINGS
VISIT WWW.VEGGIES.ORG.UK

- Wed 31st Oct National Institute of Medical Research Halloween Demo, 6.30pm Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London NW7NIMR Campaigns - 07767 471111
- Wed 1st Nov Vegan Month : Animal Aid - World Vegan Day - Vegan Society
- Wed 1st Nov Beginning of Hunt Crime Season : Hunt Saboteurs Association - Sean 07956359891
- 3rd Nov Tesco Action Week : Viva and Compassion In World Farming - ongoing campaign
- Tues 6th Nov SEAR Meeting - 7.30pm, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon**
- Sat 10th Nov SHAC National March and Rally : Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC)
SEAR MINIBUS - BOOK NOW Limited places - 07948036746
- Sat 17th Nov Vegan Food fair - Ruskin House, Croydon, 9-6pm - Help needed and for for SEAR stall

Pigeon Action Group: rota feeding, campaigning & rescue: 07810 024098

Fur campaigns: London: Pickets every week at London fur shops. 07951 274371 / 07796 774200 / 0845 845 4775
McDonalds demonstrations are held most Thursdays at McDonalds, 25-27 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1, from 6pm. The nearest tube is Piccadilly Circus. Contact numbers on the evening - 07960 036044.

Every Thursday, outside the proposed Oxford University animal torture centre, South Parks Road, Oxford.
Transport from London - to book reply to info@speackcampaigns.org.uk or contact 07899 775493.

your ongoing support is greatly appreciated - please make cheques payable to 'SEAR' send to BM SEAR, London, WC1N 3XX or you can now donate via paypal on our website - and a big thank you to all those who have donated!