



Friends of the Earth Bromley



August/September 2019
No. 380/381

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

August Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Environmental Action Near and Far

International Conservation Projects, Organic Lawn Care, Ethical Investment, Sustainability in Schools *plus* Traidcraft Stall

Tuesday 6th August - 7.30pm (*prompt start please*)

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates: August and September 2019

August 6th (Tuesday) **Bromley FoE's monthly meeting:** Environmental Action Near and Far and Traidcraft stall

August 12th (Monday) **Friends of Jubilee Country Park event 'Look for Butterflies in Jubilee Park'** Join Andrew Harby, Community Manager with idverde, on a walk around the park looking for butterflies such as Common Blues and Speckled Woods. Meet at Tent Peg Lane car park, off Crest View Drive, Petts Wood BR5 1BY at 11am. In the event of bad weather, please call 07733 004248.

August 20th (Tuesday) **Friends of Jubilee Country Park event-'A Walk in the Park at Dusk'** Sue Holland, Senior Community Manager with idverde, will talk about nocturnal animals then take us on a walk around the Park to hear the sounds of dusk. Meet at 8pm at Blackbrook Lane car park, BR2 8AY, next to Bromley High School. Walk will not take place in bad weather; please call 07733 004248 to check.

August 26th (Bank holiday Monday) **Cudham Village Fair. We will have a BFoE stall. Volunteers needed to help set up and run the stall please.**

September 3rd (Tuesday) **Bromley FoE's monthly meeting:** Craig Bennett – Chief Executive – Friends of the Earth

September 12th (Thursday) **Friends of Jubilee Country Park event. Katie Whitton of the Marine Conservation Society.** Find out what the society is doing to tackle the problem of plastics and the effect on the marine environment. 7.30pm in the Garden Room. St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley BR2 8AT. Refreshments will be served at the start of the meeting. Entry is free but a donation of £3 towards the running the event and the work of the Friends would be welcomed.

September 21st (Saturday) **Peace One Day** - Bromley Parish Church Rooms 7.30 pm, FoE stall

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 15TH SEPTEMBER *****

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.

Bromley Council - Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2029

The ambition to have a ten year plan to ensure that the council will have net zero emissions by 2029 was unanimously approved following a Council Motion on Monday 15th July.

The commitment is one of the most ambitious targets of any London Borough and underlines the council's proud clean and green image including continuing work and investment to reduce its direct emissions. Work to move towards the net zero emission target will include tree planting, an energy efficiency programme, expanding renewable energy and LED street lighting, and other initiatives.

These initiatives will also be included in the council's Carbon Management Programme (CMP) which commenced in 2008, with the most recent 5-year programme CMP2 achieving a 33% reduction in council emissions against a 2013 baseline*

The council wide work will also be part of the Environment and Community Services Portfolio, being formally included in the Portfolio Plan.

Councillor Will Harmer, Chairman of Environment and Community PDS Committee, who proposed the Motion, said, "This ambitious target to have net zero carbon emissions by 2029 cements Bromley Council as a leading authority in tackling carbon emissions. I am excited about what we can achieve and the impact we will have. We will be truly leaving our borough in a better state both financially and environmentally for future generations."

Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, Executive Councillor for Environment and Community Services said, "The Council already has a track record of strong decisive financially positive environmental action and is signalling its intent to look even more closely at what can be done.

"Residents can play their part too by recycling as much as possible, with our record already a London leading one thanks to existing support from residents. Residents might be interested to know though that ensuring food waste is recycled is by far the best disposal option from a CO2 perspective, reducing emissions by over 98% in comparison to landfill which is another example of why this is food for thought."

The full amended motion reads:

"This Council welcomes the Government's decision that the UK will have net zero carbon emissions by 2050. With its tree planting, energy efficiency programme, LED street lighting investment and other initiatives the Council has already been reducing its net emissions. This Council confirms its intention that direct Council activities will have net zero emissions within ten years (2029). The Portfolio Holder is strongly encouraged to include this commitment in the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Plan and Council also requests that annual reports are provided to the Environment and Community Services PDS."

July meeting report – Sheila Brown

Climate Action and the Climate Emergency

Ted Burke is London Campaigns Organiser and came to talk about the Climate Action campaign. Friends of the Earth is trying to grow a grassroots network and motivate activists to stage climate events at a local level.

