



Friends of
the Earth
Bromley



April 2019
No. 376

Newsletter



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

April Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Asad Rehman
Chief Executive, War on Want

*War on Want's vision is a world free from poverty and oppression;
they fight against the root causes of poverty and human rights violation,
as part of the worldwide movement for social justice.*

Tuesday 2nd April - 7.30pm (prompt start please)

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

*** SUNDAY 21ST APRIL ***

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates: April 2019

April 2nd (Tues) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting. Asad Rehman, Chief Executive, War on Want.

April 7th (Sun) Spring birds and Heron Watch Kelsey Park, Beckenham. A Bromley RSPB event. 11am-4pm. See one of London's largest heronries. There will be scopes giving you close up views and the Friends of Kelsey Park will be leading guided bird walks at 12noon and 2pm.

April 13th (Sat) Great British Spring Clean. Bromley FoE are organising a litter pick in Priory Gardens, Orpington, in conjunction with the Friends Group. 2pm-4pm. If you can help, please meet just inside the Gardens entrance at the end of Aynscombe Angle. Bring gloves and a litter picker if you have one. Bus stops close by on Orpington High Street.

April 27th (Sat) Groundswell: London & South East-FOE event. A big regional event in London. 'Groundswell' events will happen in 6 locations across the UK, with the aim of connecting our new and existing activists. At present London tickets are sold out but check for an update at localgroups@foe.co.uk

April 27th (Sat) BFoE trip to Knole Park, Sevenoaks. A tour of the gardens. £2 donation. 2pm-4pm. Meet near the main house. Any queries, please contact Sue and John on 020 8464 5990.

May 4th (Sat) Open Garden with plant sale at Bill's house-22 Greencourt Rd, Petts Wood 2pm-5pm. £3 entrance includes tea and cake. Raffle, BFoE stall and bric a brac stall. Raffle prizes, bric a brac and plants to sell are very welcome. Volunteers needed please.

May 7th (Tues) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting. Fliss Premru, Climate Activist

If you need any further information on these events, you can email us on bromleyfoe@gmail.com or ask at the next monthly meeting.

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 21ST APRIL***

by post to John Street, 82 Babacombe 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.

Mall Campaign Stall

Thank you very much to those who have signed up for this from 2.30 - 4.30 pm on April 6th with Bromley Against Fracking. After the visit to Horse Hill we have useful information when speaking to members of the public. Nick says he is looking forward to seeing us in the cafe afterwards!

Climate Energy and Transport

Wind Energy Jobs Concern

Offshore workers have raise concerns over the potential effect on the government's new wind energy plan on secure jobs. The plan announced in early March, will ensure that 30% of all new electricity comes from offshore wind by 2030.

However, offshore workers union RMT have expressed fears that the government's industrial strategy ignores casualisation of the wind power industry work. At present workers are paid less than the legal minimum wage. This certainly needs addressing so that wind power production becomes more viable.

Nuclear Reactor Cracks

Footage has been released of cracks found inside the Scottish nuclear power plant at Hunterston B in North Ayrshire. It stopped operation when it was found that cracks were growing faster than expected.

EDF Energy which runs the power plant said that the cracks have grown to an average of 2mm wide. The plant is one of seven gas-cooling reactors switched on during the 70s and 80s, and whose life has been extended into

the 2020s. This raises concerns about the maintenance safety.

Bromley Lights Left On

It has been reported in the local press that public LED lights have been left on owing to the company which looks after them going into administration. Bromley Council is aware of the situation as concerned residents have been contacting them over waste of energy. The company concerned is Harvard Technology Ltd and the council are looking for another provider. This is an example of what can happen when public services are privatised.

Transport

Shortlands

Some good news. A new transport hub is planned for the Shortlands area of Bromley. This will result in a more integrated system and help with traffic management flow and enable easier access for pedestrians. See Bromley Council's press release on page 18.

Heathrow

Bailiffs have started to evict Heathrow expansion protesters from their eco site. Brave protesters were chained to a gantry as part of their campaign. With increasing evidence of climate change their stand against a third runway at Heathrow is vitally important.

