



**Friends of  
the Earth**

**Bromley**

# April 2012 No. 292 Newsletter

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## April Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

### 4 BILLION YEARS OF NATURE IN 40 MINUTES

*Christopher Lloyd (info about him on page 5) will talk about the 14 most extraordinary moments in the story of what has shaped life on the planet as we know it today.*

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - 7.30pm.**

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

Contact details inside front cover.

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***Bromley FoE Newsletter needs contributions – contact editor if you can help***

**Diary dates:**

March 30<sup>th</sup> (Fri) / 31<sup>st</sup> (Sat) Bromley Meeting House 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Bromley FoE Stall. 10am - 4.30pm

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tues) Bromley FoE's April meeting**

Christopher Lloyd – 4 billion years of nature in 40 minutes  
Bluebell walk. Meet 1030-1100am at Cudham Environmental Education Centre. 1½ hour walk followed by lunch.

**April 17<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sun)

Visit to South London Botanical Institute, 2.30pm

**May 1<sup>st</sup> (Tues)****Bromley FoE's May meeting****June 12<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

Field Trip to Bullers Wood School woodland habitat. Guided tour by Martin Bishop. 7.30pm. (Replaces June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting which clashes with the Jubilee bank holiday)

**Bluebell Walk – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

This will be followed by a light vegetarian lunch of sandwiches and cake which will cost £5 a head. Please contact Sue Bocock on 020-8464-5990 for more info.

**Visit to South London Botanical Institute – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Meet 2.30.p.m. at South London Botanical Institute, 323 Norwood Road, SE24 9AQ. Roy Vickery will give us a talk and guided tour lasting about an hour with time for questions at the end. This will be followed by tea and biscuits. £2 a head.

**Re-user items [2]**

**Wall lights** brass fittings and tulip-shaped glass shades; 2 single, one double. Matching central pendant light with 5 lights. Small donation to Bromley FoE.

**Louvre doors**, pine, suitable for wardrobes or cupboards; 6 sized 62½" x 21" (535 x 1590mm) and 6 sized 21" x 21" (159 x 159mm). Small donation to Bromley FoE.

Contact Sheila Brown 01689 851605.

**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL:**

**by post** to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS

**by phone** to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: [johnstreet@gn.apc.org](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons

## Bromley FoE 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture report – from Ray Watson

**Sevenoaks FoE, Croydon FoE and other guests joined Bromley FoE members for a special lecture to mark BFoE's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a stimulating occasion. This Press announcement was made the following day:**

A call for local activists to step up their campaigning on the environment was made by Jean Lambert, the Green MEP for London in a lecture entitled **How Green is Europe?** to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bromley Friends of the Earth.

She praised the work that had been done over many years to bring environmental issues to the fore, but warned that governments, including the British Parliament, were backing off actions necessary to fight the dangers being created by climate change. Jean Lambert emphasised that it was for environmentalists to tell a positive story and remind governments of why it was vital to push ahead with 'green' measures.

She said: 'While most governments are fixed on the gloomy economic forecast, a much bigger issue, the environmental crisis, is passing us by. Climate change is a very real, ongoing problem with the consequences of our collective failure to act already visible in some parts of the world. If we are to stem the tide we need action now'.

Jean Lambert added: 'Bromley Friends of the Earth shows what can be done when action on local environmental issues is combined with global vision.

For example, its members played an important role in the successful national campaign to have legislation passed to ensure that the UK was the first government to have legally-binding targets to reduce carbon emissions'.

She outlined the stringent rules set by the European parliament to ensure standards were met on important basic issues like water quality, waste and air quality. London had a particularly poor record on air pollution and was in danger of facing a huge fine by the European Commission for breaching limits.

Emphasising the need for local, national and international action, Jean added : ' Bromley FoE has been instrumental in leading local campaigns on concerns such as expansion of Biggin Hill Airport and the attempt to build restaurants on park land at the Glades shopping mall while at the same time, Friends of the Earth in Europe was quick to understand the importance of the EU in tackling 'green' issues.

'So, while we still have problems to face, Bromley FoE also has something to celebrate'.

Questions from the crowded hall followed Jean's speech and she was presented with a book about the history of Bromley.

