



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**



April 2017
No. 352

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:
email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

April Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Lawrence Beale Collins

Thames21 – Healthy Rivers at the heart of the community

*The work of Thames21 within the Thames
and Ravensbourne river catchments*

Tuesday 4th April – 7.30pm

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 16TH APRIL *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates:

Apr 1 (Sat)

Bromley Progressive Bromley Food Co-op: Friends Meeting House, 6pm shared food for 7pm – “The Great Dictator”

April 4 (Tue)

Bromley FoE’s April meeting: Thames 21

April 29 (Sat)

Bill’s 4th Open Garden Day (*see page 11 for more info*)

May 2 (Tue)

Bromley FoE’s May meeting

June 2 to 4

FoE BASECAMP 2017 at Castleton, Derbyshire

June 25 (Sun)

Keston Countryside Day

April meeting – Tuesday 4th April – Thames21

An overview of Thames21’s work,

- How and why they were formed and how much coverage Thames21 has within the Thames river catchment;
- How Thames21 operates within the Ravensbourne catchment,
- What Lawrence’s job as Catchment Partnership Coordinator entails;
- current projects;
- The Three Rivers Clean Up and Thames21’s work in the removal of plastics from the Thames foreshore and beyond.

Bill’s 4th Open Day – Saturday 29th April

Details on page 11

Helpers / volunteers needed - see page 18

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by *** **SUNDAY 16TH 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.

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

March meeting report 1: Electric Vehicles - Paul Enock

Justin Cockett from Petts Wood presented an environmental case for doing as he has done: switch from a conventionally powered to an electric vehicle (EV) for your private motoring needs.

Justin presented many good reasons for switching to an EV, such as the low price of electrical energy (ten times cheaper than fossil fuels), free charging and parking at supermarkets, hotels and airports, lower maintenance costs, increasing battery range, congestion charge exemption, parking initiatives, ease of re-charging, tax and insurance... But here I will summarise Justin's comparison between EVs and conventional vehicles in terms of environmental impact.

Why is an EV more environmentally friendly?

The Internal Combustion Engine is very inefficient

A huge 79% of energy is wasted by using petrol/diesel for transport – Yes, only 21% of the energy in your fuel tank actually goes to moving your car's wheels (driving in traffic jams or in built-up areas is even less efficient).

Justin gave us a breakdown of where all the wasted energy goes – most is lost through heat in the exhaust system, but also through things like power train losses, and braking (see Tony Seba's *Clean Disruption of Energy and Transportation*).

(One form of loss Justin didn't mention, but a source of pollution in its own right – Noise)

An electric motor is 5 times more energy efficient

Combustion engines have a maximum energy conversion efficiency of 25-30%. This is because they can convert energy efficiently only at higher temperatures.

Tesla's first-generation electric vehicle, the 2008 Roadster, already had an overall drive efficiency of 88% and successive generations are increasingly efficient.

If we compare the technologies in terms of kilowatt hours (kWh), a petrol/diesel-powered car with an average fuel consumption of 30 mpg is using energy at the rate of 1.3 kWh per mile. Justin's Tesla, by comparison, has so far averaged 0.321 kWh per mile – that's 4 times more energy efficiency from a car that has the performance of a 6.38 V8 Turbo (e.g. the Mercedes AMG, which, even under motorway conditions, can manage only 25mpg).

Inner-city comparisons are even more impressive: driving around London in a small conventional car, you may require 1.9kWh for each mile (20mpg), while Justin's BMW i3 consumes just one tenth of that, 0.19kWh per mile.

It follows that EVs have a much smaller environmental impact in terms of energy consumption.

But electric vehicles require energy nonetheless, to charge their batteries – so won't they always have a carbon footprint?

/continued on page 5

March meeting report 2: FareShare - Tackling food waste

Annette Rose reports:

Oliver Brabner gave us a presentation on 'FareShare'. This organisation is tackling the serious problem of food waste. He began by outlining some startling facts. By 2050 the population is expected to reach 9 billion. How will we feed them? 795 million people are undernourished globally and poor nutrition contributes to half the deaths of children under 5. And yet 2 billion people are overweight with 600 million being obese. Tons of food is being wasted. The world produces enough food but a third goes to waste.

We were shown a diagram of the 'Food Waste Hierarchy'. There are 5 levels before food should be disposed of. These are reduce, feed people in need, feed livestock, compost and 100% renewable energy and disposal.