Friends of the Earth and other environmentalists supported campaigners during a High Court hearing in London on March 11th.

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March meeting report – Annette Rose

Henry Greenwood from Green Schools Project

Henry is the founder and managing director of Green Schools Project. In 2018, Green Schools Project worked with 21 schools. 250 students took part in the programme. The Green Schools website says it 'helps students develop skills through fun and engaging projects.'

Henry Greenwood's aim is to get schools to go green. Henry was a secondary school maths teacher who originally taught at Kingsmead School Enfield where he started teaching in 2003. He says he was 'dropped in at the deep end' and it was a steep learning curve. After 2 years he went to work in an international school in Shanghai. The classes were smaller and the children well motivated. Then he worked at a school in Bangkok.

He began to think about how he viewed climate change as an important issue and yet he was doing many long haul flights. He felt there was a disconnect there. He decided to come back to the UK and to Kingsmead School. He said it was more of a culture shock coming back! He began to explore environmental issues and looked at how his school functioned. He observed lights being left on, heating not controlled properly and windows being left open. Double glazing was put in but there were no thermostatic controls. He saw an opportunity to make a difference within his school.

He presented his head teacher with a new job description for himself-sustainability coordinator. It meant him taking a step down on the career ladder. The head approved it especially when it became clear that money could be saved. He was given some time-table time and a small budget. He then formed the school's first Eco team. The pupils were mainly from the 6th form and it was something very good to put on their UCAS forms. He said they were a fantastic first group of students. We were shown a slide of them and Henry told us some of the impressive career paths they followed after finishing school.

In 2009, this first Eco team ran Eco assemblies and gradually teachers became more supportive of the school's Eco aims. In those early years the following was implemented-Sustainability notice boards, Recycling Tuesdays, establishing a vegetable garden, and later solar panels were installed. Although the panels only provided 1.5% of the school's energy requirements, it was worthwhile as a learning tool. Vegetables were sold to staff. Pupils helped take paper to the recycling bins.

Environment days were held for Key Stage 3 during which Dragon's Den style ideas were created by pupils. An impressive £37,000 was saved in energy costs over 3 years, with bills being tracked and graphs made in maths lessons.

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March meeting report - *continued*

Henry's next step was to move to Skinners Academy in Hackney. He still taught maths but also started the Green Schools Project. In the first year he worked with three pilot schools and tried out resources he had created. In the second year, 15 schools participated, most not paying.

At this stage, Henry did supply work and tutoring so he was able to give more time to the project. By Year 3 he had 8 paying schools and his services would be bought in to help the schools become greener. By year 4 he was able to pay his first employee and began paying himself a small wage.

When he goes into schools, he delivers an assembly, talks about climate change and what they can do about it. He sets up an Eco Team. In Key Stage 1 he uses visual aids such as an earth and a sun. He has had University student volunteers to support the teachers as they work as their eco projects.

He has encouraged pupils to bring in environmental themes into Social Business challenges, rather than those being purely profit making.

Henry completed his talk by commenting on the wider picture. He mentioned the youth strike for climate marches and said they are impressive but it is sad that it has come to this as governments are not listening. He supports the activities of Extinction Rebellion.

Questions from the audience followed.

Q Do you work with the Eco Schools Organisation?

A They work closely together. He often gets involved as schools are preparing for their Green Flag assessment with Eco Schools.

Q It is important for schools to recycle at school as it gives a good example to pupils. Do schools have to pay for their recycling facilities?

A Yes they are treated as businesses unfortunately. Henry has worked with Newstead Woods School and the pupils wrote to Bromley council about the cost of recycling but it did not make any difference.

Q Is Eco in the curriculum?

A In a limited way. Environmental issues can be put into many subject areas by planning from the teachers and still achieve the same aims. This is without making major curriculum changes which are difficult.

Q Do you work with parents?

A We have not tapped into this much yet. We encourage pupils to take projects home.

Q Do you work with local businesses?

A A little. We will explore this in the future.

