

GRANDPARENTS FOR A SAFE EARTH. Newsletter no.7: July 2018



Preparing for the lock-on: Practice.....makes.....perfect

"We are a network of grandparents and elders who care about the world our descendants will inherit. We have learned that the current plans of energy companies and governments will, if not radically changed, put our grandchildren's future at risk. We seek to cooperate and enter into dialogue with others. Where other actions fail, we are prepared to take direct action, in a spirit of non-violence and respect."

Our most recent action took place in the centre of London on 13th June, when ten of us descended on the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in Westminster, in protest against Government plans to give consent to **commercial fracking**. Five members locked themselves to each other and refused to leave for six hours, and the main entrance and Reception area were closed down by Security. Other members either provided sustenance to the protesters or kept in touch with passers-by and, thanks to contacts with the campaigning organization Reclaim The Power (www.reclaimthepower.org.uk), with the media. A number of reporters



locked in or locked out? and a BBC team interviewed us and we received over 25 000 hits on Facebook and Twitter. The action provoked media interest in the form of TV and subsequent radio interviews. Click on the following links: <https://youtu.be/wirtos-kbVY>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwss5d1RCL0&t=8s>. Fracking may be just a small part of the climate change scene, but it is very topical and has particular local relevance in the West of England - so important that **we invite you to a public meeting in Bristol about our action, at 7pm on 24th July**: details at the end of this newsletter.



...and here is the News.

We were also in action on 11th May, outside **Barclays Bank** on the outskirts of Bristol, protesting about the huge sums of money that the Bank invests in fossil fuels, especially in Canadian **tar sands**, one of the world's dirtiest energy sources. We spoke to customers and asked them to write to the CEO of the company to persuade him to divest from climate-warming fossil fuels. Most



of the customers we spoke to were unaware of these investments. A couple of years ago some of our Canadian grandmother colleagues from *Raging Grannies* were arrested when they stopped a train transporting such fuel (www.raginggrannies.org). They still maintain a high profile.

We continue to keep links with grandparent climate groups in a number of other countries. Recently our **Swiss** colleagues were out on the streets with their own protests. We share many common concerns, often about the same

large corporations. Companies that exploit fossil fuels recognize no international boundaries: nor does the climate.



One of our members has regularly joined other anti-fracking groups that continue their protest at the **Preston New Road** site, despite the threats from the recent Court injunction.

A second climate change **study group** is due to start this autumn, in Thornbury, under the aegis of the University of the Third Age (www.u3a.org.uk), run by two of our members. U3A is one of the largest educational institutions in the UK. Many U3A branches have climate-change study groups.

Invitation

Dear Reader: We would like to participatory connection with & share lunch on **Sunday 21st** 1.45pm at Hamilton House, 3QY. This will be an opportunity concerns and our thoughts about we will particularly like to hear ideas you have about how our work might become more effective, and any part which you may like to take in it. You don't have to be a grandparent (or particularly old!).



make a more personal and you, and invite you to a bring **October** 2018 from 12.30 - Stokes Croft, Bristol BS1 for us all to share our where we go from here. We

Lunch will be followed at 2.30pm by a speaker on Effective Campaigning by Elders, and the event will end at 3.45pm. Gillian Kelly, who has been involved in campaigning against Cuadrilla's Preston New Road fracking (hydraulic fracturing) development near Blackpool, will be our speaker. She was moved to take her first civil disobedience action earlier this year and did it with her son and grand-daughter, leading to an informative article in The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/profile/gillian-kelly>

Please note that this event is free to everyone. If you can only come to lunch or to the speaker session, you are welcome to do that. Directions <https://www.hamiltonhouse.org/getting-here/>. The no. 9 bus goes regularly from just outside Temple Meads Station to St James Barton in the City Centre, from where it is a five-minute walk. On-street parking in Bristol is generally free on Sundays.

Visit us on <https://network23.org/gfase/>

Follow us on Facebook: *grandparents for a safe earth uk*.

Our actions are on www.youtube.com: type Grandparents For A Safe Earth into the search box.

GfaSE - for the generations to come

edited by Sigurd Reimers 08.07.18

***** COMING SOON: Join one of our actions in Cardiff this autumn. Details to follow *****

LATEST: PUBLIC MEETING ON ELDER CLIMATE ACTIVISM: Trinity United Reformed Church, Waterford Rd. Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4BT Tuesday 24 July 7-8.15 pm. EVERYONE WELCOME

Reader's corner: A reader has written to us, concerned that nowhere do we refer to animal husbandry being a major contributor to climate change. Meat and dairy production takes away valuable land from agriculture, and results in huge numbers of CO2-absorbing trees being cut down: The animals themselves also produce vast amounts of methane gas.

