

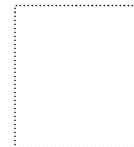


**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# December 2010 No. 276 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB  
email: [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com); website: [www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)



## December Meeting

Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

### **Eco-poets and Seasonal Festive Social Evening**

*Come and join us for a relaxed evening of seasonal festivities,  
poetry, food and drink, including the famous Punch*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - 7.30pm.**

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

### *In this Issue:*

Diary Dates	2	WDM – climate loans	11
Bonus poem from Ann	2	FoE – Recycling rate	12
November mtg rept	3,7	FoE – Meat and dairy	12,13
Transport 2010	4,7	FoE – Energy outlook	13
Transport 2000/2001	5	AGM info	14
Climate and Energy	6	Green, green grass	14
Poem from Ann	7	MIND concert	14
Soapbox - Rob	8	Editor's plea	14
Climate march	8,9	Bromley FoE contacts	15
Soapbox - Ray	9	Non-members section	16
Back to the 90s	10		

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by  
**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.** Contact details inside front cover.

***Your chance to shine in 2011 – see page 14 for details***

**Diary dates:**

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup> (Sat)**

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

**Jan 4<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> (Tues)**

**Climate change march** – see below for more info

**Bromley FoE's December meeting:** Eco-poets and seasonal festive fayre; *come and join us for a relaxed evening of seasonal festivities, poetry, food and drink, including the famous Punch*

**Bromley FoE's January meeting:** John Bocock on the Sustainable Earth project PLUS our AGM and some more seasonal goodies to round off the festive season

**Planning meeting at 48 Siward Road** (Sue and John Bocock's house)

**A bonus poem from Ann**

**Climate Bewildered**

Baby polar bear floating on an ice-flow  
Looking bewildered  
Nowhere to go  
Nothing to eat

Drifts alongside an Arctic oil rig

Workers look bewildered  
Haul baby bear onto the rig

Plenty to eat  
Still nowhere to go

**Ann Garrett Ashley (Sept/2010)**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> Climate March details are on pages 8 and 9. Meet at Speakers Corner at 12.30pm.**

**AGM info is on page 14.**

**It's your chance to shine even more brightly.**

**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

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

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

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

## November meeting report – Graham Hemington

**Bringing the Quaggy River back to life in Sutcliffe Park**, by Matthew Blumber, Pamela Zollicofer and Maria de Jesus.

“A great example of environmental action” says the government, in praising the work of the volunteers of the Quaggy Waterways Action Group (QWAG).

Matthew Blumber (founder of the group) explained how it started: local people (a) wanted better control of the flooding and (b) disliked the Quaggy River flowing in concrete culverts and channels. In addition, the initial members of the group wanted a natural look to the river, i.e. meandering flow and typical riverside vegetation, ideas which were eventually welcomed by the local community.

Action to achieve these objectives began by persuading the National Rivers Authority and Lewisham Council to accept the proposals of QWAG. Subsequent planning of the project led to the council's contractors starting work: a low flow meandering channel was cut through the park following the original alignment of the river. The existing culvert was retained to take excess water in times of extreme flood levels; additional storage was provided by reshaping the round of the park to create a flood plain.

Also, boardwalks and pathways were built enabling visitors to get near the new river and the riverside plants.

Pamela Zollicofer told us about what the group is doing in 2010. Firstly, the three rivers clean-up (Quaggy, Ravensbourne and Pool.) Hundreds of local volunteers, kitted out in waders, walked rarely seen stretches of the Quaggy to get a river-level view of the world, while doing practical conservation work clearing the river and its bank:

(1) pulling out Himalayan Balsam (up to six feet high), an invasive plant whose seeds germinate easily in wet soil – in June 90 bags of balsam were removed.

(2) removing rubbish which gets into the river by littering, fly-tipping and being washed downstream in heavy rainfall. Minnows, sticklebacks and stone loach have been found in the river.

Other points: river pollution is noted. A bat detector has discovered two species of bat, namely Common and Soprano Pipistrelles. Dragonflies have also been seen. A geological survey has been carried out by Paul Rainey.

Maria de Jesus (committee member) spoke about the future, in particular completion of the restoration of the River Quaggy, including the huge challenge at the confluence of it and the Ravensbourne in Lewisham town centre and also of trying to create hedges for insects and bats.

