



December 2014
No. 324

ewsletter

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

December Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Marie-Louise Kerr – Treasures of Bromley Museum

A wide-ranging talk about the history of the Museum

followed by

Seasonal social and festive fayre

Tuesday 2nd December - 7.30pm

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Please fill in your questionnaire (see insert and page 11)

Diary dates:

Dec 2nd (Tues)

Bromley FoE's December meeting: Treasures of Bromley Museum and traditional seasonal Social Evening

Dec 6th (Sat)

Progressive Bromley Film Co-op: 6pm shared food, 7pm film – Brian Hawes Peace Camp at Westminster (Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley)

Dec 7th (Sun)

Christmas Bazaar at Croydon Ecology Centre (*see below*)

Jan 6th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's January meeting with Joe Jenkins, FoE's Director of Engagement + our AGM

December meeting

Marie-Louise Kerr, Curator of Bromley Museum. will talk about the treasures of the Museum. This promises to be a wide-ranging talk about the Museum's history, its artefacts and the building that houses it.

This will be followed by Bromley FoE's Seasonal Social and Festive Fayre.

If you are able to contribute items of food or drink for the evening, please contact Sue Bockock; non-alcoholic drinks only, please. We shall be serving our traditional non-alcoholic punch.

Croydon Ecology Centre

invite us to their Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 7th December 12.00 - 4.30 pm

at Heathfield House, Coombe Lane, Croydon CR0 5RH

Stalls, lunches featuring organic homemade soups and cream teas.

There will also be the opportunity to have a tour of historic Heathfield House.

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 14TH 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.

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

November meeting report – Ray Watson

One 'ordinary' woman's horror story ensured the rapt attention of members at the November meeting. It was her story of an unending battle with officialdom to rid her neighbourhood of a waste mountain that affects every aspect of her life.

She is Jan Wilkins of St Paul's Cray, who, with her neighbours, has been living with the smell and noise of the tip for three years where fires are almost a daily occurrence. So too have three schools and local homeowners and businesses. Windows cannot be left open, traffic is delayed by police and fire investigations at the site and children cannot play in a local park. Sometimes work and deliveries of waste go on at night. She claims that hundreds of trees on the site have been destroyed.

And all this at the bottom of her garden. The heap comprises of 20,000—30,000 tonnes of combustible waste, 40ft high and 60ft wide. It overshadows her home and nearby properties. So far, there have been 23 significant fires taking up 2000 fire brigade man-hours, plus a large amount of police time investigating possible arson. It is estimated that it would take in excess of £600,000 to clean up the site.

Sue has led demands for the authorities to act, whether Bromley Council or the Environment Agency. She claims that residents have received virtually no support from her MP, councillors, council officials or senior officers at the Environmental Agency. Some legal actions were only started by the authorities when

national media publicity came to the fore.

She told the meeting that numerous court actions to enforce a cleanup, right up to High Court level, have been ignored by the company leasing the site. Fines have been imposed but not paid. Other fines, such as for ignoring restrictions in the lease, were so small that they had little impact. The situation now is that the company leasing the site have suddenly walked off the job, taking all their equipment with them. Meanwhile, the Environment Agency is removing a small amount of waste – probably 2500 tonnes.

What is not clear is who will pay for any work. Is it the responsibility of the council – meaning that Bromley residents get the bill? Is it the Environment Agency – i.e. the taxpayer – that pays? Is it the owner of the site – or is it the waste clearance company that holds a sub-lease?

Sue Watkins has a dream: she would like to see all parties involved act together to get the waste mountain removed and the area restored to what it was before the nightmare began: an attractive green area for walkers and children to enjoy. A laudable dream, but one that seems unlikely to be fulfilled soon in spite of the considerable efforts of 'an ordinary woman'.

Note: Bromley FoE has contributed to efforts to help local residents by putting pressure on the Environment Agency to clear the waste mountain.

Visit to Croydon Ecology Centre – Sheila Brown

Sadly the weather changed at the beginning of November but the Croydon Ecology Centre still provided an excellent destination of a dull Sunday afternoon. We were given an excellent guided tour by Mick, one of the volunteers, who was most knowledgeable.

The house and estate of Heathfield belonged to one Raymond Riesco (quite a character – do look him up) who on his death in 1964 donated it to Croydon Council for use by the people of Croydon, with the condition they pay death duties and maintain public access, and that the house be used for educational purposes during the lives of his grandchildren. Croydon in fact uses it as its staff training centre and keeps the gardens open for public access.