## The Big Switch campaign – Graham Hemington

*Graham Hemington has been taking action on the Big Switch campaign and has received these two emails recently:*

### **(1) Email from Jo Johnson MP**

Subject: Re: The Big Switch campaign for fairer gas and electricity prices

Thank you for contacting me about the 'Big Switch' campaign.

Last year saw big price increases as energy companies passed on the rising international price of gas to consumers. The Government is determined to ensure that the energy market works in the interests of consumers and this bold new initiative pioneered by Which? is exactly the type of change this Government would like to see more of. Collective switching can play an important role in handing power back to consumers and helping consumers negotiate a better deal.

I am delighted that the Energy Secretary has established a working group to investigate removing the barriers to collective purchasing. A similar initiative in the Netherlands negotiated a gas and electricity deal for 20,000 consumers and I hope that this success will be replicated in the UK.

Alongside this, the Government's 'Check, Switch, and Insulate to Save' scheme is ensuring that consumers are aware of the potential savings they can make on their energy bills by switching tariff, supplier or payment method. Consumers will now have the

right to be switched within three weeks once their cooling-off period has elapsed and energy suppliers will be under a new obligation to speed up their switching processes.

In addition, Ofgem's proposals to simplify energy billing will require energy suppliers to offer one standard tariff for each payment type and to publish all their tariffs in the same format to facilitate easy comparison. Consumer research has shown that 85 per cent of consumers tested were able to identify the cheapest tariff in less than a minute when these changes had been made, opening the door to greater consumer engagement in the energy market.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write, and I do hope you find this helpful.

### **(2) An email from 38 Degrees**

Already over 130,000 of us have signed up to switch gas and electricity companies to get a better deal on our bills. It's been all over the news - from the Daily Mail to The Independent! By joining together our bargaining position is getting stronger every day.

An "Early Day Motion" (see below) has just been launched in support of The Big Switch. If we can persuade a large number of MPs to sign, we should be able to send another powerful signal to the gas and electricity companies that the game is up.

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## The Big Switch campaign - *continued*

If enough of us contact our MPs now, we should be able to quickly persuade loads of them to sign up to the campaign. They won't want to look like they're taking the side of the power companies at a time when their voters are feeling the pinch.

We can be sure the bosses of electricity and gas companies will be watching this closely. If they see large numbers of MPs signing up in support of The Big Switch, they'll feel under even more pressure to give us a better deal. We can make sure they are feeling the pressure from all angles.

Big gas and electricity companies like British Gas and EDF have big lobbying teams who cosy up to MPs behind the scenes. But we've got people power! We are running this campaign because thousands of 38 Degrees members voted for it. And already over 130,000 of us have got involved. So now let's make sure MPs take our side in the battle to tackle gas and electricity profiteering.

### **EDM 2755 – Big Switch Campaign**

That this House –

- Welcomes The Big Switch initiative, led by Which? and 38 Degrees, that aims to help people struggling with rising energy prices using the combined switching power of thousands of consumers to negotiate a market-leading deal;
- Regrets that 60 per cent. of consumers have never switched energy supplier and that 75 per cent. are currently on their suppliers' standard tariff;

- Notes that consumers, for whom energy prices are the number one financial concern, are baffled by the array of tariffs and offers in the marketplace and often find themselves on more expensive deals when switching;
- Further notes that the more people who sign up to The Big Switch, the better the bargaining position of consumers will be
- And urges people to sign up before 31 March;
- And, acknowledging the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change's previous work on collective purchasing at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, urges him to be supportive of this and similar schemes.

### **More on our April meeting**

#### **4 BILLION YEARS OF NATURE IN 40 MINUTES**

Christopher Lloyd is the author of the *What on Earth? Wallbook of Natural History* and *What on Earth Evolved? 100 Species that Changed the World* from the earliest bacteria in the seas to the present day in more than 1,000 species.

