

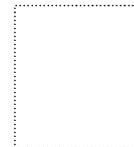


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

April 2013 No. 304 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: r.watson865@btinternet.com; website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



April Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

The Bumblebee Project

The plight of the bumblebee and what can be done

Dr Nikki Gammans

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Tuesday 2nd April - 7.30pm

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Bee World launch on Saturday 13th April – see page 3

Diary dates:

Apr 2 (Tue)

Bromley FoE's April Meeting

Dr Nikki Gammans, Bumblebee Project Officer

April 13 (Sat)

Press launch of Bromley FoE's Bee World at Tugmutton Common

April 16 (Tue)

Sevenoaks FoE's April meeting

Fish and Fishermen – Dr Julie Urquart and DrTim Acott from the University of Greenwich

May 7 (Tue)

Bromley FoE's May Meeting

Sue Holland, Bromley's Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Officer – postponed from January

Bee-friendly photos wanted

Judy Palmer writes: On April 13th we plan to have a display at the Bee World site showing photos of bee-friendly food ...

... And we would love to display yours.

Please see the article on the next page of this newsletter for more information.

An apology from the editor – well, sort of

Well, this is where I was going to apologise for the itty-bitty state of the newsletter this month, as many of the articles at first sight appeared just too short to fill a page. Definitely a case of mind the gap. Instead, all that's really gappy is page 2 which is why this non-apology is going on for as long as it is.

If you would like to contribute something for the newsletter (approx 460-470 words = 1 page) please send your contribution to the editor at the address below.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** WEDNESDAY 17TH 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

Bee Cause Campaign Update – Judy Palmer

Our Bee World site is now dug over – many thanks to Annette & Bill and the Friends of Tugmutton who helped do the last dig, so much easier than the first!

Hopefully by the beginning of April the snow which was nestling between the clumps of soil will have gone and the soil warmed up a bit so we can start sowing seeds.

We have asked Nikki Gamman from the Bumblebee Trust to lead one of our Bee Walks which will be in Jubilee Park, Petts Wood in June, and she has kindly agreed to this. We are still planning on having two other bee walks this year, so please watch this space!

Annette and I are continuing to compile our Timeline document on how we are creating the Bee World site, even though the Council are not holding the 'Green Awards' this year. We are also giving a powerpoint presentation to Year 5 of Darrick Wood Junior school later on this month, concluding with a competition for them to enter, on designing a bee-friendly garden.

We are planning on having a Press Day on April 13th and have asked Jo Johnson, Orpington MP if he would come along and say a few words and sow seeds. It has gone in his diary but we are waiting to see if his other commitments will allow him to do so.

We plan to have a display of photos showing bee-friendly meals – please see below our urgent request!

Nationally the Friends of the Earth's campaign has gathered momentum and over a quarter of all MPs have now signed up to their call for a British Bee Action Plan.

Unfortunately the UK and German Agriculture ministers, among others, have refused to give their support to the proposed ban on pesticides linked to the collapse of the bee population in Europe.

If anyone wishes to keep updated on this campaign more often, please visit the FoE website www.foe.co.uk which is regularly updated.

Urgent Request!

As mentioned previously, at the Press Day for the Bee World site on April 13th, we would love to display your photos of bee-friendly meals and food in general, or even bees and flowers/plants to make the event more visual.

If you are able to email me (judy.palmer@talk21.com) a digital picture or two, we will print them, just on paper, and pin up on a board for a colourful display. Deadline for this is 8th April. Many thanks in advance!

Bees - Did you know (part 1)?

Bees over 100million years old have been discovered preserved in amber.

It is only in the last 5,000 years that honey bees have been managed by humans to produce honey.

March meeting report, Annette Rose

At the March meeting, Richard Dyer, National FoE campaigner, updated us on the 'Make it Better Campaign.' He explained that the key points of the campaign are to look at the 'stuff' we buy and consume and the problems associated with that. He stressed that it is helpful to look at this from an EU perspective and it is valuable to put pressure on at a European level.

Stuff - what's the problem?

We need to look at the big picture. We're consuming too much stuff. The good news is that we are getting more efficient but that is offset by population growth and by how consumption is linked to our economic growth. Our resource use is continually increasing. Alarming, in the last 25 years, our resource use has increased by half.