FareShare can work at a consumer level even before food hits the supermarkets. FareShare are the biggest organisation in the UK that redistributes food. It has 20 regional centres from Aberdeen to Brighton. 10,795 tonnes of food are received. 4,99140 people are supported each week with 995 towns and cities reached across the UK.

The aim is to try and bypass good food going for disposal. It is estimated that 27,000 tons of food could be redistributed. This is so important when we consider that 1.3 million people are destitute and can't afford essentials such as food.

So why is food wasted? Supermarkets insist on uniform shapes, sizes etc.

Good food with nutritional value is often discarded due to its appearance. 'Sell by' and 'use by' dates mean food is often discarded when it is still edible.

Oliver then showed us how the charity works with the food industry and redistributes the food. They work with 279 charities. So who receives the food? Drop in services, breakfast clubs, hostels, refuges and lunch clubs for older people all benefit. The organisation does not work for profit.

We were shown a slide of some of the names of big organisations that work with FareShare. It included M and S, Waitrose, Greggs, Sainsbury, Coop, Lidl, Tesco along with many more.

So how can you help?

The warehouses welcome volunteers. We can help by spreading the message about not wasting food and letting people know about FareShare.

We heard about the FareShare Food Cloud App. Tesco for example, can upload details of their unsold food. Then a charity receives a text informing them of the available food and arranges collection. The charity makes meals with the food for people in need.

Tesco is the first company to publish a waste report. Impressively, the App has helped to reduce store level food waste by 86% across 915 Tesco stores. That is 59,400 tonnes saved from disposal.

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March meeting reports - *continued*

Electric Vehicles - *continued*

As we have just seen, no matter how they source their power, EVs use a lot less energy for the same amount of mileage. Combustion engines burning diesel or petrol, on the other hand, are in the front line of fossil fuel consumption and CO₂ emission. *

It is true that if you charge the battery of your EV using electricity generated by burning oil, coal or gas, this will still leave a (smaller) carbon footprint. But with an EV you have the option of sourcing your power exclusively from renewable and sustainable sources. All you need is an energy supplier such as Eccentricity or Good Energy. You could also, of course, use your own solar panels.

As Justin pointed out, solar power and EVs go together. Solar panels can be installed in locations where they do not add to land requirement – he cited the example of the solar farm being built on radioactively contaminated sites at Chernobyl.

A convergence of technologies between renewable energy generation and electric vehicles is on its way and this is good news for the environment. It will replace current technologies just as fast as powerful interests in fossil-fuels (and their ability to shape our governments) allow them.

Of course, Justin's talk was limited to private transportation – he did not compare energy efficiency per passenger mile with public transport. Nonetheless, when compared the present use of combustion engines, Justin's environmental case for electric vehicles is a convincing one.

** (Of course, combustion engines emit a lot of other harmful local pollutants – which in themselves constitute a good argument for switching to EVs – but Justin's environmental arguments concentrated on the carbon footprint and land usage.)*

FareShare - *continued*

So what's next?

All Tesco stores will be donating their surplus food by 2018. Waitrose is joining the scheme later this year. Oliver stresses that we need to continue to put pressure on the Government and retailers to improve the waste food situation.

Questions

Oliver answered questions on the origins of the organisation and explained it was originally called Crisis. The Food Cloud App is 2 years old. In a question about working with farmers, we were told that on occasions volunteers are allowed on farms to collect discarded food but FareShare does not work directly with farms.

For further information you can go to www.fareshare.org.uk. Charities can sign up to receive food and there are opportunities for volunteers. There are also suggestions there for fundraising to support this important organisation.

Campaigns, Climate and Energy – Ann Garrett

The Mall Precinct Campaign stall

A big thank you to Annette and John who helped with stall on March 18th. (see photo on page 7) Despite the chilly wind blowing through the precinct we managed to give out a fair number of fracking leaflets and also get some pollution cards signed. John brought his wind turbine model as an example of a positive alternative energy.

Nick's Cafe were again a great help in looking after the materials the night before, and we also enjoyed some refreshments there afterwards. Nick and also David, The Mall chief security officer, were very supportive of our campaigns.

Climate and Energy

Fracking Update

Anti-fracking campaigners near Blackpool were thrilled in February when energy firm Cuadrilla pulled out of a controversial drilling site at Preston New Road. Residents are contacting local firms who have been supplying Cuadrilla not to do so any more and there has generally been a good response to this request. Anti-fracking groups in the North West of the UK are operating collectively to identify and target companies who are involved.