His talk will stop off at the 14 most extraordinary moments in the story of what has shaped life on the planet as we know it today.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 7.30pm

## Sevenoaks FoE talk on Waste

*Mary Bassendine writes: At the February Meeting of Sevenoaks Friends of the Earth Charles Nouhan, the Recycling Manager for Sevenoaks District Council talked to us about WASTE*

Councils must recycle as much as they can: new landfill space is not available and the cost of sending waste to landfill, approximately £100 per tonne, is now more costly than recovering material to be recycled. Councils vary in how they collect waste.

In Sevenoaks we have a weekly collection of a transparent bag for paper, cardboard, mixed cans (ferrous metals and aluminium) metal jar and bottle tops, clean kitchen foil, single-use aluminium trays, and plastic bottles of all kinds and black bags for all other rubbish, including food. Green Waste is collected fortnightly in special bins or paper sacs, for which there is a charge. Other items: glass, other green waste, wood, electrical goods, metal, batteries, can be recycled personally at sites run by Kent County Council e.g. Dunbrik at Sundridge and other more limited facilities at supermarkets, car parks etc.

The black bags go to the Allington Energy from Waste Incinerator, a combined heat and power plant, which feeds the electricity generated (up to 34MW) into the National Grid. The transparent bags go to the Ideal Waste Recycling Facility at Swanley where unwanted items are filtered off by human pickers and the rest sorted and recycled. You can read a detailed account of our visit

In our discussion with Charles he emphasised that Waste is now a resource, which can achieve a good price, if it is clean and free from other contaminants. Other countries are hungry for our waste and only 60% of all recycled material is used in Britain. Some goes to China in returning containers.

Unfortunately not all types of plastics eg yogurt pots and plastic bags can be recycled but high grade plastic bottles fetch currently £50 - £400 per tonne.

Metals are currently very valuable as they have become a scarce resource.

Garden Waste collected from Sevenoaks households is composted at the Dunbrik wind-row site in Sundridge and sold as garden compost. Mixed garden and kitchen waste from other Kent authorities, such as Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells, are composted at an enclosed facility at the Blaise Farm facility at Kings Hill, used for agricultural purposes.

Glass achieves a good price according to its colour, ranging from clear £30 to mixed, only £5 per tonne.

Food Waste is not collected separately in Sevenoaks, but composting is encouraged through reduced price bins and workshops. Other food is incinerated. Green cones have been discussed, but not implemented due to how their performance varies in different soils and locations.

*/continued on page 9*

## Visit to the Ideal Waste Recycling Facility in Swanley

*Mary Bassendine writes: When is waste rubbish and rubbish waste? A visit to the Ideal Waste Recycling Facility in Swanley*

Recently a few of us from Transition Town and Friends of the Earth Sevenoaks visited this £14 million facility which is on the junction between the M20 and M25 at Swanley.

This is the destination for our see-through plastics sacks with their mix of paper, cardboard, mixed cans (ferrous metals and aluminium) metal jar and bottle tops, clean kitchen foil, single-use aluminium trays and plastic bottles of all kinds. Once contaminants have been discarded and the contents have been sorted into their constituent materials, waste can be sold on at a good price. This facility is said to have a 95% efficiency rate at sorting and recycling material.

We were taken round the facility by a Senior Executive and were able to follow the sorting process on high level platforms. We observed how first of all, the waste lorries deposit the sacks in the tipping hall. Then a mechanical shovel lifts them into a macerator which slits the bags and deposits the contents onto a conveyor belt, then onto an accelerator belt where the lighter plastics are blown off and the heavier paper falls down onto the floor.

A positive/negative picking line follows where employees scrutinise the waste passing on the conveyors and both select out specific items for recycling and discard unsuitable material. This includes some unusual objects, e.g. pieces of wood, plastic foam, rubber

gloves. The pickers are agency staff employed on a casual basis, mostly young. Any residual waste and rejected material is made into pellets and sent to the Allington Energy from Waste Incinerator and used as fuel to generate electricity. Recyclable waste is wrapped into separate bales: paper, mixed plastics, mixed cans and aluminium cans and deposited in containerised lorries for transport to reprocessing plants.

Paper is in particular demand and high grade white paper can achieve a high price, but paper can only be recycled up to 7 times before it disintegrates and becomes unusable. Much recycled paper goes to the Aylesford Newsprint Paper Mill in Kent. Unfortunately only 60% recycled waste, we were told, is reused in Britain. However it is now a valuable resource on the global market.