For more information please go to www.greenschoolsproject.org.uk

Global School Strike for the Climate – Sam Gee

In February, I wrote an article for this newsletter about the UK-wide School Strike for the Climate on the 15th of that month. I wrote about how Swedish 16 year-old Greta Thunberg had inspired a snowballing movement of climate strikes from Australia to Austria and from Belgium to Burkina Faso. I wrote about the upcoming global strike on March 15th.

What I had not anticipated was the scale of said global day of action. 1.4 million strikers, at 2083 events, in 125 countries, on all seven continents – including Antarctica. It was certainly a big deal, and it grabbed headlines right across the planet.



At the London protest, which I attended with a group of 25 or so friends (and friends of friends), the atmosphere was one of frustration and anger, but also resilience and solidarity. The somewhat spontaneous march route tracked down Whitehall from Parliament Square, before turning down the Mall towards Buckingham Palace. According to the Guardian, police had intended to prevent the protestors from reaching the Queen's London residence, but were



overwhelmed by the sheer number of people, and could do nothing about it.

Quite why the Queen was a key member of the intended audience of the protest, I wasn't sure, but very quickly the gardens and roads around the Victoria Memorial were flooded with students – cries of "Save the planet" and "What do we want? Climate Justice! When do we want it? Now!" could be heard all around.

Turning back down the Mall, we returned to the Houses of Parliament, having blocked off Whitehall once more. The chants shifted to "Turn your engines off!", as the stopped drivers filmed the spectacle through their windscreens. We crossed Westminster Bridge, walked through Waterloo and back across to the North bank via Blackfriars Bridge – again, what little Friday lunchtime traffic there was ground to a halt.

Very few had foreseen the number of people attending, 3-5 times as many as the February protest, at 15 000 – 20,000, and nobody had imagined the march route!

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Launch of #NoTimeToLose Bromley Climate Campaign – Sam Gee

Friday 15th March was a global day of youth-led climate protests, and so my Environmental team at school decided to bring the action and calls for change to Bromley, to call on our own Council to declare a climate emergency.

Many of our peers had wanted to participate in the school strikes (see page 6), “Global School Strike for the Climate” but were not able to, due to approaching exams, restrictive schools or restrictive parents. As such, we organised a Bromley protest after-school, giving time for students to get to Bromley Civic Centre from school, or from the main protests in central London.



The protest saw about 25 people – most were teenagers from Bromley schools, and there were also many from Bromley Friends of the Earth – come together to launch a cross-school petition, calling on Bromley Council to take its climate responsibilities seriously. Among our demands are net carbon neutrality by 2028, safe and affordable access to walking and cycling for everyone,

backing for community energy projects, and the phasing out of single-use plastics across Council buildings and services.

At the time of writing, the petition is about to go out to Bromley secondary schools – and we are still looking for coordinators in some Bromley schools that we have not yet reached, so do get in touch if you know any students who would be interested.

The youngest protester was 10 year-old Eliza Ahmad-Kayes, who said in her speech, “Everyone has their part to play in stopping climate change. If Bromley Council banned single use plastics in its buildings, it would set an example and others would follow.”

Once we reach 500 signatures, we will be able to present our case to Full Council, with the hope of enabling a motion declaring climate emergency to pass. Keep an eye out for developments on this campaign. We urgently need Bromley to recognise the climate crisis for the emergency that it is.

Climate, Energy, Transport – *cont'd*

The Government's plans are being challenged by a coalition of councils, residents, environmental charities and the London mayor Sadiq Khan.

Plans for expansion would virtually create a new airport - leading to increased pollution, noise, and the demolition of thousands of people's homes. The new flight paths would also affect the whole of London.

Global School Strike for the Climate – *continued*

The handmade placards continued to demonstrate humour in what is an increasingly bleak global situation, with messages ranging from the timeless “Don’t be a fossil fool” to “The dinosaurs probably thought they had time as well”.

Many adults, including politicians, have said that the school strikes are a cause for optimism. The UK Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, says he supports the school strikes, and Rebecca Pow MP says that our dedication is inspirational. Like Greta Thunberg, I find that odd. We have 12 years to stop irreversibly catastrophic climate change. By the time 2030 rolls around, I will be 28, and my parents’ generation will still very much hold the balance of power.