The Impact of consumption

Global resource extraction doubled between 1980 and 2005
People in rich countries consume up to 10 times more than those in the poorest countries. Iron ore production has doubled in last decade and prices have increased 13-fold. Yet 60% of EU municipal waste still goes to landfill (2.7 billion tonnes)
Every EU citizen on average produces 24Kg of electronic waste per annum
"the resources required to sustain the current level of consumption (as measured through Gross Domestic Product) may not be available over the next few decades." (The Actuarial Profession - 2013)

Did you know?

- It takes around 3900 litres of water to make one T-shirt

- The carbon footprint of a pint of milk is about the same as emissions released during a 2-mile car journey
- It takes an area of land twice the size of New York to produce the 454 million smartphones sold in 2011
- There's more gold in a tonne of mobiles than in a tonne of rock from a gold mine.

Supply Chains

The supply chains for products are extremely complex. Mobile phones are a good example and it is hard to see what is going on. It is still not clear where the tin comes from that goes into smartphones, and manufacturers don't necessarily know themselves. Supply chains should be available for all to see so that we can make choices.

Solutions - Design it better

Environmental impacts need to be thought about at the design stage. The key points for design are reparability, durability and recyclability. Is ownership of the product even necessary?

Richard told us the average use of a DIY drill is 7 minutes a year. Do we all need to own one? He stressed the importance of regulation and he referred to the improvements in light bulbs, fridges and boilers. There can be a dilemma though. When do we change our car? A new car is more efficient but should we use the old car for longer?

/continued on next page

March meeting report, *continued*

Making mobile phones better

Richard then encouraged us to think of ways that this could be done, many of which we would be familiar with. Some solutions included better design such as universal chargers and batteries, easy to take apart and repair, longer life spans and improved casings such as using bamboo. And less pressure to constantly update to the latest model.

So what should manufacturers do?

There are 4 key resource use indicators that should be reported on.

- Land footprint
- Water footprint
- GHG emissions
- Materials consumed

These can be complex but we need to work on making these indicators understandable on helpful so that we can make comparisons.

Companies need to take responsibility for their supply chains and take action by setting targets. There are however, some good things going on.

For example, Marks and Spencer are taking action to cut their energy and water use. EU regulation should ensure that companies report nonfinancial aspects including supply chains and human rights impacts. There is a directive due in April or May on this topic.

The Make it Better Campaign

The aim is to engage new people. The point is not to boycott the mobile phone companies but to say 'you can do better'. We were shown a series of photos of the Island of Banka where unregulated mining has taken its toll.

Waste is being put in the sea and coral is being destroyed. So far, 15,000 people have sent supporter emails. Apple is in dialogue with FoE and Samsung has been slower but a meeting was arranged.

So how is the campaign doing?

It is too early to talk about it's successes but progress is being made. Public pressure needs to continue. What is needed is a mining code, so that the workers there can continue to make a living. Walhi (Indonesia) and Milieudedefensie (Netherlands) FoE groups are working hard on this campaign.

EU Policy Work

Richard concluded by summing up this is a very important part of the campaign. It is working on achieving a revision of accounting directive, for which draft legislation is due soon. This will require all large companies to report on the social, environmental and human rights impacts of their products. FoE also want the 4 environmental indicators included, full supply chain reporting and disclosure of risks and impacts.

Bees - Did you know (part 2)?

In Ancient Greek, priestesses of the goddess Demeter were called *Melissae* ('bees').

The Queen Bee was at one time revered as the Mother Goddess.

Campaigns, Energy and Climate, Ann Garrett

Campaigns

A big thank you to those who helped on The Mall stall (see photo below) in Bromley on March 16th in the bitter cold. However we got over 30 bee cards signed and 20 signatures on the

Make It Better petition. A very successful afternoon. Then we warmed up with tea and coffee in Nick's Cafe nearby, supporting a small independent business in doing so, and did some planning for the next stages of the bee campaign.



Energy and Climate

Nuclear Clean-up costs

Consortia vying for the contract to decommission £7bn of nuclear waste are spending as much as £1m a month on bidding. The contract, formally launched last summer will see the clean-up of 12 nuclear sites including obsolete magnox stations in Gloucestershire and Essex.

At the moment, the short-listed teams are in what is known as 'competitive dialogue', a controversial EU process that involves bidders revealing sensitive information to each other. A spokesperson for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, which will award the contract, have said that this is a 'complex competition.'