At the end of our visit we saw a queue of containerised lorries waiting to load and take waste from Swanley to Hamburg in Germany and to China. China now has its own internationally certificated Nine Dragons Paper Mill which is hungry for recycled material!

We learnt that there are real problems with processing:

- mixed plastics e.g. ready-meal containers often use special glue and 3 different types of plastic, for the base, the lid and the label.
- crisp packets, a mix of aluminium (very valuable) and plastic
- tetrapaks, a mix of cardboard, plastic and dyes

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## Campaigns and other info – Ann Garrett

Many thanks indeed to those of you who gave up precious time on March 17th to help on the Final Demand energy campaign stall at Penge. A generally interested response - people seemed prepared to stop and chat and were disgusted at the high profits being made by the energy companies. We collected about 20 signatures on the petition to lobby for a government enquiry, and gave out a good number of leaflets.

### Energy and Climate

#### Japanese Government withheld Fukushima information

The Japanese government withheld information about the full danger of last year's nuclear disaster from its own people, according to an independent report released on February 28th. The report, compiled by interviews with over 300 people, delivers a scathing view of how officials played down the risks of meltdown at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant that followed the March 11th earthquake and tsunami.

The prime minister Naoto Kan was criticised for not releasing vital information on radiation leaks, and blamed lack of reliable data at the time. It will take decades to fully decommission the plant. Although one of the damaged reactor buildings has been repaired, others remain a shambles. It is worrying to learn that workers have used tape to mend cracks caused by freezing weather in plastic hoses, on temporary equipment installed to cool the hobbled reactors.

#### Hinkley Point Demo

Meanwhile here in our own country around a 1000 people demonstrated at Hinkley Point in Somerset on March 10th against the proposed nuclear reactor there. They surrounded the area with banners and placards. Julie Etter from our FoE group took part, and we would like to thank her for her great efforts. She was holding the Bromley and Beckenham CND anti-nuclear banner with Margaret Toomey who also had the Bromley Green Party banner. So our area was represented.

Caroline Lucas MP and Kate Hudson (General Secretary of CND) spoke of the ground swell of public opinion against nuclear power. They were joined by speakers from Fukushima who emphasised their mistrust of the Japanese government and the lack of concrete information. Julie said that despite the underlying seriousness of the demonstration, there was a carnival atmosphere.

#### Death threats to global warming scientist

Michael E Mann creator of the 'hockey stick' graph that illustrates recent rapid rises in global temperatures is to publish a book in April detailing the 'disingenuous and cynical' methods used by those who have tried to disprove his findings. Among the tactics used against him was the theft and publication of his emails he had exchanged with climate scientist Professor Phil Jones of East Anglia University. Distorted versions of the emails were used to undermine the UN climate talks in Copenhagen.

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## Sevenoaks FoE Waste talk and Waste visit - *continued*

### Sevenoaks FoE Waste talk (*cont'd*)

#### Highlights for campaigning

- A mix of materials in manufacture or packaging causes a real problem with recycling e.g. ready meals, crisp packets, Lucozade bottles, tetrapaks – they can be recycled in Norway! Incinerated, 1 tonne of Tetrapaks generates as much heat as ¼ tonne of coal!
- Packaging should use fewer materials.
- Manufacturers should build in the recycling of the end product into the complete process.
- We should be influencing manufacturers, by not buying their products and telling them why we choose not to buy them.

#### Incineration what do you think?

Is incineration polluting? Charles assured us that the Allington plant is subject to strict EU legislation and to constant monitoring for pollutants. Special filters are installed throughout the process, and scrubbers are installed in the chimneys to remove heavy metals and hazardous pollutants  
[www.kentenviropower.co.uk/enviropower.asp?ID=59](http://www.kentenviropower.co.uk/enviropower.asp?ID=59). The sudden rush of emissions into the atmosphere which can be seen occasionally is a release of steam, not pollution and the plant shuts down automatically in an emergency.

Does incineration encourage us to consume more and recycle less e.g. food waste? to keep the incinerator burning. Will a decrease in waste because of the recession cause problems for Allington?