It's great that (some) politicians have heard our message. But they are the

ones with the power to act. Our Government needs to listen to the science. It needs to stop Heathrow expansion, stop fracking, and lift the effective ban on onshore wind. It needs to impose a meat tax, end its extractivist ideals and invest in a wave of community energy projects up and down the country, starting with a reversal of the end of the feed-in tariff. And it needs to address the roots of climate change – colonialism, racism, patriarchy and neoliberalism.

The next big strike will be on Friday 12th April, which falls in holiday time for many. Tell all the young people you know, and talk to your unions. On 15th March in Belgium, workers joined the students in their strike, and the UK will hopefully follow suit. The strikes will continue until our governments act.

Bill's Open Garden and Plant Sale – 4th May – We need your HELP !!

1. Can you contribute some plants for the plant sale? You are welcome to bring the plants to Bill's house any time from 10am on the day if you wish or just bring them when you come. Contact Bill on 01689 820469

2. Can you bake a cake for the refreshments table?

3. Do you have something we can put in the raffle?

4. Do you have something to go on the bric a brac stall? Any items that might sell including books would be most welcome. Please bring along on the day.

5. Can you help on the day even for a short time? This could be helping with refreshments, being on the bric a brac or BFoE stall, taking money on the door, selling raffle tickets or helping to clear up.

Please tell us how you can help by signing the sheet at the April meeting or email us at bromleyfoe@gmail.com

RSPB Swift Survey Results – Annette Rose

Last year I participated in the Bromley RSPB Swift Survey. I recently attended an interesting meeting at which the results were announced. Swift numbers are in decline because there are fewer insects and fewer nesting sites available.

The first steps in saving Bromley's swifts are to work out where they are nesting. This means we can begin safeguarding them. The 2018 survey has been an extremely useful start and will be repeated in 2019.

There were 122 swift surveyors in 2018 who covered large parts of the borough- around 75% of the suitable areas for swifts to nest in.

The borough's hotspots were identified and recorded. We were shown detailed maps of different parts of the borough showing the results. Surveyors reported a total of 252 sightings of low flying swifts at 162 different locations. Nests were reported at 49 different addresses in the borough.

The three roads containing the most nests were Derrick Road, Eden Park with 7 nests, Anerley Park with 3 and Repton Road, Orpington with 3. Records of low flying swifts were frequently recorded in Green Street Green and Farnborough. Vine Road, Repton Road and around Orpington train station also had many sightings.

Only 3 nests were found in buildings built in 1945 or later. Newer buildings have fewer holes and openings for nests. The Eden Park area is a key

stronghold. Other swift colonies were found dotted across the borough, for example in Shortlands, Bickley and Biggin Hill.

Swift numbers fluctuate year on year depending on weather conditions. The 2018 survey showed a decline from historical sightings but was also a bad year for weather conditions.

Further surveys will provide useful data on trends. Priorities for future surveys will include surveying areas of housing not covered in 2018 and also focusing in more detail on known hotspots to find more nests.

How you can help swifts

1. Join the team of swift conservation volunteers. Please email bromleyrspb@gmail.com if you can help.
2. Put up a home for swifts. You can get swift boxes from £14. Visit swift-conservation.org.
3. Create a swift café in your garden. Herbs and nectar-bearing plants help wildlife. Go to the gardening for wildlife section on the RSPB website.
4. Support the RSPB and Friends of the Earth in asking politicians for strong environmental laws.

Nature News – Judy Palmer

This bit of news was taken from Community Links but I thought it was worthwhile putting in our newsletter! And if you take part, please do let us know how you get on.

Are you growing food? This year's Big Dig Day is Saturday 27th April

During this day, community gardens across the country welcome volunteers and visitors in celebration of the start of the growing season and to explore how to grow food. The Big Dig Day started in London in 2012 and has since spread to other areas. It's a great way to promote food growing and volunteering. Read about the Big Dig, a Sustain project, which anyone growing food - at home, school, allotments, in the community - can join.