Continued on next page

Campaigns, Energy and Climate, *cont'd* +++ Solar Canals in India

Energy profits

Energy bosses are to be summoned by the Commons Energy and Climate Change committee to be grilled over soaring profits as people struggle to pay their bills.

British Gas profits rose 11% in 2012 to £606 million, while Centrica made £2.7 billion, Npower £390 million, EDF £1.7 billion and Scottish Power £292 million.

Angela Knight, chief executive of Energy UK, said 'The industry is investing huge sums in the new, low carbon generation required to keep the lights on. To do this and create thousands of new jobs, it needs to make a profit.'

Saving Yasuni in Ecuador

Stanley Johnson in his book 'Where the Wild Things Were: Travels of a Conservationist', has reported that in order to save the Yasuni rainforest, the Ecuadorian government has committed itself to a permanent ban on oil production in the oil fields located in Yasuni. They have agreed to forego 50% of the oil revenues, currently estimated at more than \$12b, which it would otherwise have received.

This is a colossal sacrifice for a poor country. Therefore Ecuador needs help with this initiative from international public and private contributions, and is vital to help the conservation of the world's most valuable biodiversity.

Conserving Yasuni's forest will avoid the emission of approximately 1.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

India is building solar canals

Sheila Brown writes:

India is now covering water canals with solar panels; this way they are preventing water loss and saving space while creating energy.

The pilot project has been developed on a 750-m stretch of the canal by Gujarat State Electricity Corporation (GSECL) with support from Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL), which owns and maintains the canal network.

The pilot project will generate 16 lakh* units of clean energy per annum and also prevent evaporation of 90 lakh litres of water annually from the canal, an official told Business Line here on Monday. The concept will, therefore, tackle two of the challenges simultaneously by providing energy and water security.

The cost per megawatt of solar power, in this case, is likely to be much less than the estimated Rupees 10-11 crore*, as the two banks of the canal will be used to cover the canal by installing solar power panel and the government will not have to spend much on creating basic infrastructure, including land acquisition.

Today, Gujarat has about 458 km of open Main Canal, while the total canal length, including sub-branches, is about 19,000 km at present.

* *lakh* = 100,000; *crore* = 10,000,000; used in Indian and Pakistani English.

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Bromley FoE visit to the Crystal Centre, Peter Gandolfi

Twelve members of Bromley FoE made a visit to the new Siemens centre at docklands on a cold windy Saturday morning.

The Crystal centre is a sustainable cities initiative by Siemens that explores how we can create a better future for our cities. Apparently it is the world's largest exhibition on urban sustainability. It reveals the challenges that cities face, and explores the ways we can reduce their environmental impact using sustainable technologies.

Urban sustainability is among the most critically important global issues of the 21st century. About half of the world's population live in cities, and by 2050 this will rise to 70%. Cities now produce around 80% of the world's economic output, and the big challenge is that cities now consume about 75% of the world's energy and emit around 80% of all greenhouse gases. 800 million people presently live in slums.

The fight against climate change will therefore be won or lost in cities, so it's crucial we make our urban habitats more efficient, cleaner and better to live in - not only for ourselves, but for future generations and the earth's diverse ecosystems.

The journey starts with a short video on the challenges that cities face today. This is in an immersive theatre where the walls and floor are part of the display that draws the observer into the content. The main exhibition area is downstairs, where there are ten zones that demonstrate the various technological solutions to help our cities overcome the challenges they face.

These zones are:

Forces of change – How urbanization and climate change affect us all.

Smart buildings – Solutions to create greener, sustainable buildings

Create Cities – Decision making, urban planning and monitoring

Keep Moving - Transport and infrastructure solutions

Safe and Sound – Making our cities better places to live and work

Go Electric – Smarter ways to use electricity more efficiently

Water – How we manage and recycle this most precious resource

Health – Explore how cities can look after the young and the old

Clean and Green – Looking after our environment for the benefit of all

Future – How cities could look in the future

All these areas make full use of interactive displays where the visitor can explore global trends and challenges facing cities today. The journey finishes with a visit to the futures life gallery where it can be seen what life could be like in 2050 if we all embrace urban sustainability. This also contains a virtual city that the visitors need to manage, with interesting results.