### Visit to Waste Recycling plant

#### (*cont'd*)

- electrical wiring contains fire retardants and cannot be mixed with other plastics
- Lucozade bottles contain 4 different kinds of plastic including yellow-dyes

I came away from the visit impressed at the efficiency with which our rubbish is sorted and recycled. I learnt a lot about the processing, marketing and onward distribution of waste. Above all we should be aware that uncontaminated waste is a resource and is valuable, not only in Britain, but on the world market. Pity about the transport miles!

*Both articles written by Mary Bassendine with acknowledgments to Charles Nouhan for his assistance.*

#### **Death threats, continued**

He has described the way the emails were used to kill off the climate talks as 'a crime against humanity'. Facts like this make one realise what environmental campaigners are up against when it comes to the vested interests of governments and corporations. This along sometimes with the general apathy and lack of public awareness.

We have a long struggle ahead to maintain the momentum and in finding new ways to inform and achieve legislation. Michael Mann warns in his book 'The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars' that 'public discourse has been polluted now for decades by corporate-funded disinformation'.

## CYW – Final Demand campaign – Demanding powerful change

Our Final Demand campaign to fix our broken energy system has got off to a great start, with more than 100 local groups involved and media coverage all across the country. *Campaigner Paul Steedman updates us.*

We're calling for energy we can all afford. A future of renewable energy, not gas and nuclear. It's an ambitious ask when renewable energy is being blamed for putting up the cost of our energy bills. But that's why one of the key aims of the campaign is to change how people think about energy in the UK.

Since we launched our campaign, the media debate on energy bills has shifted. It's now focused on the future cost of energy rather than on today's bills. A new report from the Committee on Climate Change confirms our view that household bills have increased because of gas price rises, not renewables.

I've met with representatives from a number of the Big Six energy companies (including Gordon Brown's brother Andrew at EDF) and our campaign has clearly had an impact. The more we're able to keep up the pressure, the more we'll be able to influence the debate.

### **Petition power**

Our petition, calling for a public inquiry into the power and influence of the Big Six energy companies, now has more than 20,000 signatures. Many local groups have set ambitious targets for getting more signatures. Birmingham Friends of the Earth aimed to have 3,000 signatures by the end of January

and we're looking forward to finding out how close it and other groups got to their target.

### **Taking the Government to court**

In the early stages of this campaign, we've been defending feed-in tariff subsidy payments for small-scale renewable energy generation. The Government planned to cut the subsidy by more than half with just six weeks' notice, wrecking plans for communities, councils and individuals to install solar panels.

We took them to court just before Christmas and the judge ruled the Government's plans to be unlawful. On 25 January the Court of Appeal rejected the Government's attempts to overturn the ruling, which was fantastic news. As I write this, the Government is considering appealing again, this time to the Supreme Court. Check our website for the latest news.

### **MP Show and Tell**

Many groups have been showing their MPs the benefits of renewable energy, taking them to see local projects and businesses. MPs from all parties have seen the boost that these projects can be to local communities.

The Manchester group met with Liberal Democrat MP, John Leech, supported by a local solar company and energy co-operative. Together, they outlined the impact of the proposed subsidy cuts on projects and staff. After the meeting, John Leech MP joined over 200 other MPs, councils, businesses and organisations in signing our joint statement.

## The Problem with Bees

*Peter Gandolfi writes:*

Bees are under threat and without them, so are our food supply and ecosystems.

In the spring a new campaign will be spreading its wings.

You may have already heard about the serious problems our honey bees are facing, but bumblebees and solitary bees are also declining at an alarming rate. 25% of British bees are listed in the Red Data Book of threatened species. None of these are protected by law.

Through The Bee Cause, FoE are calling for a National Bee Action Plan that will intervene across a range of sectors to save the British bee. We want David Cameron to publically acknowledge the need for central Government to adopt and implement this Plan which will be inspired by the actions we take together.

### **From FoE's Change Your World - Time to be friendly**

Senior Activism Coordinator Lucy Pearce shares her love of bees and explains why Friends of the Earth will be launching a new campaign on bees this Spring.

