



**Friends of
the Earth
Bromley**



*December 2018
No. 372*

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

December Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Seasonal Social

Come and join us for

Festive Fayre, Frivolity and Fun

Tuesday 4th December - 7.30pm (*prompt start please*)

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER *****

Contact details inside front cover.

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*

Diary dates: December

1st December (Sat) **Campaign against Climate Change** are planning a Climate Demo. This is timed to be at the start of the UN climate talks in Poland, For further details go to www.climatecc.org and you can contact Ann Garrett to arrange to meet up at the demo.

December 4th (Tue) **Bromley FoE's monthly meeting.** Our Christmas social. Bring some nibbles to share.

December 8th (Sat) **Orpington Field Club** will be hosting a talk at the BEECHE centre at High Elms Country park. Alison Ryter will be taking a positive look on how nature can thrive in some of the places we least expect. Based mostly on some Kent Wildlife Trust reserves. 1.30-3.30. A £3 donation includes refreshments.

December 30th (Sun) **Friends of Jubilee Park Winter Walk.** Meet at the Blackbrook Lane car park at 10.30am for a one hour walk over rough or muddy terrain.

January 1st (Tue) **New Year's Day Bank Holiday – NO meeting**

January 8th (Tue) **Bromley FoE's monthly meeting and AGM**

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

December Meeting – Tuesday 4th December 2018

Seasonal Social

After a busy year of campaigning, we like to keep our December meeting light hearted with seasonal festive fayre, a chance to chat and a few poems and songs.

Please contact Sue Bockock if you are able to contribute to the feast!
Non-alcoholic drinks only.

Next Newsletter - copy details

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** SUNDAY 16TH 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 – Anne Clark

This month saw us viewing a short version of a more full length film, which everyone should see, called 'Plastic Ocean'. Directed by Australian journalist Craig Leeson, it started as an adventure to film his beloved Blue Whale but becomes a shocking discovery of plastic debris floating in the Indian Ocean.

With the help of world record breaking free-diver Tanya Streeter, they travel across the globe reporting on the havoc caused by plastic use in the past decades. Taking two weeks to find his blue whale, Craig's team dive to film a female (the size of a freight train) with her youngster, explaining how whales draw all the plankton in for their food and discard the unwanted.

But plastic gets trapped and blocks their systems; even when microplastics are ingested, toxins are released to become stored in their tissue. A part of the Indian Ocean was thought to be pristine and unspoilt but 1200 feet down there were old tyres resting and on the sea bed one and a half miles down, there were plastic bottles, never to biodegrade.

Around the Cayman Islands the rubbish was very bad and on Lord Howe Island, where sea birds breed, often feeding on floating plastic mistaken for food for their young, a dead chick was opened up and 276 pieces of plastic were found.

Craig explained that there were five currents running through the planet's oceans and waste will move towards the centre of the 'gyre.' Beautiful marine photography is contrasted to

heavily polluted seas, cities, and dumps full of plastic waste. Experts are interviewed throughout the film to add insight and problems derived from plastic as an estimated five trillion pieces are currently floating in our oceans.

Microplastics when ingested release toxins and become stored in tissue which can, via the food chain, end up on our dinner tables – to cause many health problems including cancer, immune system and child development issues. Unfortunately fish is our main source of protein.

Because plastic is TOO durable but cheap, developing countries use plastics extensively without proper waste management, although a large percentage of plastic waste is due to just a handful of countries.

Single use and products containing plastic must be avoided where possible. Recyclable ones could be used as fuel maybe, but something must be done now, not in 2025; otherwise we are poisoning our marine life and poisoning ourselves.

After a break, we discussed the film and a few group suggestions were made, including:

- ** Write to Lidl and supermarkets and NHS in the borough about changing their usage
- ** Reduce plastics to only recyclable types
- ** Oil fired central heating using up plastics for fuel

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The Mall Campaign Stall

A big thank you to those who turned up on October 27th, a bitterly cold day, to support our stall with Bromley Against Fracking. Despite the weather, members of the public seemed more receptive to taking leaflets and looking at our materials. We thought this was due to the publicity given to the earth tremors in Lancashire where Cuadrilla have begun fracking at Preston New Road.

Climate, Energy and Transport

Poland Climate Conference

Whilst writing this we plan to have our FoE banner at the Dec 1st London Climate march and rally which coincides with the beginning of the climate talks in Poland, and which will be reported on in the next newsletter.