An excellent and free exhibition, if poorly advertised. Many thanks to Sue and John Bocock for organizing another great trip. More details can be found at www.thecrystal.org

The IF campaign to end world hunger, *Sheila Brown*

The IF campaign is a huge coalition of UK-based organisations who share the vision of a world where everyone has enough to eat. The world produces enough food for everyone, but not everyone has enough food. "We can change this in 2013. IF we act together, we can make this year the beginning of the end for global hunger." The campaign has huge ambitions: to reach 20 million people across the UK with its message and inspire 5 million of them to get involved.

This campaign has the backing of over 100 organisations including Unicef, World Vision, War on Want, Oxfam, Save the Children, Comic Relief, Islamic Relief, Tearfund, Traidcraft, Compassion in World Farming, The Vegetarian Society, The Soil Association, Muslim Aid, Cafod, Christian Aid. Between now and the G8 in June, they are joining forces to petition David Cameron relentlessly and every which way to use his presidency of the G8 to take a lead on hunger.

Why now?

Nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and two million children die from malnutrition every year. We've made progress in other areas, but hunger is still the great scandal of our age. All around the world, even in the UK, people are struggling to feed their families.

In 2013, the government has promised to provide 0.7% of national income for aid and to host a Hunger Summit. We must make sure they keep these promises. In June, the world's most

powerful leaders will meet in the UK at the G8.

This is our best opportunity to tackle hunger. We must make IF happen.

What's happening in 2013?

You can find a timeline of the key moments in the Enough Food For Everyone IF campaign in our *Get Involved* section.

What do we want?

We want our leaders to act on the four big issues that mean so many people do not get enough food.

Aid

Enough Food For Everyone IF we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves.

Tax

Enough Food For Everyone IF governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries.

Land

Enough Food For Everyone IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and grow crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

Transparency

Enough Food For Everyone IF governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

Together, we can make IF happen.

The more of us who get involved, then the greater pressure there will be on world leaders to tackle global hunger in 2013. www.enoughfoodif.org

Alternatives to nuclear power, *Rob Clark*

I've been stirred this week by two items in the media: an interview with a prominent nuclear power scientist on the BBC Radio 4 programme 'A Life Scientific' and an article in 'Clean Slate', the newsletter for the Alternative Technology Association based at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales.

The debate over the future of the UK's power generation is coming to a head and I have been worried for some time about well funded, pro-nuclear publicity drowning out any alternatives and skewing the debate. At least reading the 'Clean Slate' article has given me some ammunition to defend carbon neutral power generation and has helped support my gut feeling that this is a possible, and the best, way forward.

The pro-nuclear arguments are well known, that alternative power generation cannot at present supply anywhere near all future power requirements so nuclear is vital. The quote is usually that the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. This is undeniably true and underlines a problem which could occur, for example, during a still, dark, winter evening peak demand time. No sun, no wind equals no power.

I know there are many other 'alternative' power generation methods such as tidal, hydro electric, geothermal etc. but the 'Clean Slate' pro-carbon-neutral article goes into depth on how alternative power generation can be used to supply electricity during any peak time day or night rain or shine.

The idea is to store energy by using electricity generated during good generating conditions, ie windy or sunny days, to generate power in the more needy peak times. A couple of examples of this are using green electricity to create hydrogen gas which is stored and then used to generate power when needed. Another is where off peak green electricity is used to pump water to a high level reservoir so that it can be released to generate hydro electric power when required.

At last I understand that there is a real alternative to what politicians generally seem to accept as being the only way forward - spending billions on new nuclear power stations. If a fraction of the amount spent on nuclear power over the past half century had been spent on researching green alternatives then there would be no debate going on now as we would all be happily using economically produced green power. An alternative is possible but it needs huge pressure from the green lobby and all of us as well as a great sea change in the view of government.

Bees - Did you know (part 3)?

Chaucer was one of the first to use the phrase 'busy as bees'.

Dumbledore is a Cornish word for bumblebee.

The short-haired bumblebee was introduced to New Zealand over 100 years ago and its descendents are still 'Bzzzzzzzzing' there.

Ancient paintings have shown that honey hunting was one of man's earliest domestic duties.