Sutcliffe Park was revisited five years after the Quaggy restoration. The report of the visit said:

*/continued on page 7*

## Transport 2010 – from Ray Watson, transport campaigner

### Fares fair? Or Not

On the one hand the Government talks about being the greenest-ever, on the other it announces a 30 per cent rise in rail fares which will surely drive commuters back on the roads, adding to congestion and carbon emissions.

The rise will be phased in over four years but its full starkness is revealed by the fact that while passengers are getting little or no pay rise, the railways will for the first time be able to apply increases of three per cent above inflation - that is 5.8 per cent from January.

That rise applies to regulated fares, which cover fares like season tickets and long-distance off-peak journeys. Unregulated fares will rise even more.

To put things into perspective from a South East London standpoint, be thankful you are not commuting from, say, Brighton. An annual season ticket to London will rise by about £1000 over the next four years to £4071.

From January too, London tube fares will increase, this time two percentage points above inflation, taking a central London travel card to £27.60 a week.

And there is no escape for bus fares: the Government has cut 20 per cent from its £500 million fuel subsidy for bus companies, making it a certainty that fares will rise.

More locally, the toll for cars using the Dartford Crossing over the Thames is increasing from £1.50 to £2 in 2011, and £2.50 in 2012.

The transport minister is Philip Hammond who, by imposing these higher charges, is surely eating away at the ability of the Government to slash carbon emissions, which it is legally binding to do.

### Boris shot down

The same Mr Hammond recently said in a speech that the aviation industry must 'decarbonise' itself. He said he was relying on plane manufacturers to produce technological advances that would make planes more energy efficient.

Maybe. But he could be waiting a long time. Indeed, the Government recently showed its true environmental colours by failing to impose VAT on airline purchases such as fuel. A pity, because it could have been a good little earner.

A point in Mr Hammond's favour is that in the same speech he effectively killed off mayor Boris' pet scheme for a new airport in the Thames estuary. Well done!

### Flight points

*Gatwick*, knowing that it is not now going to be allowed to build a second runway, is going ahead with a development plan aimed at pushing up its passenger throughput from 32 million to 45 million, which would make it the 8<sup>th</sup> busiest in Europe and 31<sup>st</sup> in the world.

*Lydd*, scene of a long-running battle against its expansion, had its plans approved by the local council but the Government has halted the move and

*/continued on page 7*

## Transport 2000/2001 – from Ray Watson, transport campaigner

### From the December 2000 newsletter

There's a promise of much activity to occupy FoE in 2001: some heavyweight - and far- reaching - Government announcements, some stiff battles on the Biggin Hill Airport front, and some lobbying to push forward Bromley's transport plans.

In the national context, the Government is getting together its White Paper on controlling the growth of aviation and airports over the next 30 years. However, that will not be published until after the announcement of the result of the marathon public inquiry into the need for a fifth terminal at Heathrow as, clearly, what is decided there will make a huge difference to what planes fly from where.

At the same time, the Government is completing studies on the economic and environmental aspects of developing regional airports\_ Ministers are keen to develop regional airports in order to cut car journeys and assist local economies. This could be helpful in deterring development at Biggin Hill Airport if another larger airport dose by was selected for expansion - such as London City, Redhill or Mansion.

Another advantage of the regional airport studies is that the Government has ordered that they take into account important environmental issues such as noise and air pollution. It has already stated its intention in an earlier White Paper that airlines should pay the external costs of the pollution they create, if, for instance, a local council has to pay for noise reduction

measures for householders near an airport.

Local authorities have also been given powers to fine those who break noise codes.

Locally, Biggin Hill Airport's operators are awaiting the result of three actions, which they hope to force through, despite the public outcry earlier this year when expansion plans were announced.

Two court hearings are soon to come to a conclusion relating to Bromley Council's decision to oppose later operating hours and the restrictions in the lease the operator holds from the council. This latter includes items like restrictions of the size of aircraft allowed to use the airport. The third relates to a demand to build a 95,000sq ft hangar at the airport.

On broader transport matters, the Greater London Assembly is about to unveil its transport plan for the capital and this will include information as to whether Bromley and others have been granted money to integrate and improve public transport.

The council has published its interim transport plan for 2001-2 with various schemes due to be pushed forward to reduce car journeys to work in Bromley and to increase the number of cycle journeys.

Other schemes include a permanent park-and-ride service from the A21 to the town centre, safer walk-to-school routes and car sharing.

### **Sea levels plummet to alarming low**

Rising temperatures in the Arctic have caused ice levels to drop to record lows, US climate scientists have warned. The latest Arctic Report Card, issued annually by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reveals the widespread, continued and dramatic effects of global warming in the region.