The Ecology Centre has been in place for 17 years, reclaiming an area which had become completely overgrown and replacing old trees which had been there prior to 1900 by reference to a survey from that time and re-planting old species of fruit trees with reference to Brogdale (home of the National Fruit Collection). The area is a wildlife haven, having lain untouched for 25 years.

We saw two plum trees which were parent species to the 'Victoria' plum created specially for the jubilee of the Queen. We also saw an apple tree of a very old variety 'Lord Loddington' of which very few still exist, plus a 150-year-old Bramley. We were introduced to Medlar Fruit which have to be eaten when they look as if they are rotting, the flesh best scooped out with a

spoon. Two of our group bravely sampled them. Many of the fruit trees have their bases covered by carpet to aid water retention, grass otherwise absorbing 95% of the water.

We were also introduced to a Mulberry Tree. The fruit is edible; negotiating the hard and bitter skin yields a rewarding tasty and succulent fruit.

With the help of outside volunteers a series of ponds was dug; volunteers came from Nescot (North East Surrey College of Technology), Trinity School, local Brownies and the Quaker Community, all of which dug a pond. The ponds provide habitats for various types of newt, including the Great Crested, a protected species. We were told how dragonfly larvae live under water for three years, then emerge and live as dragonflies for only three months.

Foxes frequent the site and have a purpose built den for the vixens to come and give birth. There are five badger setts. We also saw a most sophisticated Bug Hotel which had several storeys with habitats for different insects, for instance, bumblebees apparently like flower pots. The whole of this was covered in chicken wire to deny access to badgers and other predators. We saw the sophisticated compost rotation scheme and the hay store, plus several beehives, each home to some 30,000 bees and producing 100 jars of honey per hive.

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Croydon Ecology Centre (cont'd) ++ Bromley's Green Gym

Two sheep, Sam and Ben, are a feature of the Ecology Centre. Sam is aged 4 and Ben only 2 and very new to Croydon, hence still very shy. They are of a breed called Herdwick which was very prolific in Cumbria 90 years ago but then very nearly became extinct.

The writer Beatrix Potter was instrumental in keeping the breed going. The wool is not soft and therefore unsuitable for clothing but is excellent for carpets and in building insulation.

The ornamental gardens are open to the public year-round and present a wonderful panorama of autumn colour. Raymond Riesco arranged a surprise present for his wife in the form of a Cedar Tree (our guide thought it was a Cedar of Lebanon but FoE member Graham established that it was an Atlas Cedar).

In organising the surprise, Robert took his wife to London while it was brought in and planted, came back after dark and there it was next morning when she drew back the curtains! Earlier on the day we were there, Croydon Friends of the Earth had planted a Bee World in part of the ornamental garden.

On Sunday 7th December – Croydon Ecology Centre hold their Christmas Bazaar – see page 2 for more info.

Visit to the Green Gym, Bromley

Judy Palmer writes:

The Conservation Volunteers group, you may remember, have a Green Gym site in West Street, Bromley (just past Sainsburys). The area is called College Green and this open space has been rejuvenated by the group – they have even constructed an insect hotel on one side, it's very impressive!

Photo of the insect hotel available on request.

One side of the area is bordered by College Slip – a pedestrian pathway linking West Street to London Road. If you have not been to Bromley for a while, this is all part of the 'North Village' which is having a make-over. It is beginning to come together now, and looks rather smart.

Well, College Slip is also going to have a make-over courtesy of the Green Gym volunteers and by next Spring / Summer it should be another haven for wildlife.

If you would like to join them, volunteers are always welcome, they meet weekly on Fridays from 11.00 – 14.00 and in December they will be laying dead-hedging, constructing another pergola and more seating.

See facing page: There is a great Bee Count 2014 poster available to download on the FoE website (www.foe.co.uk) or on both FoE's Facebook and our Facebook page, with more stats provided.

The Bees News, Judy Palmer

The Government has now published the National Pollinator Strategy (NPS); many thanks to everyone who has helped us in campaigning on this cause – it is another step towards helping our bees and other pollinators in their survival.

Paul de Zylva, our friendly FoE Nature campaigner, has commented on the NPS, and some points he has blogged about are –

*There will be a proper national bee and pollinator monitoring scheme which will provide much better data on how bees are faring

*The Vision (in the NPS) is good: ‘Our vision is to see pollinators thrive, so they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, while providing other benefits for our native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us’ .