There are big concerns at the moment regarding a planning application to drill for oil in the South Downs National Park in West Sussex. Several of us in Bromley FoE have emailed our objections expressing our worries about the chemicals used in the

extraction processes and the danger to wild life and the environment generally.

Drilling for oil seems to be a cover-up for what is really fracking. This way the fracking companies can evade legal health and safety regulations and controls.

Nuclear Update

There have been a number of events in London in March in solidarity with anti-nuclear campaigners in Japan to mark the sixth anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

These included a vigil outside the Japanese Embassy, a march to Whitehall (where the poem on page was read and photo on page was taken), and a parliamentary meeting. At the latter one of the main speakers was Kenji Higuchi, a photo journalist who spoke of the radiation exposure of subcontracted nuclear plant workers at Daiichi nuclear power plant. For decommissioning work there, as many as 7,000 people have to work daily under high radiation exposure.

Leukaemia is on the increase and the Japanese government are covering up the dangers and statistics.

The London events were supported by anti-Hinckley Point campaigners from Bridgewater and also activists from Bradwell, Sizewell and Dungeness. An exhibition of photographs by Lis Fields at The Conway Hall highlights the destruction and desolation in the Fukushima Prefecture.

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Campaigns, Climate and Energy – *continued*

Fossil Fuel Divestment

Student activists at Kings College London celebrated on March 9th after the university announced that it would divest from all fossil fuel companies within the next five years.

An eight week campaign by Kings College Climate Emergency, which consisted of a number of direct actions culminating in a 14 day hunger strike by PhD student Roger Hallam and a 24 hour occupation of the university buildings, has prompted what has been hailed as 'a significant change of policy' by one of the UK's most prestigious universities.

The KCCE engaged in a rolling programme of civil disobedience to highlight the urgency of acting on

climate change, and should be highly commended for their persistence and courage.

Sustainable Theatre Lighting

Rob Halliday a theatre lighting designer has written a book called 'The Switch'. He puts forward proposals for using solar power as an energy source and the use of more LED lights, to conserve energy and balance supply and demand. He recommends that theatres should think about installing their own solar panels and batteries to store the electricity generated during the day.

It is now a legal requirement that theatres produce an annual sustainability plan, so this book will be a useful practical guide.

Bromley FoE stall on March 18th in The Mall precinct



Nature update, past & present - Judy Palmer

'Talk About Nitrogen'

Plantlife have just published a report on how nitrogen found in air pollution is affecting our plants. This is taken from their press release:

- '90% of sensitive habitats in England and Wales are suffering from excess nitrogen
- Nitrogen deposited from the air may present a 'far more immediate threat' than climate change to wild plants, lichens and fungi
- 'Thuggish' plants such as nettles that flourish with high levels of nitrogen are overpowering the UK's rare and endangered wild plants

Over a third (37%) of our flowering plants prefer low nutrient conditions and are therefore at threat from increasingly nitrogen-rich, high nutrient conditions

Their new report '*We Need to Talk About Nitrogen*' which is backed by the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, RSPB, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, the British Bryological Society, the British Lichen Society, Flora Locale, SEI, and Chester Zoo, spells out how tackling the destructive impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition on plants and ecosystems is one of the greatest challenges faced in nature conservation.

Nitrogen deposition takes place when nitrogen emissions from transport, power stations, farming and industry – mainly emitted as nitrogen oxides and ammonia - are deposited back into the

natural environment directly from the air or in rain.

The report highlights that 90% of all nitrogen-sensitive habitats in England and Wales – such as heathlands, acid grasslands and sand dunes - are receiving deposition at higher levels than they can tolerate. Across the whole of the UK, the figure stands at 63%. As a result, low nitrogen plants are declining. Over a third (37%) of our flowering plants prefer low nutrient conditions and are therefore at threat.

The negative impact of poor air quality on human health is, rightly, increasingly well-documented and it is now incumbent on us to ring the alarm bell for nitrogen deposition. We are force-feeding the natural world a diet of nutrient-rich junk food and it is having a devastating impact. Once diverse habitats are becoming monotonous green badlands where only the thugs survive and other more delicate plants are being bullied out of existence.'

This is not new news – people who work with plants have been saying this for 10 years or more I'm told, and in November 2013 our speaker was Mark Sutton from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and his talk topic was 'Nitrogen World'. Hopefully this new report from Plantlife will open up the debate to a wider audience.