Bromley's Biodiversity Species

We have two species information sheets this month for you! Please continue to report any sightings of toads as per our request last month, but also for house sparrows and hedgehogs. This is part of our citizen science projects of recording species important to our Borough.

House Sparrows Need Help!

According to the RSPB, UK house sparrow numbers fell 71% 1977-2008. In many parts of Bromley they are no longer present. Studies suggest their decline is due to lack of invertebrates to feed their young, loss of seeds for adults and loss of nesting sites (hedgerows, scrub, thick ivy, house eaves). They live in groups. Listen for their noisy cheeping and please let us know if you see any, how many you saw

together and if you think they are nesting.



Female



Male

E-mail the date, place (postcode or grid reference) and number seen to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership: bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com

Your information will enable habitat improvements to be put in place to try and increase house sparrow numbers.

How to Help House Sparrows:

maintain thick hedgerows & plant hedgerows of native species, promote wild areas in your local park or garden, feed birds in your garden, put up a sparrow terrace - see www.bto.org/sites/default/files/house_sparrow_nest_box_plan.pdf. If you have a cat, keep it indoors between dusk and dawn and use a collar with a bell or ultrasonic device.

Help Our Hedgehogs!

Since 2000 hedgehog populations in England have fallen by more than 50% in rural areas, 33% in urban areas.

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Nature News - *continued*

In Bromley they are now rarely recorded. Hedgehogs live in scrubby areas, hedgerows, gardens and rough grassland. They often range 1- 2 kms every night feeding on soil invertebrates and hibernate in deep leaf litter beneath hedgerows and scrub. Please let us know if you see one!



E-mail the date, place (postcode or grid reference) and number seen to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership at bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com. Your information will enable targeted habitat improvements

How You Can Help Hedgehogs:

Have a wild area with some scrub in your garden or park, check for hedgehogs before strimming, mowing or having bonfires, make sure there are holes in fence lines so hedgehogs can pass through, don't use pesticides, especially slug pellets, make sure ponds have one side sloping so animals which fall in can climb out. Make sure wire or nylon netting is secure or 15cms above ground. For more information see www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk.

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership is a partnership of local groups, organisations and individuals with specific expertise committed to

protecting, enhancing and celebrating biodiversity within the London Borough of Bromley.

Big Spring Clean event

After the success of our clean up in the Library Gardens Bromley last year, we agreed earlier this year that we would participate in Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean 2019 event.

We will be in the Priory Gardens, Orpington this time, on Saturday April 13th, from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. We will meet by a large boulder at the entrance to the park accessed from a road called Aynscombe Angle not far from the old Priory building. We hope to partner with the local Friends group for Priory Gardens for the event, and we are liaising with the manager of idverde responsible for the Gardens too.

We will have a sign-up sheet and more information available at the April meeting, but if you are unable to come along then, but wish to meet up at the Spring Clean, please remember to bring some rubber gloves! And if you have a litter picker, you will find this useful too.

Waste footnote

If you are a fan of sewing, have you been watching the BBC series Great British Sewing Bee? It was interesting to see in the recent series that they took the fact that the fashion industry uses and wastes an enormous amount of fabric and resources and devoted an episode on 'Reduce, Re-Use & Recycle' – now where have we seen these 3 Rs before?!

Plastics in the Environment – Annette Rose

Visit to Parliament

On February 25th I had the opportunity to attend a meeting at the Houses of Parliament. This was the day that the Phase-Out of Plastic Pollution Bill had its first reading in Parliament.

The meeting was co-hosted by FOE and the Women's Institute. More than 35 MPs attended, unfortunately none from Bromley. Several of those MPs are now going on to be champions of the bill. Several other local groups' members came along, including South Bedfordshire, Oxford, New Forest, Chester and District and Croydon Friends of the Earth members.

The event sponsor Alistair Carmichael MP from Orkney spoke of the terrible plastic detritus that gets washed up on the beaches of his constituency.

Rebecca Pow MP spoke on the subject of microplastics and had a positive view that we can do something about this problem.