*The outcomes the NPS is aiming for are good:

- More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter) supporting our pollinators across the country;
- Healthy bees and other pollinators which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events;
- No further extinctions of known threatened pollinator species;
- Enhanced awareness across a wide range of businesses, other organisations and the public of the essential needs of pollinators;

- Evidence of actions taken to support pollinators

So, we get a scheme which helps with

- Planning guidance to local authorities about helping bees
- Stronger emphasis on the importance of protecting wildflower meadows
- Recognition of the need to minimise risk of pesticides

But it falls short as it doesn't support **all** farmers to help save bees and the action on pesticides doesn't go far enough - it refuses to rule out pesticides that threaten pollinators, so the Bee Cause will continue to be worked on nationally, and locally, in 2015 when we will be promoting the Bees' Needs across the Borough.

We wish you a buzzzzzzing festive season!

The national Bee Count,

The results of the national FoE Bee Count have been published and in a brief round-up of stats:

- 832,110 bees were spotted
- in 99,854 counts
- by 23,732 people
- the 2014 most seen bee was the yellow & black bumblebee
- no 2 was the honey bee
- no 3 was the tree bumblebee
- no 4 was red-tailed bumblebee
- and no 5 was the brown bumblebee.

Campaigns. Climate and Energy – Ann Garrett

Campaigns

A very successful stall was held on October 25th in the Bromley Mall Precinct. We were joined by 5 Bromley Against Fracking campaigners which was a big support and boost. Grateful thanks to Bill, Annette and Sheila who represented Bromley FoE. The Mall manager said he fully supported / endorsed all our campaigns which was very encouraging!

Climate and Energy

Wind Farms Rejected

Eric Pickles the Communities Secretary has turned down applications to build 19 onshore wind farms in the past year. This has prompted allegations that he is playing politics with green energy. The Court of Appeal, however, granted the firm Ecotricity the right to challenge Mr Pickle's refusal to permit four wind turbines at Black Ditch on the Somerset Levels. His decision was made against the recommendation of a planning inspector.

The World is Getting Hotter

The temperature of the Earth is on course to increase 3.5C by 2040 as the demand for energy increases. Long term projections say the rise is likely despite the increase in renewable energy. The International Energy Agency's warning comes despite a pledge by the US to reduce pollution by between 26 and 28 per cent by 2025.

On a positive note the Agency's report states 'renewables are expected to go from strength to strength and it is

incredible that we can now see a point where they become the world's No 1 source of energy generation'.

Nuclear Trains Action Group Report

The most recent newsletter has stated that nuclear power is in crisis. Photographs leaked to the Ecologist show dilapidated nuclear fuel ponds.

Two reactors each at Heysham and Hartlepool shut down in August because of the discovery of cracking in Heysham 1 Boiler spine. EDF announced on Oct 17th that even when they are restarted they would be run at only 75% to 80% of capacity to "prevent high temperatures causing further cracks at the aging plants".

Reactor 3 at Dungeness was taken off-line for several days on Oct 13th due to a fault in the main boiler feed pump, and two serious breakdowns at Hunterston nuclear plant have also been reported. Large gas circulators vital for cooling the reactor and preventing meltdown were damaged when the lubricating oil was switched off by mistake. This caused the turbine generator to shake more than it should, and then cracking in the reactor's graphite bricks was discovered.

Blue LEDs

Blue light emitting diodes could save humanity a quarter of its global electricity use. High energy blue light could also be used to form the next generation of energy-saving lamps. A trio of Japanese scientists will be awarded a Nobel prize in December for their invention.

Fireworks, the new 'F' word? - Sophia Lyons

The use of Fireworks in the UK has increased considerably in recent years. Guy Fawkes used to be a fairly isolated 'firework event' but now fireworks are let off for all sorts of celebrations including Diwali, Chinese New Year, private parties, music concerts and festivals.

For some, Fireworks has become the new 'F' word. Particularly for pet owners, most of whom will tell you their pets suffer terribly during the main 'firework season'.

Here are a few facts that you may not know about fireworks:

- It's estimated in the UK, we spend around £380,000,000 (yes, that's £380 MILLION!) on fireworks every year during a four week period in October/November.
- Every year, around 10 people in the UK will lose their eyesight through firework accidents.
- Ironically, every year, Assistant Dogs are sedated, retrained and in some cases even retired after being traumatised by the irresponsible use of fireworks?
- According to www.yougov.co.uk, 67% of adults say "fireworks should only be let off at properly organised displays."
- Vulnerable people such as those with dementia, autism, and learning difficulties and those with illness, can find fireworks very unsettling and distressing. Particularly when they are used randomly and are unexpected.