Friends of the Earth on – Bee Vote Stalemate

A Friends of the Earth recent press release said: Responding to news that European Commission proposals today to restrict the use of neonicotinoid insecticides linked to bee decline failed to get the necessary qualified majority, Friends of the Earth's Head of Campaigns Andrew Pendleton said:

"This is a cop-out by a significant number of European governments, including the UK - it means yet more dither and delay while our bee populations plummet. UK Ministers dragged their feet over ash trees, now they risk doing the same with bees.

"There is more than enough evidence that these chemicals are linked to bee decline to place immediate restrictions on their use. The UK Government could and should follow the example of retailers and take action to ban these products.

"We need a Bee Action Plan to protect these precious pollinators from all the threats they face, such as habitat loss in our towns and countryside."

Over recent weeks Friends of the Earth has revealed that a number of Britain's leading home and garden retailers are removing insecticides containing the three neonicotinoids identified by EFSA. The firms, which between them operate over a thousand stores and make up a large part of the DIY and Garden Centre sector include B&Q, Homebase, Wickes, the Garden Centre Group (owners of Wyevale and Blooms), Dobbies and Notcutts.

Notes to editors

1. Many of the UK's leading home and gardening retailers have removed neonicotinoid insecticides linked to bee decline from their shelves..

2. A number of leading environment and conservation groups are backing European Commission proposals for a ban including Friends of the Earth, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Buglife and the Soil Association.

3. The UK is home to over 250 species of bee including honey bees, bumblebees and solitary bees. Bees are important to our food supply and our economy but they are under threat. Since 1900, the UK has lost 20 species of bee. A further 35 bee species are considered to be under threat of extinction.

India and solar canals, *continued from page 7*

When completed, the SSNNL's canal network will be about 85,000 km long.

Assuming a utilisation of only 10 per cent of the existing canal network of 19,000 km, it is estimated that 2,200 MW of solar power generating capacity can be installed by covering the canals with solar panels.

This also implies that 11,000 acres of land can be potentially conserved along with about 2,000 crore litres of water saved per annum.

Source: *thehindubusinessline.com*

The benefits of EU environmental policy and Mr Cameron's attitude towards it

This comes from Euromove, a pro-Europe organisation, via John Bassendine from Sevenoaks FoE and Ray Watson.

David Cameron indicated in a recent speech that he would seek to re-negotiate the relationship between the EU and the UK in three specific areas. Social affairs, justice policy and environmental policy. While the first two have been points of tension for the UK government for some time, the same cannot be said for environmental policy. By contrast, it has often been pointed to as one of the obvious areas for EU level co-operation.

EU environmental policy dates back to 1972, when the first Environmental Action Plan was published. It now encompasses policies such as biodiversity protection, industrial emissions, landfill waste, bathing water standards, climate change targets and rules on environmental liability. The Treaty requires that environmental considerations be reflected throughout EU policy. These links are particularly clear in EU policies on agriculture, fisheries, transport, energy, industry and cohesion. Setting common environmental standards is fundamental to the Single Market.

Quite simply, EU environmental legislation affects some of the fundamentals of life: the air that we breathe, the water that we drink and the waste that we reject.

The EU's Air Quality Directive sets standards including those for ozone, lead and carbon monoxide. These standards are clearly important for

both human health and environmental protection. The Directive also obliges Member States to ensure that information on air quality is available to the public.

The EU's air legislation also controls emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere. Two such instruments are the Large Combustion Plant and Industrial Emissions Directives. As a result of these Directives, old highly polluting coal plants will either have to close or undergo modernisation. This should have the effect not only of improving air quality but also of boosting investment in low carbon energy. If left to their own devices, would Member States have chosen to take such strong action?

The key advantage of EU level, rather than national, action on such matter is that a level playing field can be set for commercial operators across the single market, reducing the risk of a race to the bottom by European states trying to undercut each other.

A common approach to water policy has also been adopted, the principle instrument being the EU's Water Framework Directive. The UK Government conceded in a House of Lords inquiry last year that this deadline was likely to be missed but that the legislation had been a force for good, leading to improvements in the UK's own approach to water management.

Essentially, the legislation forces cooperation between countries where relevant, but also between different ...
/continued on next page

The benefits of EU environmental policy ..., *continued*

... levels of government and industry in order to deliver effective management. Substantial improvements in water quality have already been seen across the EU following the implementation of the Directive. And compliance with EU water policy will be an important condition for subsidies under the reformed Common Agricultural Policy.