It is becoming clearer every day that the climate emergency is the biggest threat to our existence and to the natural world, and this has now become widely recognised. What we do or don't do NOW will determine the future fate of world. Friends of the Earth has identified what solutions look like but our leaders are letting us down; it is people in local communities who are getting on and doing things. It's not just a question of keeping the planet cool but fixing climate change to create a cleaner, greener and fairer world.

Friends of the Earth has declared a Climate Emergency and wants Government to do the same: to achieve a better world for our children. They call upon Government to come up with an action plan, for which the six pillars or key areas need to be:

1. Transport: to stop the sale of petrol and diesel cars within a decade and actively encourage walking, cycling and public transport;
2. Ban fossil fuels;
3. Buildings: end the misery of cold, expensive to heat homes. Government needs to fund a massive insulation scheme;

4. Agriculture and Land Use: stop using land as a factory. Double our tree cover – Friends of the Earth has launched a new Tree Campaign to this end;

5. Infrastructure: stop backing projects which fuel climate change – extending Heathrow being a prime example. Make this a high priority – stopping these projects going ahead;

6. International Justice – stop government funding projects which fuel climate change and help people move to more sustainable projects.

Working together for solutions

People now recognise that there is climate emergency. Friends of the Earth have an established local group network and hope to be able to see new climate Action Groups forming with lots of people from local communities, preferably setting up a completely new group. These climate groups would be even more local than our groups – people identify more with their immediate area rather than a big borough like Bromley.

As an example Ted mentioned a Brixton Unwrapped event, which brought in people from the community, who could then be part of a new group. The 18 - 25 age group were well represented and the vast majority had not been involved with FoE before. Our ethnicity profile is somewhat narrow but we need to diversify if we want to solve this crisis. Also Friends of the Earth sounds quite broadly based whereas Climate Action makes a statement of intent.

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July meeting report – *continued*

Ted would like us to organise an event somewhere in Borough, maybe in an area that is currently under-represented but fertile for new activists, with new people joining this new group or sub- group. FoE staff have organised events, in Wales, in Newham, which was much more diverse and are in conversation with people in Highbury, Peckham and Croydon. The focus would be on clean air, planting more trees and addressing the plastics issue. Also pushing to get local councils to declare a climate emergency, come up with action plan to address.

Ted drew our attention to the website which has lots of resources, tips on what to campaign on, how to organise events, template agenda for the event. Friends of the Earth is organising Webinars and Skills Seminars about how to grow your group. There is a digital platform Action Network which groups can use to host petitions, online actions and events. He mentioned Canva – a graphic design tool with a template for a poster for advertising climate action events. Also Slack, a communication tool which is an alternative to email, for groups across the country to communicate and talk. This provides a space for members of each group to talk, share tips and resources with people across the UK who are involved. More information is available about these.

He suggested the format of meetings might be a bit like Groundswell with barn storming idea, bringing in new people and getting discussion going about local concerns and solutions, to

formulate a local plan, encourage local authorities to take action (33 possible actions!). He also encouraged getting involved in planting trees.

Ted said that FoE will want any new groups to register with them as Climate Action group. Good for local groups to own projects, like tree planting. The group would need 2-3 enthusiasts who will keep it going, arising out of local issue and FoE will then offer support. FoE is putting support system into place using this Slack system and webinar programme.

Website: [takeclimate action.uk](http://takeclimateaction.uk)

Bromley FoE's website

We are looking to update our website. Have you seen or used a very good website recently? Can you email Mary Ingledew at ingledew93@hotmail.co.uk

Please use:

1. In the heading of your email please use "Bromley FoE website"
2. Provide the link to the website and the name of the organisation / company.
3. A very brief reason why you like the site: e.g. typeface, menu layout, headings, general design.
4. I will not open emails and click on your website link unless Bromley FoE website appears in the heading. This is because I will not recognise your email address and to click on a web link from an unknown email address risks infecting my computer.

August / September meeting details

August meeting details – Tuesday 6th August

Environmental Action Near and Far

International Conservation Projects, Organic Lawn Care, Ethical Investment, plus Traidcraft Stall

This month some of our members will report on environmental action they have taken at home and abroad. We also have guest Caroline Mace, Eco-Leader of Perry Hall School.