However, there is a major concern that an important climate study due to be presented at the talks, is playing down warnings about global warming in order to keep climate doubters on board.

Countries such as the US, Saudi Arabia and Australia are reluctant to cut emissions, but if governments do not recognise the scale and urgency of the risks, they may underestimate how critical it is to meet the goal of the Paris agreement on climate change.

The growing risks of melting ice and warnings about the dangers of rising temperatures are two of the issues that have been downplayed in the report.

Fracking

Britain's fracking industry faces a major setback after a court ruling in early November. This has given councils the right to make decisions that limit the controversial process in their areas. The ruling at London's High Court of Justice said that a recent ministerial statement giving council advice on fracking was only 'advisory'.

However the judge refused to grant a judicial review into the ministerial guidance. The campaign group Frack Free United have praised the importance of the concession, even if the court case wasn't won.

Meanwhile anti fracking campaigners at Preston New Road in Lancashire have called for a halt on fracking after 5 major earth tremors at Cuadrilla's site there. Eminent geologists have warned that events of the magnitude experienced at the end of October could be the precursor to a more major seismic event like that at nearby Preese Hall in 2011.

Nuclear Energy

Japan is about to release a large amount of radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean. This is well above the legally permitted levels, and is because Japan is running out of space to store the water contaminated by the highly radioactive fuel that escaped from the reactors at Fukushima since the plant was destroyed by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

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Climate, Energy and Transport – *continued*

At present 1.09 million tons of such water is stored in 900 tanks. There will be even more damage to the marine environment and human health if this water is released. Radioactive water from Fukushima has already reached American West coast areas.

Future of Biofuels

An advert from Exxon Mobil is promoting algae as a source of energy. They are researching its potential to produce a lower CO2 emission alternative to today's transport fuels. Because algae can grow in salt water and on land unsuitable for crops, a successful algae-based biofuel could provide the world with more energy without posing a challenge to global food and fresh

water supplies. It would be interesting to know what Bromley FoE members think about this.

Boost to Clean Car Sales

Electric and other low ultra low emissions cars, vans and taxis could be given special green number plates to boost awareness and increase the use of environmentally 'clean' driving. Green plates are already used in Norway, Canada and China on green vehicles including electric and hydrogen cars, making them both distinct and visible to other road users. Hybrids and electric vehicles made up 5.5% of the UK's new car market in the first six months of 2018, compared with 4.2% during the same period in 2017.



Bromley FoE campaigners at the anti-fracking campaign stall in Bromley Mall, October 27th

November report – *continued*

- ** Making supermarkets responsible for their own rubbish as in Sweden
- Bottle vending machines as in Germany
- ** Reusable mugs or cups and installing public water taps

** Unnecessary throwaway plastic items plenty of which used to be paper.

It was thought that we should have a public showing of the film sometime in Bromley.

Nature and plastics update – Judy Palmer

Recently I read an article on how the World Bee Project and IT firm Oracle are joining forces to create a global network of 'smart hives' which will hopefully give scientists data in real-time on the relationships between bees and their environments. Sensors on their hives will capture different information on buzzing, bee movements, honey weight, humidity of hives, plus weather and pollution levels, all being transmitted at once back to the scientists.

This should produce a comprehensive set of data for analysis showing any bee decline in different regions of the world, and any varying reasons for it. They hope that they will be able to detect any early warnings of a decline in a hive. For instance, live monitoring would allow for early action in removing a predator such as the Asian hornet, which in the UK is threatening our honey bees.

Once the technology is firmly in place and tuned to different environments, more farmers and bee keepers will be signing up to use this AI hive technology. In the UK alone, scientists believe that the number of honey bees fell by 54% between 1985 and 2005, and out of the 100-crop species that feed 90% of the world's population, 70 are pollinated by bees, both domesticated and wild. We need to save our bees, if we want to feed ourselves.

Environmentalists have long claimed that the over-use of pesticides is one of the factors in bee decline, and the 'gardening guru' Monty Don is quoted as saying that '... I never use

pesticides or fungicides but allow the natural balance of predator and prey to establish itself. This sorts all problems, whereas using a pesticide to try to control a single aphid species eating a single type of plant or vegetable is as crude and ineffective as napalming a jungle to kill an ant.....' Quite.

Do you remember back in the 1990s we, as FoE supporters, as well as WWF and Greenpeace and other environmentalist organisations were campaigning against de-forestation? It is not talked about so much now, but global deforestation is still on the march, to make way for oil palm plantations mostly. So many animal species are on the endangered species list, tribal people are losing their homes, all because of the need to produce this one product, **palm oil**.