Torrey Canyon disaster, fifty years ago.....

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Fukushima Wastelands (March 2017 - 6 years on)

Fukushima Wastelands (March 2017 - 6 years on)

(With thanks and acknowledgements to Lis Fields'20 Millisieverts per Year' exhibition and the film 'Nuclear Japan')

Fields of black plastic bags filled with radioactive waste
stretch across Fukushima Prefecture

Deserted streets
Deserted houses
Deserted schools

A child's pink bicycle abandoned in a garage
Geigercounters buzz as white-clad officials monitor here and there

Deserted shops
Deserted libraries
Deserted allotments

A tsunami marker stone stands firm on a hill in Tomiaka
A reminder overseeing this devastating destruction

The sun shines, but there's no one about
The wind blows the luscious vegetation, but it's inedible
Flowers bloom, but are not seen, smelt or picked

164,865 people have left this polluted paradise
8% of the urban and rural land mass is uninhabitable
20 millisieverts per year is now the Government's safe radiation threshold

Japan's 54 nuclear power plants lie close to tsunami-prone seas
Their white temple- like domes and austere structures
gleam and glisten in seemingly pristine condition

They hide the deadly plutonium within
They are part of the world's dangerous annihilative sin

Ann Garrett Ashley

Nature Update - *continued*

Torrey Canyon disaster, fifty years ago.....their beaches covered in oil after the tanker the Torrey Canyon hit rocks off the coast of Cornwall, spilling more than 100,000 tons of crude oil over an area, eventually, of 270 sq miles - and the UK was in the throes of our worst environmental disaster.

It caused enormous damage to marine life and the local economy, but it led to changes in how people viewed the environment. Over 15,000 sea birds were killed and it took decades for some species to recover. And as you can imagine, the food chain suffered terribly, from the micro organisms at the bottom, through to the mussels and up to the fish, birds and mammals.

But it was not just the oil which was the disaster here, how the clean up was done contributed: A powerful chemical was used to try to clean the beaches and the sea, but of course it killed everything it came into contact with. It took up to 15 years for those areas treated with the chemical to recover. Other places which were left to the wind and sea to disperse the oil, recovered more quickly.

The disaster led to the creation of legislation of maritime regulations on pollution, and the way oil tankers were built to offer more protection, plus it generated a more public awareness of ethical conservation; and long may this continue.....

Fukushima part 2 - , here's a photo of the Bromley and Beckenham CND banner at the Fukushima rally on March 11th



OPEN GARDEN AND PLANT SALE

Come and join in a lovely garden event on
Saturday April 29th

Bill Priestley is opening his garden in Petts Wood again for us this year. There will be some plants for sale, together with home-made refreshments and a raffle.

If you have any plants you wish to donate, please bring them along!

Here are the details:



Place: 22 Greencourt Road, BR5 1QW
Date: April 29th
Time: 2.30 – 5.00 p.m.
Entry fee: £3.00 (*including tea & cake*)

Call Bill on 01689 820469 if you need any more info

See you there!



*A fundraising event on behalf of
Bromley Friends of the Earth*

Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

Yet again the weather has been cold but bright during January, better than last year when we had a fair amount of rain. The ground has been hard so enabling the boys to do a little hedge cutting. Mainly they have been delivering hay and straw and carrying on with the refurb of the old office.

As it has been so cold, it has been great to be under cover and get on with the skirting etc. A carpet has now been laid so nearly ready for use.

The date for keeping chickens under cover and wild bird proof has been extended to 28th February. Not sure how long I will be able to keep my girls in the greenhouse, depends on the weather, so will have to make alternative plans. The yolks have returned to a darker yellow fortunately but they are still trying to escape as soon as I open the door.

The pea straw buyer failed to keep his order so as we needed to get it moved and our local cooperative has found a new buyer. Did you know that deer love the stuff?

There is a deer farm at Seal Chart and the boys took a few bales there to see if the farmer and deer were happy with it.

Fortunately they were, so they have been carting the bales by truck and trailer. Bit of a long way with tractor and long trailer but proved very easy with the truck.

There isn't a lot more to say this month, so I thought I would just write a few lines about the family. We found a

diary belonging to Steve's Great Grandma, Emily and she noted that she moved here on the 10th April 1899. The two eldest children had been born at Wood Street, Wallington and the next five children either here at the farm or at Harecroft, the house in Warren Road, which is now called Harefield.