Another area of policy that affects us all on a daily basis is waste policy. EU waste policy sets rules, for example, on the reduction of waste ending up in landfill, hazardous waste, electrical and electronic equipment, sewage sludge, packaging waste and the disposal of batteries.

While there is still some way to go, there are positive signs of improvement. Over the period 2000-2010, the amount of waste packaging recovered rose from 58% to 80%. There are economic as well as environmental advantages to effective waste management. The European Commission recently estimated that full implementation of EU waste legislation would save €72 billion a year, increase the annual turnover of the EU waste management and recycling sector by €42 billion and create over 400,000 jobs by 2020.

So far, so good; the EU has helped to set strong standards to improve our air and water quality and our waste management. So what are the arguments against it? Money is at the heart of concerns about EU environmental legislation, with suggestions that strong EU environmental legislation puts EU business at a disadvantage compared

to its international competitors. That is not an argument about whether environmental policy should be national or EU competence. Rather, it is an ideological argument about the desirability of environmental policy, particularly in a time of economic stagnation.

Arguments about the “cost” of environmental policy are short-sighted. As the CBI’s *The Colour of Growth* Report observed last year, there are strong reasons to believe that environmental goals can in fact drive economic growth. Making the best use of our natural resources will be the core principle underpinning environmental policy and its contribution to economic recovery.

Working together at EU level should assist that process, allowing all Member States to have input to any standards chosen and to ensure that policy intervention is proportionate to the risks identified.

EU environmental policy is not an expensive hobby of Environment Ministers. Rather, it is a core part of the Single Market, offering opportunities to business and creating a level playing field across the EU. For citizens, it has driven standards up to levels that would be unimaginable otherwise and offered them significant improvement in the quality of the environment they live in.

David Cameron needs to be clear what exactly concerns him, why those important benefits to business and citizens should be removed and why withdrawal from the policy is likely to be better for the UK.

FoE on - FoE and Resurgence & Ecologist in public partnership

A recent FoE press release said:
Environment charities Friends of the Earth and Resurgence & Ecologist will now offer a stronger voice for the environment following the launch of a one-year public partnership.

The strategic partnership, launched today, will combine the strengths of the two organisations to reach more people with news and comment on climate change, biodiversity loss and resource use; opening up further debate on these pressing issues by providing a larger forum for information, thought and action.

The two organisations plan to hold joint events, share editorial content and combine resource to promote some key campaigns to supporters and subscribers.

FoE's Executive Director, Andy Atkins, said:

"It has never been a more important time for environment organisations to work together on some of the critical challenges that we face. Together we have over 80 years collective history of campaigning and work on the environment - through this exciting partnership we will be able to shine a bigger spotlight on the issues we face and help our mutual supporters to take action."

Friends of the Earth has recently had significant increases in support for its major campaigns, including persuading large retailers to remove pesticides linked to bee decline from their shelves; and growing support from MPs across the parties in favour

of a decarbonisation target in the forthcoming energy bill.

Resurgence & Ecologist editor-in-chief, Satish Kumar, who this year celebrates 40 years of editing the publication, said:

"Friends of the Earth and Resurgence & Ecologist share a common vision. We humans are not the rulers of the Earth, not even its guardians or its stewards. We are all friends of the Earth. Friendship with the Earth implies a deep respect and this is something that is also central to The Resurgence Trust, which has published Resurgence & Ecologist magazine for over 45 years.

"Both our organisations share a common value and are natural partners. Informally we have worked together for many decades. I am delighted that we have agreed to work together in a more focused way and are forming a proper partnership."

Science talk in London – open to the public and free, see website for details

Development of the next generation of Solar Cells - The Kavli Medal and Lecture by Professor Neil Greenham; www.royalsociety.org

The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG;
Wednesday 17th April 2013, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605
email – sheilabrown336@msn.com
Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295
anncgarrett@yahoo.com

Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Secretary:

Ray Watson 01959-571566
r.watson865@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Sheila Brown (*pro tem*) 01689-851605
sheilabrown336@msn.com

Press Officer:

vacant

Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605
sheilabrown336@msn.com

Outings organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 020-8464-5990
johnbocock@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor:

John Street 020-8460-1078
johnstreet@gn.apc.org

Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

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:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352
tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Waste and Recycling

Annette Rose
annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

Bee Cause

Judy Palmer, *judy.palmer@talk21.com*

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!

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.

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.

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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