- The chemicals that fireworks release into the atmosphere, is a poisonous cocktail, including arsenic compounds, barium nitrate, copper compounds, lithium, mercury, sulphur dioxide and many more. These chemicals are known to be capable of causing respiratory problems and can be carcinogenic.
- Fireworks are explosives!! In a country that is otherwise Health & Safety mad, untrained members of the public are able to purchase and detonate toxic, dangerous and flammable explosives near to adults and children, wildlife, pets, livestock and buildings.

Isn't it time for change in the current Firework Regulations?

A first step would be to have Licensed Public Displays Only and to ban private sales. Lovers of fireworks still get the experience but this would reduce the quantity of fireworks used and stop the unfair, dangerous use of fireworks being let off at will in back gardens without consideration to the community.

New ways of celebrating events without fireworks should be encouraged, such as music and light displays and digital effects. An opportunity for real creative talent to produce events that are clean, safe and spectacular!

'[Fireworks Aren't Fun For Everyone](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fireworks-Arent-Fun-For-Everyone/1478971269050580)' is a new campaign, support and awareness group on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fireworks-Arent-Fun-For-Everyone/1478971269050580>

Bromley Council's Autumn Update – Budget savings have to be made

Leader's comment from Stephen

Carr: We are all aware of government funding cuts through news bulletins across the media. Their impact locally means the council must make further budget savings of more than £60 million in the next four years. This is in addition to substantial savings already made.

Last year, feedback about what you valued most helped us make some difficult decisions. Again this year we would like your views as we set the budget for 2015/16 and beyond. While we remain committed to high standard, value-for money services, it is important that we hear your priorities as a reduced budget will inevitably mean a much smaller role for the council.

A much smaller council will mean we will all have to do things in a different way. Taking more responsibility within our families and communities so that those who need our services most will be able to get the help they need. It will inevitably come down to a combination of paying more council tax and ceasing to provide some services.

Rest assured we continue to drive out inefficiencies by examining closely everything we do and how we do it. We also work to maximise our income as well as arguing strongly for a fairer government funding deal for our borough. We are proud of our robust financial management, but efficiencies alone will not bridge the budget gap we are anticipating over the next few years.

We may have to stop providing some youth services or close some libraries. Changes could also lead to you having to provide more of your own care for family members as there will not be enough money in the system to meet the rising demand we are experiencing for social care.

Our budget, your views

Bromley Council is calling for residents to take part in an online survey before 7 December so that senior councillors are aware of their views as they reach the difficult decisions that have to be made about the budget for 2015/16 and beyond.

The Council has to save more than £60 million over the next four years from an annual net budget of just over £200 million. This is in addition to substantial savings already made over the past few years. Find the survey and more information at www.bromley.gov.uk/OurbudgetYourviews

Annette Rose writes:

Bromley Council have to save £60 million over the next 4 years. I feel there is a danger that some environmental issues could fall to the bottom of the agenda.

If you haven't already done so, please could you fill in their online questionnaire? It needs to be done by 7th December.

If you don't have the internet, you can do this in your local library.
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FoE say - Get your Christmas Bee Saver Kit today

If you're looking for Christmas present ideas then we have just the thing for you. Our Christmas Bee Saver Kit is the ideal gift for friends and family who want to help Britain's bees. Will you donate £15 today to get a special Christmas Bee Saver Kit and help save hungry bees?

Our Christmas Bee Saver Kit is packed with everything you need to help bees - including wildflower seeds, a bee-friendly garden planner, a step-by-step guide to becoming a Bee Saver, a bee-identification poster and bee-themed recipes.

You'll also get a festive card and wrapping paper to make this present look the bee's knees.

Thousands of you covered the UK in wildflowers this year, providing food and shelter for homeless and hungry bees. Many bees are now going into hibernation, and when they awake they'll be searching for food. By ordering a Christmas Bee Saver Kit you'll be encouraging others to do their bit to help bees in 2015.

Why is it so important to save bees? Bees provide a crucial service, pollinating 75 per cent of our main food crops and favourite products like apples, strawberries and tomatoes.

If we lost British bees, scientists estimate that it would cost the UK over £1.8 billion every single year to pollinate crops by hand. Put simply, the threat to bees is a threat to our food chain as we know it.