I think bees are brilliant — not only beautiful, but also vital to our nation's food supply and biodiversity. Without bees pollinating crops, we'd have a third less food on our plates.

Sadly, bees are in trouble and their numbers are declining rapidly — a result of habitat loss, farming

practices, pesticides and disease. The Government's policies in relentless pursuit of economic growth, often at the cost of the environment, are making life worse for bees.

But the Government has failed to recognise that a decline in bee numbers and biodiversity also has a huge economic impact. The monetary value of bees along with other pollinators is estimated to be £430 million a year. So if bee numbers continue to fall, we'll see a rise in food prices, as well as serious damage to our natural environment.

We believe that the Government needs to become bee friendly. So this Spring we're launching our new campaign on bees and biodiversity.

Many of you are already helping to protect bees and their habitats. Our campaign will aim to inspire even more action. We'll be calling for the Government to ensure that all policy decisions have a positive impact on bee populations.

Why not start now by planting some wildflower seeds, or joining in with local bee activities? Share top tips and keep updated at our Bees campaign hub: [foe.co.uk/campaignhubs](http://foe.co.uk/campaignhubs)

## Fighting Food Waste – Sheila Brown

We constantly hear how much food is being wasted whilst families struggle to put food on their plates. Now there are organisations working to combat these twin ills. **Feeding the 5000** staged an event last November in Trafalgar square, serving more than 5000 meals in less than two hours. People enjoyed live cooking demos and feasted on a delicious hot curry made entirely out of fresh misshapen vegetables that would have otherwise gone to waste.

Over a tonne of fresh surplus apples and pears were pressed into thousands of portions of delicious apple juice. Four happy pigs were brought to the square by Friends of the Earth and merrily munched on the apple pulp showing the huge potential in the UK for food that can't be used for people to be fed to animals.

The event raised awareness of the positive solutions to the food waste scandal, and thousands of people signed a pledge to reduce the food they waste.

Feeding the 5000 has now launched the Gleaning Network to salvage fruit and vegetables on farms all over Britain and recently salvaged over a tonne of misshapen brassicas that fail to meet supermarkets' strict cosmetic standards and would otherwise be ploughed back into the earth.

Other organisations working in this area include **FareShare** which provides surplus 'fit for purpose' product from the food and drink industry to organisations working with disadvantaged people in the

community and aims to help vulnerable groups, whether they are homeless, elderly, children, or other groups in food poverty.

**FoodCycle** empowers local communities to set up groups of volunteers to collect surplus produce locally and prepare nutritious meals in unused professional kitchen spaces, which are then served to people at risk from food poverty and social isolation in the local community. They have also set up two community cafés serving hearty meals at fair, affordable prices.

**A Food Waste Ten Minute Rule Bill** is currently going through Parliament.

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### FoE Submission on Site K (Westmoreland Road multi-storey car park)

This is the text of an email sent to the Chief Planner recently. Permission was subsequently granted for the development.

Whilst not opposed to a mixed development of the site, especially if it is to contain a variety of housing needs, Bromley Friends of the Earth wishes to raise some strong objections for consideration

1. The height and bulk of the proposed northern apartment block building appears over-bearing and too dominant.
2. There will be severe environmental impact of such a large development on the surrounding residential area.

*/continued on next page*

## Commonwork's GrowCookEat Workshops at Bore Place

### Food - Organic Gardening

Are you looking for gift ideas? Or why not treat yourself and book a day on Commonwork's 2012, GrowCookEat programme. Run in association with the Soil Associations' Farm School, the following classes run from 10am-4pm, cost £50 and include lunch.

### The 2012 programme includes:

- April 24: Frugal Feasts – turn nutritious, affordable ingredients into tasty meals using global menus for inspiration
- June 12: The Bore Place Great Bake – bake delicious treats, then enjoy the tastes of your toils with a nice cuppa!
- May 19: Backyard Bees – find out what it takes to keep chickens, including food, housing and health
- May 26: Backyard Chickens – how to set up a hive, have happy bees and how to collect the honey
- September 13: Introduction to Permaculture – discover permaculture principles, learn methods and techniques and find out how to turn soil into a food store
- November 27: Catering for a Crowd – practical tips and ideas to help make catering for a crowd less daunting

**The GrowCookEat series of Organic Gardening Workshops** continue to be popular and are booking up fast. Join Pippa Green, horticulturalist and Commonwork tutor to find out more about growing vegetables. Accessible for beginners as well as gardeners who would like to learn more about

growing food, the sessions run from 10am-1pm and cost £10, with concessionary places available.