Traditionally in August we have a less formal meeting and this time we are asking our members to share with us the things they've been doing which have a positive environmental impact. Bill Priestley will tell us how we can achieve a wonderful lawn without using harmful chemicals; Rob Clark will share his experience of investing ethically, Cecilia will bring her Traidcraft stall and maybe update us on how Traidcraft is doing following a major shake-up.

Bryony Bonner will report her first-hand experience of international conservation projects, one increasing the number of hatchling sea turtles reaching the sea in Costa Rica and the other caring for ageing elephants brutalised by the tourist industry in Thailand, plus guest Caroline Mace will talk about Sustainability in Schools.

September meeting info – Tuesday 3rd September

Friends of the Earth: almost 50!

Craig Bennett – Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth

Craig Bennett first joined Friends of the Earth, as a supporter and teenage activist in the 1980s. Now he is Chief Executive. In this talk, he'll offer his overview of where the organisation has come from, where it is now, and where it needs to go next.

In just over a year's time, Friends of the Earth will become 50 years old. We've won countless campaigns, and there is so much we can be proud about. But most environmental trends are still heading in the wrong direction. What have we learned from fifty years of campaigning, and what does this tell us about how we can have an even bigger and faster impact in the years ahead?

Campaigns

The next Mall precinct stall with Bromley Against Fracking will be on October 26th from 2.30 - 4.30 pm
We will have leaflets about the FoE Futures campaign and more cards to be signed to give to Cllr Colin Smith, Bromley Council leader - hopefully next Autumn some time.

Climate, Energy and Transport

Free Solar Panels

Labour have pledged plans for solar panels on 1.75 million homes if they are elected. This is part of their 'green industrial revolution' to help working class people. The proposals aim to tackle the climate emergency and help lower income families. Interest free loans and grants would be available for 750,000 more households. The solar panels will help reduce bills by an average of £117 for cash-strapped residents and create 17,000 jobs.

One Million Climate Jobs

Talking of jobs - The Campaign Against Climate Change have published an important leaflet which highlights The One Million Climate Jobs report. This is backed by eight national unions including the national Union of Students, and suggests the importance of getting in contact with local trade union groups.

There are now campaigns in several countries fighting for mass government programmes for climate jobs. Most of them started with union support, and all of them are trying to build alliances of unions, environmentalists, NGOs, and faith groups.

Smart Paving Stones Electricity

An interesting new experiment has been tried by generating electricity from pedestrians walking over 'smart' paving slabs. By the end of one day energy from more than 150,000 steps had been captured by 117 tiles in Broadgate, London. The pavement was designed to flex about 5mm when stepped on, generating about five watts per footstep. The slabs absorb energy to store it in a lithium polymer battery.

Energy stored from 150,000 steps is enough to run an electric car for more than half a mile !

Transport

The 30-year Heathrow Masterplan

Plans to expand Heathrow in stages over the next 30 years have been branded an environmental disaster. It comes after airport bosses having unveiled a masterplan, setting out their proposals to complete a third runway by 2050.

The scheme, which is predicted to cost more than £50 billion, includes diverting rivers, re-routing the M25 through a tunnel under the runway, altering the local road system, and building hotels, rail links, offices and a 50,000 capacity car park. More than 760 homes face demolition, including the whole village of Longford.

Campaigners said the proposals will be hugely disruptive and catastrophic for the environment, with a third runway set to increase harmful emissions by up to 38% by 2050.

The Time Is Now – Ann Garrett and Barbara Smith

Several Bromley FoE members attended The Time Is Now climate change rally outside Parliament on June 26th with our banner and also Annette's lovely wild life banner, which many people had signed at the May meeting.

It wasn't possible to lobby Jo Johnson, but Mary and Annette handed in Orpington members' signed cards and Barbara was able to hand in the Bromley cards to Bob Neill.

Many thanks to all who came to the rally and lobby. There was an amazing number of different groups from all over the country.

The photo shows Bromley FoE outside Parliament before the main events began.

Barbara Smith writes:

I attended the Time is Now Lobby on 26th June with Ann Garrett and Annette Rose. It was a wonderful day.