It is the world's most widely used vegetable crop, and crops up (*sorry!*) in so many other products, from chocolate to lipstick, via bread and candles. 66 million tons is produced annually of this stuff, and finding a stringent sustainable source is increasingly difficult.

As is finding an alternative oil – if soybean or coconut oil say, were grown instead, you would need from four to ten times as much land, and shift the problems to other habitats.

And all this 'chatter' about palm oil has come about because the UK advertising authorities banned a certain supermarket chain's Christmas TV advert featuring a baby orang-utan, saying it was too political, *really??*
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Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

The cover crops and wheat planted in September are racing away with all the wonderful weather we had in October. The barley seed arrived eventually and Peter planted it under great conditions. The rain although heavy at times, together with the warm sunny days, has helped the seed to germinate and become established.

In the coming weeks we shall be spraying for weeds and aphids. The boys have an app on their mobile phones, which show them when the aphids will start to attack the small wheat and barley plants. The reason we spray for the aphids is that they carry a disease called barley yellow dwarf virus, which causes the plant to become stunted and not produce an ear.

I visited a school in Snodland to talk to two reception classes about harvest. The children were delightful and listened very well about how we harvest the wheat. Video clips showing a combine harvester working and dressing up in John Deere overalls were well received. We all pretended to be a seed growing and they were able to tell me what was needed to make a strong healthy plant.

Two farmers from Farningham visited whilst the boys were planting the cover crop to see how we direct drilled. They have been thinking about going over to a non plough system and were staggered how easy the process is. They asked lots of questions and rode on the tractor with Pete watching how the machine worked.

When we told them how little diesel we used, they were amazed but not pulling great huge lumps of metal through the ground, then drilling, then rolling it down to consolidate the soil, it didn't take a lot of working out. Another farmer has contacted us about adding a marking system to his drill, he has the same problem that we had in that around the edges of the field, we lose satellite signal for the GPS. Although he thought our attachment was great, he wasn't too impressed with the cost of it! Can't have it all ways.

Peter has built a new staircase inside the barn, much easier than climbing the old ladder that was just strips of wood attached to the main barn post. This was how we always got up and down onto the loft space but not very elf and safety! Repairs and painting inside the old stables carries on, a bit like the Fourth Bridge.

Steve and I visited the Isle of Wight for a few days at the end of October and saw two swallows, thought they had all gone but obviously fancied a visit to the Isle too on their way home. I was amazed and thrilled to see two buzzards circling over the farmhouse together with a kite! Yes, it definitely was a kite. I wondered if there would be some altercation but they seemed happy gliding together.

I loved the fact that St Luke's day on the 18th October was very pleasant, as mentioned in last month's weather folklore, so perhaps we should take a little more note of these quaint sayings. Slightly wary about this month's offering,

Bromley Trades Council and Climate Change motion

Ann Garrett reports that Bromley Trades Council at its last meeting supported and passed the following motion regarding climate change.

This branch/region/trades council notes the current impacts of climate change, including hurricanes, floods, crop failure and heatwaves.

It notes the findings of the recent IPCC report, both the importance of keeping warming below 1.5C because of the huge ecological and human cost of failure, and the scale of the challenge that this presents: "remaking the world in a generation,"

It notes the importance of the UN climate talks in Poland this December at which the Paris 'rule book' will be finalised, and condemns the Polish government's restrictions on protest and civil society, banning spontaneous protest.

It believes that trade unions have a vital role to play in bringing about urgent climate action which is rooted in workers' rights and social justice, and notes that with the talks held in the heart of the Polish coal country, just transition issues will be a key issue in the talks.

It notes that the current targets under the UK Climate Change Act are inadequate, and that the UK is off track to meet even current targets.

Most worryingly, some government policies actively increase emissions.

These include expanding aviation, promoting fracking, funding fossil fuel projects overseas, reducing fuel duty in real terms, blocking new onshore wind energy in England and introducing financial disincentives to rooftop solar.

The branch/region/trades council therefore resolves:

1. To publicise and encourage participation in the demonstration in London on 1st December, at the beginning of the UN climate talks, including bringing our union banner.
2. To hold a branch or public meeting to highlight climate change, invite a speaker to present from the Campaign against Climate Change trade union group;
3. To ensure all members are aware of national union policy promoting climate action, to ensure that this is implemented locally and to actively engage in further policy development;
4. To work with other unions, campaign organisations and community groups in the campaigning for action to tackle climate change;
5. To affiliate to the Campaign against Climate Change and to send a representative to meetings of its Trade Union Group.