Places are currently available on the following dates.

- Friday 28th September 2012 - Seed saving for vegetable growers
- Friday 30th November 2012 - Start your own organic vegetable plot

Further details of all the above can be found on the web site at <http://www.commonwork.org/news.htm>, or contact Becky Baldock at Commonwork 01732 463255 [beckyb@commonwork.org](mailto:beckyb@commonwork.org), for details and to book places.

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### FoE Submission on Site K (*cont'd*)

3. Lack of linkages to the High Street, which are essential for easy access.
4. The impact on wider local views which are important for the aesthetic well-being of residents and town users.
5. Important concerns about the multiplex impact on the Empire Cinema and businesses in the

Our group generally feels that although some investment in Bromley South might be necessary, the whole proposal is too large and unattractive in design. We would also like to see community provision for young people and adult groups, and genuine affordable housing included.

We would welcome an extended consultation process.

## **Green Euro-MP urges council not to introduce night flights at Manston airport**

Keith Taylor, the Green MEP for Kent and South East England, has submitted a consultation response to Thanet District Council urging them to maintain the current restrictions on scheduled night time flying from Manston Airport in Kent.

In his submission, Keith draws attention to a number of concerns about the proposal to introduce passenger and freight flights between 11pm and 7am. He questions the impact night flights would have on the local economy, the environment and the quality of life for local residents.

In the submission he emphasises the disruption that night flights would cause local residents, especially increased noise levels. Independent assessments have shown that night flights have the potential to cause sleep deprivation and health problems.

They would also reduce house prices in the local area. Keith is concerned that local residents' concerns have not been adequately addressed. The airport's aim to turn Manston into a freight hub will also result in more disruption caused by an increase in heavy goods vehicles travelling to the airport.

As a Green MEP Keith also raises his concerns about the environmental consequences of an increased volume of flights, especially the rise in green house gas emissions which would threaten the UK's binding emission reduction targets.

Keith questions the airport's claims about the benefits of night flights, in

particular the claim that this increase will create more jobs

Keith said: "The job creation figures used are widely disputed and fail to stand up to scrutiny. Manston would be best to concentrate on making better use of the capacity they currently have for daytime flights before resorting to inconvenient and disruptive night flights.

"For the airport to use questionable figures to promise jobs and use the implicit threat of unemployment to persuade the local community to accept the many problems that night flights will bring is especially pernicious in the current economic climate. There is a history of airports promising jobs which they then fail to deliver, and Manston Airport's case for job creation does not inspire me with confidence."

Keith continued: "While I welcome development and job creation in the South East generally, and in Thanet particularly, this development offers only uncertain employment potential based on speculative assumptions. I do not believe residents should have to settle for an unsustainable development which will negatively affect the environment and their quality of life."

**Articles Wanted  
for  
Newsletter**

**Please contact  
Editor  
if you can help**

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### Membership Secretary:

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### Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

### Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

### Campaigns –

### Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details below

### Planning and development:

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### Waste and Recycling

Annette Rose  
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### Bromley FoE web site:

***www.bromleyfoe.co.uk***  
Peter Gandolfi  
*petergandolfi@hotmail.com*

### Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

### Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson or Sheila Brown on the numbers shown above.

### Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

**Reuser Column**  
**Don't throw It away - Reuse It!**

If you have any items to sell, or anything that you require, please send details to the Editor. Items will be displayed for three months, the number in brackets after an item indicating for how long it has appeared. Could you please contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the newsletter.

Any donations to Bromley FoE generated from this column gratefully received!

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**Non-members' Section**

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth, BFoE, then hello. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators, Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

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**Membership Application/Renewal\* Form** (\*please delete as appropriate.)

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com).

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £8 annual subscription. I also enclose a donation (optional) of ..... To help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

Do you have any hobbies or interests that may be of use to the group?

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