George and Emily moved about a bit as we have recorded that they also lived at Pine Ridge, which was a house at the beginning of Knoll Rise on the left. They lived at Harecroft at the time George died and Emily went to live with her daughter in Worlds End Lane until her death on 15th November 1957.

George died as a result of injuries sustained in a collision between an army lorry and his car at the junction of Court Road and Church Road on the 11th July 1943.

This month's weather folklore is about Candlemas Day, 2nd February.

*If Candlemas Day is bright and clear,
There'll be two winters in that year;
But if Candlemas Day is mild or brings
rain,
Winter is gone and will not come
again.*

Let's hope for the latter.

East Dorset FoE argues for tranquillity and ecosystem emphasis in MMO's South Marine Plan

East Dorset Friends of the Earth, a Marinet Member, has responded to the Marine Management Organisation's request for comment on the central themes of its draft South Marine Plan, February 2017. The Plan covers the coast from Dartmouth to Folkestone, 221 miles (356 km), with over 3000 miles of tidal coastline, about 20,000 square km of sea, south to the border with France and Guernsey.

Headline Summary

The South Marine Plan, covering Dartmouth to Folkestone, is MMO's (the Marine Management Organisation's) sea and related land-use plan to 2035.

It took 5 years, with good stakeholder involvement, so we expected a good balance between development and environment. This didn't happen but we toned down our response to "disappointed" as we want to be listened to. We started by disputing their vision, to increase "busyness", as we prefer peace, though we like diversity.

Most of the draft plan is a set of objectives and policies. There is a very thoughtless policy preventing any opposition to any port expansion or development. Even worse, the draft plan wants to greatly expand marine aggregate dredging. To counter this, we asked for a complete moratorium on aggregate dredging in the inshore area and eventual reduction to zero.

Even some policies on marine protected areas and access were questionable – total access to nature reserves in the breeding season, for a start. But the biodiversity policies were excellent, if weak compared to the economic ones, and they did endorse Marinet's proposal for an ecosystem based management approach.

They didn't differentiate between good and bad aquaculture but they were OK on global warming, water quality, fishing and others. We asked for additional policies promoting green technology. Now we're hoping that our response will be acted on. The MMO has to amend this draft plan if they want any credibility in our area.

The plans can be accessed through www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-south-marine-plan.

Goodwin Sands: Marinet takes legal action to protect "war graves"

Marinet has begun legal action opposing plans to dredge a sandbank of the Kent coast to protect what they describe as "war graves". Marinet wants to stop Dover Harbour Board (DHB) dredging up to four million tonnes of sand from the Goodwin Sands for use in construction at the port. It says the area is the "final resting place" of aircraft and ships from both world wars and should not be disturbed.

The Port of Dover says the measure is vital for the town's regeneration.

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From Marinet's website - *continued*

Marinet wants the whole of the sands to be designated a "controlled area" so all ships and aircraft can be protected without the need to pinpoint their location. Its lawyers have made a direct appeal to Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon. The Dover Harbour Board (Port of Dover) has applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for a licence to dredge the site. A Port of Dover spokesman said: "Protesters need to be clear that 99.7% of the Goodwin Sands will be untouched."

The Dover Harbour Board says the sands had been dredged on numerous occasions since WW2 and the dredging is "vital to deliver the sympathetic regeneration of Dover, awaited for over 70 years".

The law firm acting for Marine urges Sir Michael to use his powers to protect the site under the 1986 Protection of Military Remains Act: "If the remains of dozens of British Soldiers were known to be buried throughout a forest, no-one would contemplate granting a licence to locate a quarry there."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "The final resting places of those who bravely gave their lives serving our country must be treated with respect and disturbing those sites is not allowed. Having become aware of proposals to dredge areas of Goodwin Sands, we have reminded the Dover Harbour Board of their legal responsibilities."

Marinet director David Levy said: "We want the dredging application declined and the area properly protected."

Marinet observes:

For the Dover Harbour Board to say that "99.7% of the Goodwin Sands will be untouched" is incorrect. This is because the Goodwins receive and release virtually no sand to the wider inventory and movement of sand within the English Channel, and are therefore effectively a closed system where sand moves about solely within the sandbank itself. This when excavation - a large hole - arises in one place, this hole will be filled by sand arriving from elsewhere in the sandbank, so causing erosion of sand levels within the whole sandbank, leading as a consequence to the potential exposure of crash sites (war graves) throughout the Goodwin Sands.