[Affiliation fees: branches and trades councils £25, regions and County Associations £50, national unions from £150, depending on size]

Nature and plastics update – *continued*

Sugar cane is another crop which may hit the headlines next year. According to a recent survey people are asking firms to work together to develop **plastic** alternatives made from plant-based materials which will biodegrade naturally. And using sugar cane waste would be an alternative to using a material which would not pollute our world with microplastics.

Well, we certainly need to develop more responsible packaging to our products, and bio-based packaging material is one step to consider. As according to another survey, undertaken by Sky's Ocean Rescue, our supermarkets are putting into circulation some 59 billion pieces of branded and own-brand packaging a year.

Supermarkets need to respond more quickly to this problem, and produce a more coherent plastic reduction plan, not just keep announcing how much of their packaging they are recycling.

And in more research commissioned by Ocean Rescue, six in ten Britons think single-use plastic will be socially unacceptable by 2021 and that seven in ten people think that some single use plastics should carry warnings on the packaging.

Have many of you noticed, while doing your weekly shop, if the store or shop is offering an alternative to small plastic bags yet? Apart from providing paper mushroom bags I don't think many of the big supermarkets have got this facility in place yet and I am sure it is the smaller retailer who is way ahead of

the game. I know my local greengrocer is! I really hope that 2019 sees much more forward thinking from retailers.

Once again, Annette and I would like to say a heart-felt **thank you** to everyone who supported us in the nature campaigning we undertook in 2018, as well as the work on plastic-use we as a group have begun to do – we really couldn't do it without you!

FoE press release - Reform countryside to tackle climate change, urges government advisor - **Friends of the Earth reaction**

Responding to the publication of the Committee on Climate Change's new report on land use, Friends of the Earth campaigner Guy Shrubsole said:

"This is a wake-up call for a complacent government that we must completely transform the way we use land, to avoid climate breakdown and make space for nature.

"As the Committee on Climate Change says, we need to free up land from agriculture by eating much less meat and dairy, and stop landowners burning and degrading peat bogs - our single biggest carbon store.

"We also need to reforest far more of Britain than the government's current puny tree-planting targets - going beyond what this report calls for and doubling forest cover to lock-up carbon and help prevent floods."

Crisis – at Christmas

Crisis operates all the year round, not just at Christmas. If you're not familiar with what Crisis does, you can find out at www.crisis.org.uk. What's below relates to Crisis's operations in London at Christmas. Volunteering at Crisis is very rewarding although I don't think I've ever been as cold as when I volunteered at the Crisis operation in Silvertown earlier this century.

When is Crisis at Christmas open in London?

Day centres: Our Day Centre times vary, but will generally open from the morning of 23 December and close by 9.00 pm on 29 December. The opening hours are 9.00 am until 9.00 pm.

Residential centres: Our Residential Centres are open 24 hours, and provide sleeping facilities for guests from either 22 or 23 December until the morning of 30 December.

Day centres

Our five day centres are for guests who have accommodation of some kind, such as hostels, B&Bs, those who are sofa surfing or obtain their accommodation via different sources. These centres open from 9 am to 9 pm, providing breakfast, lunch and dinner for all guests as well as learning opportunities, activities, entertainment and essential services such as advice and healthcare.

Residential centres

There are six residential centres for guests who are assessed to be most in need of essential services. These centres are open 24 hours and provide meals and sleeping facilities as well as the full range of services and activities.

Where are the centres located?

Our centres in London are in Zones 1-5. They are located in buildings that are donated to Crisis for use over Christmas only, such as schools, colleges and empty buildings. Full addresses and maps are available on the online application.

What roles can I apply for?

You can sign up as a **General Volunteer** or join one of our Services, Activities and Entertainment or Logistics teams.

As a General Volunteer you will be using your adaptability and enthusiasm to support the Shift Team running the centre by helping out in a wide range of tasks. These may include giving out information about services, activities and entrainment at the centres, serving food and refreshments, manning restricted and unrestricted areas, cleaning duty, greeting guests and making them feel welcome, ... All General Volunteers jobs are varied, rewarding and a lot of fun.