Though there was a slowing-down in warming last year, in the first half of 2010 temperatures reached near record levels. Scientists say there is a powerful connection between ice cover and air temperatures. When temperatures warm, reflective ice melts and reveals darker surfaces underneath which absorbs more heat. (See poem on page 2 in this newsletter)

### **Great Advances in Chinese Energy Business**

Chinese solar panel makers now supply about 40 per cent of the Californian market, the largest in the USA, and the bulk of the European market, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, a research firm. Fang Peng the Chinese company chief executive of JA Solar has stated that at the end of this year they will have 1.8 Gigawatts of capacity and grown from 4,000 employees to more than 11,000.

This is a fine example of 'green energy' jobs and eco business development.

### **Cut and control fuel bills while going green**

Home electricity monitors such as the Owl or Energy Elite, which can be ordered online are simple hand-held gadgets which provide a real time display of the fuel being used. This sort of thing can make a real difference says Brooke Flanagan, the head of strategy and research at the Energy Saving Trust.

Under government plans, smart meters will also be installed by energy suppliers in all their customers' homes between 2012 and 2020. These will replace current electricity and gas meters and inform the energy supplier so that exact readings are obtained.

Another gadget is the AlertMe smart plug, costing £25 each, through which specific home appliances can be viewed and controlled. These are attached to plugs and sockets so that one can find out how much it costs to run an individual appliance. It would be good to see the price of these reduced however, as £25 is expensive.

Finally the AlertMe smart energy system sends information through a hub connected to a broadband router. Set-up costs start at £29.99, plus subscriptions from £1.99 per month, but AlertMe says that its system could save around 25% of energy bills each year.

**Man of the Trees, poem from Ann Garrett**

**Man of the Trees**

He said 'Stand-up everyone  
Imagine you are a tree  
Feel the depth of your roots  
Explore their way into the moist earth  
Let the energy surge up through your trunks  
Spread into your branches  
Seep into your luscious leaves  
Stand firmly together as a fearless forest'

So we spread our arms  
Channelled our young energies  
Into feeling our roots through ungainly legs  
In girlish giggles of expectation

Now I often think of the man of the trees  
With his message of preservation  
As rainforests are plundered for profit  
As loggers ruthlessly machine-saw  
Through the livelihoods of indigenous communities  
The real people of the trees

**Ann Garrett Ashley (October 2007)**

---

**November meeting report, *continued***

"Lasting success? Overall, Sutcliffe Park with its wetlands, meadows and scrub looking pretty good. It is a far cry from the dull monoculture which existed before the restoration work started. It's a real pay-off for the vision and work of many."

PS – Chinbrook Meadows, a similar project, was also very briefly mentioned by the speakers.

**Transport 2010, continued**

ordered a public inquiry which will take place in February and last 16 days. A high-powered group of environmentalists, including FoE, argue that a much busier airport would seriously affect the large amount of wildlife in the area.

*Bristol*, one of several provincial airports aiming high in development terms, has been given permission for a £150 million growth scheme. This is seen as a worrying development by the green lobby calling for an end to domestic flights.

## Soapbox item from Rob Clark - The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea

Since the recent laudable expansion of recycling in Bromley we have been presented with a stark choice it seems.

Following the pilot scheme across a quarter of the borough over the past two years we all now have the opportunity to allow the council to collect our unused kitchen waste and more of our waste plastic cartons and packing.

While it is good to be able to take part in the kitchen waste collection and composting, even if like me you already compost most of your kitchen waste, the plastics give a more difficult choice.

We have been given instructions of what to put in the green 'recycling' boxes but have also been informed that only the plastic bottles will continue to be recycled, any other cartons, trays etc. will be sent for incineration.

I find this slightly odd as the old argument for incineration was that everything could be burnt so why send

other waste to landfill and only burn the surplus plastic?

A question for those that know perhaps. Maybe they are getting us used to sorting these items out while they look for another recycling market. However, in the meantime we are left with the decision of whether to wash out all our cartons and trays and put them dutifully in the green bin to be burnt, or do we put them in the normal waste and send them to landfill?

A stark choice and no choice really I think. You'll find people on both sides who will say it's better to landfill and those who will say incineration to produce power is better. Neither is desirable though and recycling would be best (after reducing of course.)

So what do you do? Wash and 'recycle' or bin and bury?