Marinet knows the MMO regards its brief as facilitating marine licensing applications wherever possible because its CEO has told Marinet precisely this. Thus given the absence of any response by the MMO and MOD to our concerns, the legal route is the only option.

Marinet is not hostile to the regeneration of the Port of Dover. That is good news and will benefit everyone. However, Marinet is strongly opposed to damaging the war graves of the Goodwin Sands and the conservation importance of this extensive offshore sandbank. Such action cannot be to the benefit of anyone.

Now that the legal facts have been made very clear to the authorities, Marinet hopes that wiser minds will prevail.

Campaign updates from Friends of the Earth

Fossil Free update

In January, we exposed petrochemical giant INEOS and their plans to carry out seismic testing in Sherwood. Over 250,000 people signed an online petition and an incredible 300 people attended a demo by the legendary Major Oak. We're continuing to work with people on the ground to carry on resisting fracking in the East Midlands.

Fracking company Cuadrilla started site construction at Preston New Road in Lancashire in January despite ongoing legal challenges. Resistance is still strong, with community members on site every day, holding "solidarity Saturdays" with tea and cake while continuing to insist that "We Said No."

Around 500 people attended a national solidarity rally in February including a strong presence from local MPs and Unions. It was heart-warming to see messages of support come from Friends of the Earth groups and others all over the world. We made a little video of the day so you can get a flavour.

We're continuing to work with people on the ground to carry on resisting fracking in the East Midlands and Lancashire over the coming months and letting you know how you can help. Contact us to find out more about connecting with your local anti-fracking group!

Upcoming key moments:

From 5-18 May we're supporting Global Divestment Mobilisations and

will be taking the voices of the people of Ryedale to the AGM on 10 May. Together we can tell Barclays to pull their funding from Third Energy and stop fracking in Yorkshire before it starts. Contact Anna at Friends of the Earth or Danni at 350 if you're interested in running an event telling Barclays to divest this May.

Clean Air update

The momentum in the fight for clean air is growing. A recent YouGov poll for Friends of the Earth showed that nearly two thirds of adults in the UK are worried about air pollution. But surprisingly, it also revealed that just 1 in 10 think the air they breathe is dirty despite most areas of the UK breaching EU pollution limits.

To improve awareness of the problem, we've launched our 'Clean Air Kits' - a ground-breaking citizen science project that enables people all over the country to discover what their local pollution levels are.

We're delighted that so far over 2,000 individuals and 45 local groups have started measuring pollution near them. The results are plotted on our national air quality map and will inform a report presented to Ministers ahead of the Government's final air quality plan this summer.

We're offering our local groups up to 10 free air monitoring tubes. Email Stanley at stanley.knill@foe.co.uk to find out more.

Bromley Town Twinning Association (BTTA)

Did you know that the London Borough of Bromley is twinned with the Rhine town of Neuwied and that this year sees the 30th anniversary of this partnership?

Did you know that Neuwied is a small town on the east bank of the Rhine, south of Bonn and about 10 miles from Koblenz, and that the Bromley Town Twinning Association is an entirely self-funded organisation whose aim is to foster the link with Neuwied?

Here are some extracts from the latest newsletter of the BTTA. To find out more about what BTTA does either visit their website at

www.bromleytowntwinning.co.uk or email BTTA's Chair, Peter Brown, at peterbrown80@btinternet.com.

Chairman's View – Peter Brown

This first edition of our newsletter in 2017 comes with best wishes to our members and to all others who are interested in Bromley's town twinning link with Neuwied.

To mark the 30th anniversary of our partnership we have contributions from Oberburgermeister Nikolaus Roth, a frequent visitor to Bromley and an ardent supporter of everything to do with Bromley; from Bromley's Mayor Councillor Ian Payne, and also from Inge Gilder, former Chair of the Freundeskreis Neuwied-Bromley.

Our programme of events for the year will have several themes — a celebration of 30 years of town twinning, involvement of more of our

members in the events which we organise locally, and an expansion of contacts with our friends in Neuwied.

The highlight of our twinning year will doubtless be the visit by the group from the Neuwied association at the end of September, which will conclude with a dinner to which all members of the association will be invited.

This will give Bromley and Neuwied people a wonderful opportunity to reflect back over past events but at the same time to consider how, in the changing political and social environment of post-Brexit Europe, the special nature of a town twinning movement can move forward.