As I waited in the sunshine in Parliament Square I watched Archbishop Justine Welby and his Faith Leaders; Christian Aid Workers; endless Schools' Processions with children of all ages; The National Trust; Age Concern and many, many more. It was very inspiring to see these peaceful, yet positive demonstrations to Climate Change commitment.

I met Ann, Annette and Mary at 1pm by the Nelson Mandela statue and we met our respective MPs along the South Bank of the Thames at 2pm. Bob Neill was there and was very

enthusiastic and has since sent replies to Members of Bromley FoE. Ann Garrett read her letter out at July 2nd FoE meeting and I read out his reply to my email (see below).

Here is Bob Neill's reply to Barbara's email:

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for contacting me about 'The Time Is Now' lobby which is taking place in Westminster tomorrow, and please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in getting back to you. As you can imagine, it has been an incredibly busy few weeks in Parliament.

Climate change transcends age, background and politics. It is, I believe, a fight we all urgently need to get behind, which is why I was delighted that yesterday in Parliament we committed Britain to a net zero emissions target by 2050. As you will be aware, this is something the independent Committee on Climate Change recommended to the Government last month, and is an ambition I have been lobbying ministers on over the course of the year.

Whilst more can and must be done, we should not play down our achievements to date:

- Since 1990, we have cut emissions by 42%, and since 2010, by 25%. In fact, we are decarbonising our economy faster than any other G20 nation.

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The Time Is Now – *continued*

- Renewable electricity in the UK is at record levels, quadrupling over the last nine years.
- Last year, 37.1% of our electricity generation came from renewable sources, and we are now generating enough solar energy to power almost 2.7 million homes.
- Last month, Britain went two whole weeks (a record) without using coal, the first time since the Industrial Revolution.
- In total, more than £52 billion has been invested in renewables, nuclear and carbon capture technology since 2010.

I am always keen to meet with constituents to discuss this most important of issues. Indeed, I met with a local campaigner at my constituency surgery on Friday, and was pleased to sign a cross-party pledge to divest the Parliamentary Pension Fund from fossil fuels. Whilst I am somewhat reluctant to provide a cast iron guarantee that I will be able to attend the lobby event tomorrow, simply because of the unpredictable nature of the parliamentary business, I certainly intend to join you and will do everything I can to make sure I am there.

This is the email Barbara sent to Bob Neill:

Dear Robert Neill,

I am writing to you as one of your constituents to invite you to attend the UK's biggest climate and environment mass lobby 'The Time Is Now' on 26th June at 1pm.

I'd like to talk to you about climate change and the environment and ask you to take strong action. I'm particularly concerned about...

I passionately believe time is of the essence and our Government should act now to tackle the devastating effects of Climate Change on our world. We only have one planet.

It is vital we protect these things and leave a cleaner, more secure world for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. These actions need to be taken now, before it is too late.

On 26th June I will be joined by other constituents from my local area to discuss this with you. Thousands of people from all over the country will be attending and we really hope you can join us.

WHAT: The Time Is Now mass lobby for climate and environment action

WHEN: 1pm onwards, June 26th

WHERE: The lobby will be made up of thousands of people meeting MPs outside parliament. Please go to Old Palace Yard, where you will be met and taken to your constituents.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you can attend. I look forward to hearing from you and I hope to see you there.

Photo of Bromley FoE members at The Time Is Now rally over the page.

Letter re Glass Waste +++ The Time Is Now photo

Letter re glass waste from Peter Gandolfi

I knew that all glass waste, clear and coloured collected as part of our general kerb-side recycle collection, never got recycled back to glass items due to the mixed colours. So in the past I have collected clear glass separately, and taken this down to nearby collection points that had a clear glass collection.

I now find that our local collection points now only collect mixed glass, which is a pity as it all goes into road building materials rather than true recycling. I thought that clear glass

was one of the easiest materials to recycle back into original items.

Is this now standard council policy?

Idling parents – Sheila Brown

A resident of Jaffray Road, next to Raglan School, is reporting parents waiting outside the school with their engines running for lengthy periods.

She has tried speaking politely to the drivers, pointing out the harm that can be done to young children's lungs, only to be met with total non-comprehension and a protest that it is the "air-con".