*Health Warning – Soapbox items are the personal views of the writers. What do you think about the topics they've raised? Please send your responses to the editor at the address on page 2.*

## Fly the Bromley flag! – Climate Change march on December 4<sup>th</sup>

Saturday December 4 is an important day in the FoE calendar. It is the date for this year's climate change march through central London and we hope to have a full representation of Bromley FoE members to march behind our banner. This year's theme is Carbon Zero by 2030.

We will be joining the thousands that usually attend the event – other

environmental organisations, political parties, religious groups and organisations like the Women's Institute and the National Trust plus individuals of all ages and from all parts of the country. It may be a serious subject but the march is also fun, with bands and other entertainers.

*/continued on next page*



## Soapbox item from Ray Watson - We are not pushing our MPs!

Bromley FoE has a direct line to where the power lies in this country. We can contact our MPs at any time – perhaps preferably at 3 a.m. in the morning! – and give them our views on any subject we care to name. If enough people did that we might even get a result – the MP might agree with us and push for a new law. Well, if you are a FoE member, you have to be optimistic!

But the serious point is: Why, since the general election, has BFoE not been inundating our MPs with demands that keep the environment at the top of his agenda? Especially as some new policies announced by the coalition look anything but green. And remember this is the government that said it would be the greenest ever.

No, our three Bromley MPs have been allowed to get off the hook. With all the climate change and other statements that have come out of the new government we should have been peppering them with questions – questions that force them to declare

which of the new measures they are supporting or opposing, which policies they are trying to persuade ministers to adopt, what leadership are they showing in getting together like-minded MPs to convince the coalition to change its mind on some of its thinking.

Do we know anything about how our MPs are spending their time in Parliament? Not a lot.

Now is the time for BFoE to set itself a challenge for 2011. Do we have the commitment and the drive to ensure that we take our campaigns, national and local, to our MPs? Do we have the resolve to – if nothing else – write to them from time to time giving our views on the myriad environmental questions that are so important to us? We should do. It's our future.

*Health Warning – Soapbox items are the personal views of the writers. What do you think about the topics they've raised? Please send your responses to the editor at the address on page 2.*

## Fly the Bromley flag! - continued

The practicals: Bromley FoE members are asked to meet at Marble Arch at 12.30pm – the Marble Arch, which is situated on a large traffic-free island near Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park (nearest tube is Marble Arch).

The march will move off at about 1pm and wend its way through the West End to Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Parliament Sq where there will be a

rally with eminent speakers including Green MP Caroline Lucas, starting at 2.30pm.

It is a fun day, one where you can stand up and be counted, along with thousands of others to ensure that Parliament notes just how much support there is for action on carbon emissions. See you there!

## The nineties remembered

### Some of what the FoE newsletters had for us in the nineties

**In December '99** there was a speaker on Fairtrade. There was a letter from Judy pointing out the absence of sparrows in her neighbourhood. There was information from Diana about the Pesticides day of action. There were details of the lots for the following month's auction to raise funds to save Saltbox Hill SSSI.

**In December '98** there was an invitation to Bromley FoE's Christmas meal at Heather's in Deptford. There were plenty of ideas for post-Christmas recycling. The November meeting report was of a talk by local MEP Shaun Spiers on Genetically Modified Food. There was also a description of a rain-soaked visit to Down House by 20 or so FoE stalwarts.

**December '97** saw a talk on Climate Change and a Green Energy Future by an Underwood Street campaigner, as well as the usual mince pies other festive goodies. There was a report of the result of the Beckenham by-election, where a certain Jacqui Lait was elected with a majority of just over 1,200. There was news of the publication of an FoE book *Tomorrow's World – Britain's Share in a Sustainable Future*, which outlined FoE's vision for a sustainable future. Ahead of the January AGM, two pages of the newsletter were given over to post-holders explaining what they do, as a means of possibly persuading others to join in. And – the Christmas meal was again at Heather's.

**The December '96** meeting started with a presentation on a proposed leisure complex at Holwood House, followed by mince pies, of course. There was news of pollution monitoring and the Road Traffic Reduction Bill. There was information about the BSE crisis and Organic Annie's Gardening column. Bromley FoE had its own web page for the first time. And – the Christmas meal was again at Heather's.

**In December '95** Paul de Zylva looked back at FoE's achievements in the past year and forward to the aspirations for the coming year, followed by mince pies, of course. Louise gave us a list of ways of saving energy at home. John Bocock reported on the Permaculture talk at the November meeting and ended by saying "If the Scadbury Renewable Energy Centre gets under way we hope Carl and friends will advise us about having a permaculture plot there." This wasn't a reference to BEECHE was it ?? And – the Christmas meal was again at Heather's, this time with a minibus from Orpington.