She explained that there have been steps to create a 'plastic free parliament'. All plastic food sachets and plastic cutlery have been banished. MPs get coffee 25p cheaper if they bring their own cups. She mentioned the Environment Bill that is coming up and how important that will be.

Then Craig Bennett talked about the history of FOE campaigning and how great strides have been made such as doorstep recycling. He said today was an important day with the launching of the bill. He feels it is urgent to get an independent committee working on

this complicated issue. I was able to network with people from other local groups and organizations. A very interesting day!

Plastics updates

Thank you to Christina and Sheila for adding to the plastics updates. Morrisons are phasing out their black plastic packaging. (Black plastic cannot be recycled.) Morrisons are also phasing out polystyrene trays for meat and fish and replacing with recyclable plastic. There is a sign saying customers are welcome to bring their own containers for meat and fish from the counter. There is a trial to have full sized paper bags for shopping including bottles. Tesco sell foil trays with lids for use in the freezer, tray and lid are fully recyclable.

No Plastic Shop

If you would like to purchase some items to replace your single use plastics such as cling film, bags, etc have a look at the No Plastic Shop. www.noplasticsshop.co.uk. They have shampoo and body wash bars, bamboo tooth brushes, food wraps and many other items of interest.

Cleaning Products

Sheila writes about cutting down plastics in the home and using natural products. During the last decade, manufacturers of cleaning products have gone over more and more to trigger-top bottles; at one stage some offered refillable bottles (Boots did for Liquid Soap) but I've not seen that for ages.

/continued on next page

Plastics in the Environment – *continued*

Also cleaning wipes for every imaginable job, and we all know how lethal they can be. So it went even further in the wrong direction.

But recently on Woman's Hour, Lynsey Crombie was advocating using *natural* products at a fraction of the cost of proprietary ones: cut a lemon in half, add a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda to the cut side and use to remove limescale; shaving foam is brilliant at removing stains from carpets: spray on and add cold water, brush with a stiff brush.

She also said that denture cleaner is wonderful for removing limescale and hard to shift stains from the lavatory bowl. I intend to give all these a try! I already use bicarbonate of soda to clean the oven. Please do continue to give us your ideas on how you are reducing your use of plastics.

Bob Neill visit – Sue and John Bocock

John and I visited Bob Neill at his surgery on March 8th. He was very genial, keen to support the Plastics Pollution Action Plan (PPAP). He felt that Michael Gove would readily agree to the point we raised regarding plastics.

He also drew our attention to an article he wrote in The Municipal Journal in January 2018 mentioning the variable recycling rates in local authorities in England ,ranging from 14-to 67 percent. We also drew his attention to the differing rates of recycling even among our immediate neighbours, some of whom do none at all.

Finally Bob agreed to have his picture taken with us, holding the PPAP poster.



Sue and John Bocock with Bob Neill MP and the Plastics Pollution Action Plan.

Horse Hill Visit – Ann Garrett

Many thanks to John Catlin who liaised with Sue and John Bocock for a visit to the Horse Hill drilling site and campaigners' camp near Horley.

Lee McCusker and Paul Ask were very moved and grateful for the supplies provided by Bromley FoE members. It's tough for them at the camp, as they are lacking sleep owing to the busy roads nearby, but they are doing a great job monitoring the situation there.

Bill Priestley cycled some of the way, and we were joined by Anne Clark and supported by Doreen and Arthur Shaw from Bromley TUC.

The drilling site is known as the 'Gatwick Gusher', managed by Horse Hill Developments Ltd and financed by UKOG (UK Oil and Gas plc) and is producing substantial amounts of oil. The present well is estimated to be

connected to a reservoir of 7- 11 million barrels of oil.

We were informed that the acidification process is using highly toxic chemicals which are polluting the air and causing nose bleeds in horses in the area. Waterbeds are likely to be affected in the future. Officially this not fracking, but the process is the same.

The week following our visit there were earth tremors in Newdigate not far from Horse Hill - a warning that the North Downs is an unstable area for drilling for oil.

The campaigning groups in the area are the Weald Action group and Surrey Against Fracking.