Bromley FoE members at The Time Is Now rally



Meadows day – Annette Rose

We joined the Friends of Jubilee Country Park to celebrate Meadows Day. Thank you to all our volunteers- Sheila, Ivy, Bill, Gill, John Catlin and Mary for coming along. John's big umbrella saved us from the worst of the rain!

Bill had kits for people to make their own bumblebee hotel which consists of an upturned flower pot and pieces of

hose leading under it for the bees to pass along. There was some dry bedding straw to under the flower pot too.

Some members of the public took some of our literature about our group and a few said they hope to come along to a meeting. The meadow looks very beautiful at the moment with a wide range of flowers in bloom.



Sheila and Bill on the FoE stall on Meadows Day
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FoE Objection to Proposed Sale of Land at Bromley Civic Centre

Proposed Sale of Land at Bromley Civic Centre

Bromley Friends of the Earth have written to Mark Bowen, Bromley's Director of Corporate Services regarding the proposed sale of land at the Civic Centre. Here's the letter:

Dear Mark Bowen,

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

1. Due to the degree of re- development in 1987, the rest of the park including that now offered for sale, was designated as permanent open space, with the proviso that there should be no more development.
2. In view of the seriousness of climate change, it is vital that green spaces should be preserved where ever possible.
3. This is an historic site and should be retained for members of the public with easy access for enjoyment and recreation, away from the pollution of the surrounding roads.
4. Building so close to the lake and surrounding trees and foliage will be a threat to the present wild life.
5. Housing will be provided in the future nearby on the Civic Centre car park, through the ZEDpod eco housing project . which seems an excellent idea.

Summary

More concrete on green sites are not the answer to retaining the heart of a Country Market Town which makes Bromley unique as an outer London suburb.

Bromley Council needs to reclaim empty properties and also space in present office blocks to provide more housing units, reject the temptation to build in beautiful areas such as the Civic Centre grounds, and preserve an important aesthetic heritage.

Yours faithfully,

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

Plastics in the Environment – New plastics campaign takes off

(from the website
<https://wickedleeks.riverford.co.uk>)

People are pleading with supermarkets to reduce plastic by writing on packaging and lids and returning them to their local stores after a call to action by campaigner Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

As part of his new TV programme, Hugh's War on Plastic, Fearnley-Whittingstall called for members of the public to write their 'plastic feedback' on packaging and deliver to supermarkets to highlight their desire to change, and share on social media under the hashtag #OurPlasticFeedback.

The final episode of the three-part series aired on BBC 1 on 24 June and covered the issue of plastic toys given away by fast-food chains, as well as the rate of production of new plastic by manufacturers such as Neon.

It featured two young children arriving at the headquarters of McDonald's with a petition to remove plastic toys from kids' meals, only to be turned away abruptly by a security guard. The incident was widely criticised on social media, and the girls' petition on change.org now has over 185,000 signatures.

The primetime show featured several high-profile cameos and endorsements, including Sir David Attenborough, who said: "Supermarkets, for the sake of the planet, less plastic please." Other celebrities including singer KT Tunstall

and chef Prue Leith also joined the campaign.

Greenpeace oceans campaigner Elena Polisano said: "We need to move away from a throwaway culture, we need to move away from single use towards a new model of reuse and refill."

It comes in a week when MPs debated banning non-recyclable food packaging following a petition from almost 250,000 people.

The petition statement said: "Today the Earth is at a crisis point due to our plastic consumption, and as a result, people in the UK are more willing than ever to engage in recycling.

"Yet so much food packaging remains completely, frustratingly unrecyclable. Let's aim for the UK to lead the world with a 100% recycling rate."

Speaking in parliament, Labour MP Daniel Zeichner, who opened the debate, said: "The plastic bag charge was discussed over many years, and it has now taken 15 billion plastic bags out of circulation. Imagine what proper fiscal incentives and taxes could do to change the way our society considers waste and how committed we all are to recycling."

MP Neil Parish added: "The government will probably have to be braver on this issue and give stricter advice to local authorities on how they recycle and on having a similar system across the country."

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Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

Oops, we said we needed rain but what a downpour we had here especially at the beginning of June. We were away in Scotland so didn't actually experience it but understand that it was extremely heavy. The rain has really helped the crops right at the vital stage of grain fill, big fat juicy grains, just lots of sunshine now.