**December '94** (newsletter no. 84) saw an update on plans to widen the M25, followed by mince pies, of course. Six pages of the newsletter were given over to a Christmas Carol for 1994 written by Mike Payne. Judy's November meeting report told of Mavis Righini's talk about her hedgehog rescue programme. Penelope pointed out the pitfalls of planting mulberry trees. And - the Christmas meal was at Hockney's in Croydon.

## World Development Movement – letter to supporters

### **URGENT ACTION: Don't let the UK lock people into poverty with climate loans**

We are sending you this letter as our No New Debt campaign has reached a critical stage and we urgently need you to join us in taking action. It's looking increasingly likely that the coalition government is planning to backtrack on its pre-election pledges by pushing new unfair debt onto developing countries to enable them to deal with a climate crisis they are not responsible for causing.

This is clearly unjust.

In the last copy of Action magazine that was sent a few weeks ago, you will have received our No New Debt 'send a pound' action. Since you received this, our campaign has taken a new twist. The Department for International Development (DfID) has been refusing to accept public donations to the UN Adaptation Fund, and is apparently even refusing to pass people's concerns on to the Secretary of State, Andrew Mitchell.

Initially, DfID started sending the envelopes and pounds back to us, with text crossed out. Now, the envelopes are being returned unopened, making it clear that the personal messages contained within are not being taken into account. In doing so, DfID appears to be contravening Andrew Mitchell's expressed desire to listen to public opinion on international development issues.

What's more, DfID are now threatening to pass the money on to a local

charity, which raises serious accountability issues, and is clearly against the wishes of the people who have taken part in the action. If DfID feels they can do this then they should be able to send the money to the UN Adaptation Fund.

Thank you if you have already sent your pound: there are more ideas of what you can do to ensure that this message is listened to on the back of this page. Please consider taking part in some of these.

If you haven't already sent a pound to Andrew Mitchell, it is more urgent than ever that you do, so that his department gets a clear message that we will not stand back and be ignored. If enough people like you speak out, we believe that together we really can prevent some of the world's least developed countries being saddled with millions of pounds of new unfair debt.

If you want to read more about DfID's response and our reaction, please go to [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk) or call Rosie on 020 7820 4900 and we can put a copy in the post.

Many thanks, Kirsty Wright, Senior campaigns officer, Climate justice campaign, email [wdm@wdm.org.uk](mailto:wdm@wdm.org.uk), [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk).

## FoE on – Recycling Rate, Meat and Dairy Law, Energy Outlook

### FoE says - Help us increase recycling to 70%

The UK Government is currently reviewing waste policy in England, and they want everyone to get involved and have their say. At the moment, the target for recycling waste collected by councils is only 50%. We currently recycle less than 40% of our waste, while Flanders in Belgium already recycles over 70%.

A higher target would

- \* reduce climate change emissions
- \* create thousands of new jobs
- \* help us move towards a zero waste economy

We must put pressure on the Government now to ensure ambitious yet achievable recycling targets are set for the next 15 years. With your help we can ensure the Government sets an ambitious recycling target in its draft policy.

Make your voice heard - please email Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for the Environment.

**Here's an example you can use -**

**Dear Secretary of State,**

Less than 40% of our waste is currently recycled in the UK. The current target of 50% is woefully short of where it needs to be if we're to stop burning and burying precious resources.

Please assure me that the Government will commit to a target for recycling 70% of municipal waste by 2020.

By being more ambitious with recycling we can save resources, combat climate change and create thousands of much-needed new green jobs.

See the FoE website at [http://www.foe.co.uk/get\\_involved/natural\\_resources.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/get_involved/natural_resources.html) for more info.

## FoE - MPs have voted on new meat and dairy law

The Sustainable Livestock Bill has fallen short of the 100 yes votes it needed to keep on track. Early on in the debate the word in Westminster was that we had the 100 MPs we needed to vote yes for the Bill.

The incredible final push from our supporters had certainly got the backing of enough politicians. But as the debate wore on - and hostile MPs made it impossible to start the voting - some supportive MPs were forced to head off for other commitments. But

despite losing the vote we mustn't lose sight of what we have achieved - or that the campaign goes on.

### **So what have we achieved?**

We may not have got 100 MPs to turn up and vote for a new law, but many more from across the political spectrum want to see the issue tackled. When 60,000 actions are taken by members of the public, issues stay on the political radar.