Bromley FoE sent an objection (see next page) to the planning application for a further lease extension for 4 more wells and 20 years future drilling at Horse Hill.



Bromley FoE objection to more drilling at Horse Hill

Ref: 2016/0189 Horse Hill 1 Well Site, Hookwood, Horley, RH6 0RB

Dear Planning Officer,

Bromley Friends of the Earth wish to object to the above application on the following grounds:-

1. The application is incompatible with the need for developments to tackle climate change and reduce fossil fuels. Scientists tell us we have 12 years to reduce emissions by 45% or we are pushing the point of no return. Young people recently took to the streets worldwide to tell adults to act more responsibly.
2. The impact on the natural countryside, historic woodland and local wildlife would be detrimental.
3. There are dangers of the pollution of groundwater and the air from the use of chemicals and the acidisation process.
4. Horizontal drilling and the known geological fault in the vicinity pose a threat, especially in view of recent earth tremors in the area - e.g. the earthquake at Newdigate on Feb 27th.
The drilling technology is unproven.
5. There are concerns about commuter cars diverting through Charlwood village.
6. There would be increased traffic in the Horse Hill area.
7. Local horse riders, pedestrians and cyclists would be severely affected by the increased traffic.
8. There are worries about lorries using unauthorised routes.
9. The conditions of the local roads are also not suitable for this increase and would become degraded.
10. The site no longer resembles Green Belt land, which we believe should be preserved.
11. The public footpath which is a legal right of way and runs adjacent to the present drilling site has been moved and is no longer accessible to the public.
12. Local housing and land could be affected, which would impact on housing and land value.

Summary

As a Friends of the Earth group, we have visited the present drilling site and area and feel extremely worried about the present situation, particularly with regard to the pollution in general and at a time when it is imperative that we address the serious issue of Climate Change. Any increase in drilling for a further three years would have even more serious consequences.

Yours faithfully

Ann Garrett and Sheila Brown
[Joint Co-ordinators, Bromley Friends of the Earth]

Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

Steve and Pete have been busy fertilising with potash, phosphate and nitrogen on the winter barley and the second wheats. The first wheat doesn't require any nitrogen just yet because of nutrient in the ground from the break crop. It has been great to be out in the tractor again and working on the fields.

Although the soil temperatures are higher than last year, it is still too early to plant the spring oats, as they are a little sensitive to cold weather. They will be planted towards the end of March or beginning of April as they like to germinate and grow away quickly. Planting the seed in cold ground could lead to the seed dying or a poor crop.

The sunshine during the last week of February was amazing enabling the boys to remove all the remaining straw from the barn, move the tractors and combine into a side barn ready for the building to be made suitable for the wedding reception. Pete had quite a job clearing all the giant cobwebs from the roof of the barn but it is all clean now and the job of transforming will begin.

Can't believe that by the time this is printed the wedding will be over and Peter and Leah will be on their honeymoon and the barn will be back to normal.

Plenty of different birds in the garden and it has been delightful to watch long tailed tits on our fat balls. The blackthorn blossom is out and has a wonderful fragrance over on the Green.

Weather offering for this month is:-

A peck of March dust is worth a king's ransom

A dry March means that the newly sown seed will not be washed away and the farmer can expect a good crop.

A short report this month because as you can imagine we have plenty to do with the wedding.

First Ever London Climate Action Week

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan has announced the first ever London Climate Action Week will take place between 1-8 July 2019. London is a world leader in climate action. Its businesses and organisations are a hub of expertise in finding solutions to cutting carbon emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change both locally and globally.

The first ever London Climate Week will bring together London's climate expertise and talent from across sectors to focus on scaling up practical solutions and identifying new solutions to help cut our carbon emissions to keep global temperature increases within 1.5 degrees and support the Paris Agreement. These may be climate solutions for Londoners, businesses, civil society groups or even local, national and international governments.