Nikolaus Roth, Oberburgermeister of Neuwied writes:

As the world moves into one of the most deeply troubling times since the end of the Second World War, the Oberburgermeister of Neuwied, Nikolaus Roth, stresses the values which created the town twinning movement and the abiding friendship between the two towns.

Friends and partners through our lives

In 2017 we can look back over a 30-year town twinning link between Neuwied and Bromley. The partnership between our two towns was formally signed on October 16, 1987, by Bromley Mayor John Lewis and Neuwied's Oberburgermeister Karl-Heinz Schmelzer.

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Bromley Town Twinning Association – *continued*

The following year saw the creation of the Freundeskreis Neuwied-Bromley, the town twinning association in Neuwied.

The purpose and reason for the twinning was the strengthening of Europe's process of integration. War-time combatants should become friends and partners for ever. The town twinning partnership was both a political symbol of peace and a means of creating decades-long personal friendships.

The partnership with Bromley is one of Neuwied's most active twinning links and is highly valued.

This is largely thanks to the efforts of the twinning associations in Neuwied and Bromley, who set up, build and maintain all kinds of contacts in the two towns.

Our town twinning partnership has lost none of its significance after the referendum decision of the UK to leave the EU. Quite the opposite!

Especially now it is important to bring people closer together through a partnership of this kind, and to negate the consequences of an unfortunate political situation.

In Neuwied we will nurture and expand existing contacts, as the saying goes "jetzt erst recht" - "now more than ever."

We look forward to and value the visits by the people and organisations of Bromley, from the mayors to school

groups and musical and sporting organisations.

It is always a pleasure to show everybody the beauty of our Neuwied surroundings and of our country.

Our thanks for a friendship which has lasted so long go to the Bromley Town Twinning Association and its Chairman Peter Brown.

And a view from the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Ian Payne

I am happy to follow on the remarks of Nikolaus Roth, a man who has forged both personal and civic links with our borough.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of our twinning with Neuwied in October 1987. One of my first introductions to the BTTA was to attend, as Deputy Mayor, the 25th Anniversary dinner held at the Château restaurant. What a delightful evening that was and it gave me the opportunity not only to meet with the Bromley side of the BTTA but the Neuwied visitors.

It was so lively, such a friendly evening, that from that moment I was sold on supporting the BTTA and keeping alive this very important relationship that exists.

Since becoming Mayor in May 2016 I have visited Neuwied on two occasions and received excellent hospitality from the Oberbürgermeister

/concluded on next page

FoE on the Budget – BTTA, *concluded* – Vols needed for Open Day

FoE on the Budget

FoE has slammed today's budget after the Chancellor failed to tackle the UK's air pollution crisis, which leads to tens of thousands of premature deaths every year.

A recent Friends of the Earth poll by YouGov revealed that nearly half of car-owning British adults (45%) would be likely to change their car to a less polluting model if they were given government-backed financial assistance:

Friends of the Earth air pollution campaigner Oliver Hayes said: "The chancellor did nothing to protect our children from the twin threats of toxic air pollution and climate change. With thousands of people dying prematurely from air pollution every year it's astonishing that the Chancellor didn't act on dirty diesel."

BTTA – *concluded*

Nikolaus Roth and his wife Agnes, and from the Neuwied Freundeskreis, the town twinning association of Neuwied.

I am delighted that I am the Mayor as we reach this milestone in the history of the twinning association and this gives me the opportunity to thank those in Neuwied and Bromley who have given the past 30 years to making sure that this unique relationship stays strong and firm.

We have learnt a lot from each other and have had many projects, visits, exchanges, school partnerships, challenges and many adventures along the way. So well done and thanks to all — I look forward to the celebrations that will be coming our way in September and October.

Volunteers needed for Bill's Open Garden Event

On Saturday 29th April we are having our open garden again which is a fantastic fund raising event for our group. As usual, we will be extremely grateful for any volunteers to help on the day. We will be passing round a sign-up sheet at the April meeting with ways you can help.

We need lots of home-made cakes to serve with the tea, helpers to serve the tea and helpers on the FoE stall and bric-a-brac stall. Do bring along your bric-a-brac on the Open Garden day please. We also need raffle prizes. If you can't come along to the April meeting but would like to offer your help, please email us on bromleyfoe@gmail.com. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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!

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, and 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.

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

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, and Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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