*/continued on next page*

## FoE on – Recycling Rate, Meat and Dairy Law, Energy Outlook

### FoE says World energy outlook grim without urgent climate action

Commenting on the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook report published recently, Friends of the Earth's Head of Climate Mike Childs said:

"The outlook for the planet is grim unless governments commit to tough international action to rapidly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and tackle climate change.

"The IEA report makes it clear China will win the race to develop tomorrow's renewable technologies unless the UK and other countries match their investment - the coalition must urgently back policies to help Britain build a secure, green and sustainable future.

"By giving greater support to renewable energy and electric cars and stopping fossil fuel subsidies we can create new jobs and industries as

well as cut climate-changing emissions.

"Ministers must start by ensuring the forthcoming Energy Bill sets us on the path to a cleaner economy, including action to make all our homes warm and energy efficient."

### Notes to editors

1. Friends of the Earth is calling on wealthy nations to take a lead by agreeing to cut their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 (based on 1990 levels).
2. World Energy Outlook 2010:
3. Friends of the Earth believes the environment is for everyone. We want a healthy planet and a good quality of life for all those who live on it. We inspire people to act together for a thriving environment. More than 90 per cent of our income comes from individuals so we rely on donations to continue our vital work. For further information visit [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk).

## FoE - MPs have voted on new meat and dairy law, *continued*

Many politicians have called this the best supported Private Members' Bill they've known for a very long time. We have also pulled an ever-growing and influential coalition behind the campaign. Even the National Farmers Union has called the Bill "admirable". Perhaps most important was the decision of the Labour Party to support the Bill's progress.

### What's next?

Of course a new law would have been a massive leap forward for planet-

friendly farming. So we'll explore what more we can do with the Bill with supportive MPs - but there are other opportunities too. Labour's support is an opportunity to keep pressure on the coalition.

We'll keep opposing the destruction and pushing for real action for planet-friendly farming - and we'll make sure our MOOvement of supporters has every opportunity to help.

The response of our supporters has convinced us that we'll still get there.

## **AGM – Green Roofs – Mind Concert – Articles wanted**

### **Bromley FoE's AGM – Tuesday January 4<sup>th</sup>**

Your chance to shine!

January's group meeting is also our annual general meeting – and it gives you the chance to make an impact on the work we do. Officers and campaigners are up for election and it would boost the amount of campaigning we do if you would join them in taking on a task. How much time you spend, or what job you would like to take on, is entirely your decision; no one pushes you to do more than you wish.

Bromley FoE looks like having a busy programme in 2011 and you extra support would ensure that we keep the environment well to the fore in the crucial days ahead.

Please talk to Ann, Sheila or Ray about thoughts and ideas you may have to add your efforts to the work already being done.

You will find it very satisfying!

### **Green, green grass on homes**

Will it happen here? The city council of Antwerp has ruled that from February the flat roofs of all new and renovated properties in the Belgian town must have 'green roofs' to grow grass and plants in order to reduce heat loss, and absorb sunlight and rainwater.

Subsidies will be available to homeowners to make the conversation.

Also in Belgium, the regional housing minister of Flanders has ruled that property owners who do not insulate their roofs will not be permitted to rent out the property

### **Bromley Mind Christmas Concert**

It is led by The London Concert Chorus prior to their concerts at the Royal Albert Hall (we are effectively their dress rehearsal I gather, but it is all very professional and was a great success last year).

The venue is The Great Hall, Civic Centre Bromley on Sunday 5 December at 2.30pm. The tickets are £10 each (£5 for children under 16). Contact Debbie Witherick on 07710 561248 if you are interested in going.

### **Editor's plea**

**This newsletter depends mainly on input from you, Bromley FoE's members.**

**At the moment, only a very small number of you write anything for the newsletter.**

**It would be great if more of you did contribute something, whether it's from a group you are involved with, or controversial thoughts on a matter that concerns FoE.**

**Please send items to the editor at the address on page 2.**

**Maximum length 470 words (that's roughly what will fit into one page)**

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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

### Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Secretary:

Ray Watson 01959-571566  
*email – r.watson865@btinternet.com*

### Treasurer:

Ivy Smith 01689-872642

### Press Officer:

vacant

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Outings organisers:

John & Sue Boccock 020-8464-5990  
*email – johnboccock@hotmail.com*

### Newsletter Editor:

John Street 020-8460-1078  
*email - 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*

### Bromley FoE web site:

**[www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)**

Peter Gandolfi  
*famgando@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](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com).

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

.....