The field we call the Meadow next to the house with the footpath, has yellow patches and this is due to the dry weather locking up nutrient in the ground, it also doesn't help that parts of this field are gravel. The oats look superb, better than we saw at the trail plot! The barley is just starting to "go off" which means dying and turning golden. This will be the first crop to cut, hopefully around the end of July, depending of the amount of sunshine.

We went to a farm at Stalling Minis, near Canterbury, to look at wheat and oats trail sites. These are organised by the seed and agronomy companies to look at different varieties and different ways of growing the crops. Varying seed, fertiliser and fungicide rates are applied to try and find the optimal ways of growing. Of course, different farms have different soils etc but these trails show us their strengths and weakness. They also trail new varieties.

One of the new ones we thought we might grow next year was showing good results but in the past two or three weeks it has shown signs of a lot of disease, we will wait and see. A new variety of oats we looked at looks good from a milling point of view, so we wait to see what this harvest results will

show. The trails plots are harvested and all the records are sent to us.

As mentioned, we had our first great stay in Scotland and of course, stayed in a farm cottage surrounding by fields. Very interested in the crop as it was rye and didn't know much about it. Chatted to the farmer and he told us that it was the first year he had grown this and it was going to be harvested by a forager and sent to a factory in Glasgow where it will be put into an anaerobic digester. As the rye ferments it give off methane, this will then be used for bio gas. Clean green energy.

We were quite surprised about the amount of cereals grown in that part of Scotland, between Chief and Perth, but were not surprised to see fields and fields of potatoes. Plenty of timber obviously too.

The crows seemed to have stopped coming to the chicken food which is good and we are enjoying watching the young goldfinches and great tits on the feeders. The goldfinches have only a little black and yellow on their wings at the moment and have yet to gain the red face. There seems a greater number of pyramidal orchids this year over on the Green and the lady bedstraw is in bloom too.

We all know about St. Swithins Day on the 15th July but on the 26th July, St. Anne's day apparently if it rains on this day, it will continue for a month and a week. Don't want that either of these forecasts to come true.

New plastics campaign takes off – continued +++++

**New plastics campaign takes off –
continued**

After listening to the debate and despite the petition, agriculture minister Robert Goodwill, said the government currently has “no plans to ban the use of food packaging that cannot be recycled”.

“Our general approach is to help people and companies make the right choice and develop alternatives, rather than ban items outright. We have already banned the inclusion of plastic microbeads, and...we will be banning the supply of plastic drinking straws, stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England from April 2020.”

Goodwill noted that the government has, under its recent Waste and Resources Strategy, outlined plans for the manufacturer of plastic to be responsible for the end destination and environmental impact of their products.

“A key proposal is that producers fund the net cost of managing the packaging that they place on the market once it becomes waste,” he added.

Lost Property

Did you leave a bag at our stall at Keston containing leaflets on Jubilee Country Park Nature Trail and Darrick and Newstead Woods Local Nature Reserve, two plants in white plastic cups and a bag of fudge?

Please email Sheila if it was you.

Situations Vacant

We are looking for more people to join our team of Reporters who write up the notes of the talks at our monthly meetings for the Newsletter.

This is greatly valued by those who are unable to get to meetings. We currently have six people, so each person does it twice a year, but the more people, the less frequent this would be.

Please let the Co-ordinators know if you are interested.

CONGRATULATIONS

to
Ray and Marina Watson
on
celebrating their

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

in August.

What's the secret?
You both look so well!

Top Tips & Tricky Bits to Cut Down Your Waste

(Bromley & Lewisham Boroughs)



Up to 70 per cent of household waste could be recycled or reused in some way. Here are some handy hints to help you on your journey to recycle more and use less.

TOP TIPS

Fill up your food caddy

At least 7 million tonnes of UK household food & drink waste was thrown away in 2012¹. Food waste sent to landfill generates methane, which is a greenhouse gas 21 times more harmful than carbon dioxide. A massive 40% of the UK's total methane production is generated from landfill². Wasted food that is composted at home or by the council can be used as fertilizer. Check Bromley or Lewisham Council websites to order your free caddy.