So you see, ordering a Christmas Bee Saver Kit today can make a real difference. We only have a limited number of these special Christmas kits, so please order today.

P.S. Don't forget to order by Tuesday 16th December so that we can post your kit in time for Christmas! Find it on the FoE website at <https://www.foe.co.uk/page/get-your-bee-saver-kit>

Council savings, continued

There are several mentions of environmental issues in the questions. There is also a section there for suggestions on how to save money. I have suggested planting long lasting shrubs and plants for bees and insects in council gardens rather than throwing out bedding plants each year.

Bill Priestley, our Gardening Correspondent, writes:

December: Making your garden tools last a long time is a good environmental thing to do. So don't leave them out in the rain to rust and rot. Now is a good time to clean, oil and sharpen tools so they are ready for use in the Spring.

If the ground is not frozen the dormant season is a good time to transplant shrubs and perennials. It is also a good time for pruning apple trees and grapevines. Look out for holly with berries on to cut for Christmas decorations.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas from the potting shed.

FoE Campaign News - Stop the Trojan Horse Trade Treaties

What would get 600 people to turn out on a rainy Saturday afternoon in November? To hear four parliamentarians and three other guests talk about a four letter abbreviation? Weird as it may seem that is exactly what happened in Bristol at a cross-party debate on TTIP, organised by Bristol Friends of the Earth, 38 Degrees and Positive Money with the support of Ecotricity.

Word's really getting around about TTIP – a controversial new trade deal being cooked up in secret between the EU and the US.

The major event was organised by Bristol Friends of the Earth, with support from our friends at 38 Degrees, Positive Money and Ecotricity.

Local MPs Kerry McCarthy (Labour), Charlotte Leslie (Cons), Stephen Williams (LD) and Green MEP Molly Scott Cato were left in no doubt about the scale of concern and anger about a deal that threatens to cut regulations and give more power to mega-corporations.

What's wrong with TTIP

Big business, and the UK Government, are its biggest cheerleaders.

The deal is supposedly about reducing trade barriers across the Atlantic, making it easier for US firms to sell in the EU, and vice versa.

But what it really means is cutting precious social and environmental protections.

And it's really about giving yet more power to big business – including the right to sue democratically elected Governments in secret courts if regulators hit profits.

Guardian commentator George Monbiot recently called TTIP a "gunpowder plot against democracy".

People and the planet have never more than now needed governments that stand up to powerful businesses, and which think an economy is about more than just growth at any cost.

It's time to stand up against TTIP. There's a petition against TTIP that's linked to from the FoE website at <https://www.foe.co.uk/news/act-now-stop-these-trojan-horse-trade-treaties>

Bromley FoE Questionnaire

Annette Rose writes: Hopefully you will find a questionnaire enclosed in your newsletter. We would be grateful if you could complete this and return it to the box at a monthly meeting or post it back to me. It is quite a few years since we asked our group about their views and your feedback will be of great help in our forward planning.

There is an option to include an email address, which would enable us to send you the occasional update on group activities between monthly meetings. You can opt out of these at any time of course.

Thank you in advance for your help.

WDM / Global Justice Now - A new phase for our organisation

It is impossible to defeat poverty and build a fairer world without challenging power. The power some corporations wield over the world's resources plays a major role in fostering poverty, inequality and injustice.

At the same time, communities around the world are working together to challenge this power and create a more democratic and equal world. We stand with them.

WDM was set up over 40 years ago to challenge a system that allows a few to use the planet's resources to generate incredible wealth, while many millions of people are unable to access the essential resources they need to live decent lives.

Despite our victories, the disparity between 'haves' and 'have-nots' has grown and the inequality of wealth and power has reached monumental proportions. Eighty five people have the same wealth as half of the world's population.

This inequality is not accidental, but a consequence of our economic model and of political decisions. Helped by political elites, big business has become so powerful that it is able to monopolise ever more resources and subvert our democracy. Right across the world, the 'law of the market' has been extended into all aspects of our lives — healthcare and education, land and food, housing and the environment.

The term 'development' once denoted breaking the dependence of the poor world on the rich world but today it has come to mean unequal, unsustainable

growth and the onward march of the market.

In 2015, we will relaunch under the name 'Global Justice Now' to make it clearer what we stand for, to reach new people and to re-energise our campaigns against corporate power.

All human beings need certain resources such as food, housing and healthcare to lead a decent life. The absence of these resources is poverty. In a fair world, these things would be available to all, in accordance with the earth's natural limits.