More info on the GLA's website at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/london-climate-action-week>

Lilly's Wood – Peter Gandolfi

Some of you may know of Lilly's Wood near Chelsfield Village, a patch of woodland between Chelsfield Lane (just before the houses start and opposite the entrance to Goddington Park) and Skibbs Lane with access via a footpath opposite the coal post. What you may not realise is how bio diverse this little patch of ancient woodland really is. In fact it may be the most bio diverse patch of ancient woodland in the whole of the borough of Bromley.

Lilly's wood is an area of mixed broadleaf ancient woodland of around 12 acres together with another 6 acres of more recently planted mixed woodland, and ancient layered hedges. The mature species rich hedgerows provide foraging, nesting and roosting to a range of species.

The recently planted woodland, stretching back to Chelsfield Lane, was planted as part of a woodland restoration project on a plot of reclaimed former arable land in 2000 by volunteers, including some local residents

During a 2017 study a total of 38 different bird species were recorded, of which 28 were confirmed to have bred.

Of these 38 species, 8 are listed on the RSPB red list, and 13 are listed as Bromley Action Plan priority species. (bullfinch, dunnock, fieldfare, goldcrest, green woodpecker, kestrel, lesser redpoll, linnet, mistle thrush, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and yellowhammer).

The arable farmland adjacent to the wood supports a range of farmland bird species including skylarks. These species have been helped over winters by the use of set aside and using the land for growing seeding species as feed for the birds over the winter. In fact Skylarks could be heard here last weekend.

Lilly's wood also supports a range of mammals, with badger, fox, hedgehog, weasel, roe deer, two types of pipistrelle bat, wood mouse, bank vole, common shrew and rabbit all being recorded.

Three common reptiles have also been recorded in recent years, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm, as well as an impressive array of types of butterfly.

A range of woodland plants can be found later in the season, including wood anemone, wood sorrel, dog's mercury and yellow archangel.

My thanks to a report from Jamie Fletcher, an experienced ecologist specialising in ornithology, for providing much of this information. His full report can be found on the Bromley Local RSPB website – <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/bromley/events/> this also gives details of other woods in our vicinity.

Shortlands to benefit from funding to improve local travel connections

Bromley Council press release:

Shortlands, Ravensbourne and Bromley Better Villages is one of 11 successful bids from across London announced today as part of multi-million pound Liveable Neighbourhoods programme.

Engagement and consultation will follow with local people and other stakeholders over the coming months about the early stage proposals. It is great that the effort in developing this bid has been rewarded and that the bid was so highly regarded that this funding round was launched in Bromley.

Securing Mayoral funding for outer London is never easy and we thank the team that delivered the Shortlands, Ravensbourne and Bromley Better Villages (SRBBV) offer. It is pleasing that the funders have brought into the Bromley way of delivering transport and environment improvements.

This project will improve travel connections for pedestrians and cyclists to and past Shortlands station from the surrounding area with new protected cycle lanes on Bromley Road and Valley Road and new pedestrian crossings across the busy A222.

New public spaces will be created around the Shortlands war memorial and Shortlands village centre along with pocket parks and improvements for walking throughout the scheme area, thereby improving the sense of 'place'. Station Road will be significantly improved for pedestrians crossing with the introduction of a new

'pocket park' and a new 'cycle hub' will be constructed at Shortlands station. School Streets will make it easier for pupils to get to school without cars and three low traffic impact neighbourhoods will be created, dramatically reducing the impact of traffic on residential streets.

Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, Bromley's Executive Councillor for Environment and Community Services said, "This will help tackle longstanding local traffic and environmental concerns in the area and we have already been engaging with local people and consultation will follow in coming year.

"We are looking to improve local transport options for everyone in the area, making walking and cycling more attractive choices for local school pupils, parents, commuters and local people more generally. This will also help improve journey times for drivers as the impact of congestion is lessened.

"All of this in turn will help create a more welcoming place at the nearby shopping parade and at the much loved Shortlands war memorial."

Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner, said: "Walking and cycling are vital for our health, wellbeing and the future vibrancy and success of London's local high streets. We'll continue to work closely with boroughs like Bromley to make our streets more welcoming for people getting around on foot and by cycle."

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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 annual subscription (£8 single / £15 couple/family). 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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