Bin greasy paper & card

Paper and card with food or grease on is contaminated and **cannot** be cleaned or recycled. It may also contaminate "clean" paper or card. For example, if you have a pizza box, only the food/grease-free parts can go in the recycling, the rest must go in general waste.

Wash & squash

Items for recycling must be empty and washed out. A bit of oily/food residue is ok but half a sandwich, uneaten mince pies or half a tin of beans left in may contaminate **ALL** the recycling load – not just yours – sending it to landfill and attracting foxes and rats to your home. Squash down items to save space in your box and the van.

1. Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/hhfdw-2012-main.pdf
2. Organic Resource Agency : Comparison of GHG Emissions for Landfill and AD - 2011

www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk

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TRICKY BITS

1. BLACK PLASTIC

Unfortunately, this can't be recycled by most recycling plants. They are often labelled "recyclable" but aren't. Put them in general waste and stop buying where possible.

2. PUT A LID ON IT

You can leave the recyclable plastic lids on your plastic milk bottles and cartons of juice. Squeeze air out and put lid on to save room. Metal lids can be left on or off glass bottles and jars and the same with plastic pump/ spray lids on cleaning and beauty bottles.



3. POP PILL PACKS IN

Blister packs from medication such as paracetamol can be recycled - but only in Bromley, not Lewisham. Try to remove as much of the foil or paper from the plastic as possible.



4. DON'T BE FOILED

Clean foil can only be recycled when it is the size of a tennis ball. So, for little bits from chocolate, blister packs etc - collect them and scrunch them up until it's big enough. If too small, it risks either flying off the back of the recycling truck or falling through the gaps at the recycling plant. **Dirty foil can't be recycled.**



5. POLYSTYRENE BOXES & PACKAGING

You can **NOT** recycle this stuff! Put it in your general waste and try to reduce the amount you use.



6. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Ideally, we need to buy less non-recyclable packaging. But using Terracycle recycling will keep more out of landfill for longer while raising vital funds for charities. Many non-recyclable items such as old pens, crisp and biscuit packets, baby food and pet food pouches and bags can now be collected, dropped off or sent off (freepost) to

Terracycle. Visit www.terracycle.com for public drop off points or visit the **Greener & Cleaner Bromley (and Beyond)** Facebook group for members who are collecting near you.



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Government response to VJ day bank holiday petition

The Government has responded to the petition “Establish a national day commemorating the significance of 15th August 1945”

The Government’s response:

The Government values VJ Day commemorations as an opportunity for the nation to show their gratitude to veterans and acknowledge their heroics in the most challenging of environments.

The Government believes it is important to commemorate the sacrifices made by our service men and women and gratefully acknowledges the responsibilities that our country’s Armed Forces assume on behalf of us all.

The Government recognises the importance of VJ Day and how it was instrumental in bringing an end to the Second World War. Several key events were held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VJ day in 2015, some of which were attended by veterans and ex-prisoners of war. The 75th anniversary of VJ day next year will be an important occasion for us to repay that debt once again – to the Veterans of the campaign, to all those who lost their lives, and to the many military Prisoners of War and civilian internees who suffered in captivity.

Members of our current Armed Forces will again be paying tribute to those who fought before them as they did five years ago to mark the 70th anniversary. The 75th Anniversary of VJ Day falls on Saturday 15 August 2020 which means that there will be a

significant amount of people with flexibility to mark the commemoration as they feel is best.

VJ Day commemorations are an opportunity for the nation to show their gratitude to these veterans and acknowledge the endurance and determination they showed in continuing the fight in the most challenging of environments to bring the Second World War to an ultimate end three months after VE Day. The Government has and will continue to commemorate VJ Day. The Ministry of Defence is working with stakeholders to develop a fitting commemorative programme to recognise this important community of veterans and those who lost their lives.

The Government regularly receives requests for additional bank and public holidays to commemorate a variety of occasions. Many have made compelling arguments that range from acknowledging religious festivals to celebrating key, momentous historical events. It is the duty of any responsible Government to judge the impact on both the overall economy and specific sectors when considering additional bank holidays.

Whilst an additional bank holiday can help mark particular occasions and may benefit some communities and sectors, the costs to the economy is considerable and therefore there are no current plans to create another bank holiday. The most recent estimate following an impact assessment for the one-off bank holiday for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee was £1.2 billion.

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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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