Around the world, movements and communities of people are making that vision of social and economic justice a reality. Just look at the rapidly growing movement for food sovereignty, which allows communities to control their food. Or energy justice, which aims to extend access to those currently deprived in a sustainable manner.

We want to spend more time supporting alternatives to the corporate power we oppose.

In short, our relaunch is an opportunity to do more of what we do well and reach more people. We will amplify the voices of those trying to prevent the takeover of their resources, forge a community for change here in Britain and pressure the political system to control the power of big business.

We hope you'll continue to be part of the movement for global justice.

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WDM update – Energy Justice campaign

Last month we hosted activists from Colombia and Indonesia who are fighting destructive energy projects in their communities, and who came to the UK to challenge the involvement of London-listed BHP Billiton at their AGM.

Rogelio from FECODEMIGUA, the network of community groups that are fighting the Cerrejon coal mine in Colombia, put it like this:

“The coal that comes from Cerrejon is dirty coal, stained by the blood and sweat of the people of La Guajira. In Europe, people enjoy light at the suffering of these communities. Oil is the blood of the land, and coal is like its bones. People are dying of thirst whilst Cerrejon is using 17,000 gallons of water every day to clear the land.”

As part of the campaign, we have joined forces with groups in Indonesia and Australia to highlight the pathetic compensation – half a penny per square metre – that local people have been given for their land which will be destroyed by new mines BHP Billiton is planning in Indonesian Borneo. So far 8257 people have taken action to demand justice for the people of Borneo. If you haven't yet, there's still time before the company's second AGM in Adelaide later this month. (The company is listed in both the UK and Australia.)

A week later, we had good news from campaigners in South Africa who have been fighting plans by multinational companies Anglo-American and Vedanta to build a coal mine and power station. Both projects have been

put on hold – and our allies sent special thanks to WDM for organising solidarity protests in the UK.

Just days afterwards, we welcomed recommendations by MPs on the parliamentary business committee that companies wanting to list on the London Stock Exchange be screened on their social and environmental standards. This is something we and other groups have been demanding for several years, and which WDM policy officer Alex Scrivener gave evidence to the committee about as part of their inquiry. We're waiting now to make sure the government follows this recommendation.

WDM News, *continued*

Over the next year we will:

- Create a cutting edge activist network to allow more campaigners across the country to form new relationships and get out and change the world.
- Organise a major activist conference, Take Back Our World, in London on 21 February 2014. Save the date now. We will hear from African, South American and Asian speakers, build skills and knowledge and form new campaigning relationships.
- Produce a ground breaking report to challenge the media's myths about poverty, inequality and corporate power.
- Use exciting and engaging techniques to campaign on food, energy and trade.

Situations Vacant ++ Re-User Items

BROMLEY FoE - SITUATIONS VACANT

Treasurer

Is there anybody out there with a flair for numbers who would like to be Bromley Friends of the Earth's treasurer? Sheila has been filling this role alongside being joint co-ordinator but would be very happy to pass this on to someone with the necessary skills. The job consists of recording expenditure and income including subscriptions, banking, making payments and issuing cheques and drawing up year-end accounts for the AGM.

Campaigning

We are also seeking to increase our campaigning team. Please give some thought to this ahead of our AGM in January.

Reporter

If words are your thing, we are looking for someone to join our team who write reports of our monthly meetings. You would be asked to do this no more than twice a year.

Please talk to Ann or Sheila if you require further details on any of these roles.

Being a Crafty Re-User – Judy Palmer

Do you enjoy thinking of ideas for re-using pre-loved items? Would you like to share your ideas? If so, our Re-User column is the perfect home for them!

So as a first thought – winter's on its way and if you have a draughty door, re-use some old towels to stop the draught.

It's a nice simple project..... Just roll up a towel or two, secure with two or three elastic bands to stop it unrolling, then cover with material and secure the ends with elastic bands again, then cover them with a pretty ribbon tied up in a bow. Job done!

This one is sewn but if you don't sew you could wrap material round the towels twice which should work quite well. It beats getting cold feet anyway.....

Also - Re-User Item [2]– Annette Rose

Order your Christmas tree now! I have an 8 foot Christmas tree growing in my garden that has to go. It will be chopped down for you for when you need it in December. Buyer to collect from my garden in Petts Wood. £10 donation to BFoE please. Contact Annette Rose on 020 8402 7586.

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Campaigns –

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Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

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John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and
Ray Watson

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

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: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

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

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