As a Service Volunteer you may be supporting delivery of huge range of services including Catering, Advice and Befriending, Healthcare and Dentistry, Massage and Podiatry. If you have a specialist qualification which would enable you to support one of these areas we would love to hear from you once the application process opens.

As an Activities and Entertainment Volunteer you will deliver sessions such as arts and crafts, health and fitness (including dance, yoga and sport

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Crisis – at Christmas – *continued*

and IT) or provide varied forms of entertainment to our guests. We welcome musicians, comedians, DJs and cabaret performers as well as anyone who can deliver fun and engaging activity such as bingo and karaoke sessions.

As a Logistic Volunteer you will be involved in logistic delivery of the project from our operations centre. You may be a driver, a technical support volunteer or may be helping to pack and load the goods which are needed to keep the centres and the project as a whole running smoothly.

Do some shifts need more help than others?

We always struggle to find enough people to cover the period 27 to 30 December for all volunteer roles. Night shifts in the Residential Centres are also particularly difficult to fill. We often need more volunteers for the Day Centre morning shift on 23 December. This is a vital shift in the Crisis at Christmas week, as volunteers help with the last-minute preparations before opening; making sure everything is in place and the centres are welcoming and comfortable for our guests.

Will you assign me a centre or can I choose?

We have to recruit the appropriate number of volunteers to each centre in order to open. If you can be flexible on location, please help us by selecting the 'Where I am needed' box in Step 4 of the application as this will allow us to assign you to a centre that is most in need of volunteers. If you select 'Where I am needed', you will be notified by

email when you have been assigned to a centre.

Do I need any training before Crisis at Christmas?

All new General volunteers and volunteers who have not volunteered in the past five years are invited to attend one of the New Volunteer Induction Sessions in December. During the application process you will be asked to select your preferred date for this. We strongly recommend that all new general volunteers attend one of these sessions.

All Services and Activities Volunteers are invited to attend a briefing session specific to their area, which will also include an overview of Crisis at Christmas. New and returning volunteers should attend this briefing to learn about changes to your service this year. Please note that new Services and Activities volunteers do not need to attend the New Volunteer Induction Session for General volunteers, but we strongly recommend that you all attend one of the specific sessions.

Do you provide transport for volunteers?

Due to limited resources, you will need to make your own transport arrangements to and from your centre before and after your shifts. If you need to travel between centres during a shift, transport will be provided.

Car pools and lift-share opportunities will be posted on Crisis Community. When you have been assigned your shifts, please log on to find out if there are any in your area.

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FoE press release on the Postcode Gardener

UK's first postcode gardener springs into action in Hackney

Kate Poland will start as the UK's first-ever 'postcode gardener'. She will work with people in the E5 postcode to increase vegetation and wildlife in their streets. This pilot is part of the 10xGreener initiative from Friends of the Earth to transform our towns and cities. The project has already seen Daubeney Road being boosted with plants and wildlife.

The aim of the postcode gardener model is to overcome a key barrier to making urban spaces 10x greener – most people do not have the time or money to support and maintain the planting necessary to make a real difference.

Kate will work with E5 residents over the next 12 months to bring the community together and give hundreds of front gardens and shared spaces a 10x greener make-over. More than 100 supporters raised nearly £8,000 through a crowdfunding campaign earlier this year to pay for her post for the first year

Kate is already a well-known figure in Hackney's burgeoning community gardening movement. She runs the Cordwainer's Garden on Mare Street and the social enterprise Cordwainer's Grow which delivers community gardening and nature projects across Hackney. This summer she launched a campaign to promote Hackney's community gardens and protect them from development threats.

Kate says: "The postcode gardener model is an exciting way to make our streets and estates far better for nature and people. You do not need to be a dedicated gardener. The pilot in Daubeney Road has shown that residents can come together and work with experts to make real differences to the community."

"There are some simple and practical ways to make a front garden look great and be a real boost for nature. Do this across a community and suddenly our towns and cities start to look and feel really different. Even a little gardening can provide big physical and mental benefits so it's a win for everyone.

"I'm looking forwards to getting stuck in as a postcode gardener over the next year. I can't wait to bring grey spaces to life and try out ideas like seed banks, a 'signature' wildlife plant and even 'weed' champions."

Friends of the Earth launched the 10xGreener project earlier this year in one street in the E5 neighbourhood to learn how to do this across the country. Residents on Daubeney Road came together in bursts of weekend activity to make planters and create a more natural, green environment. The project is co-ordinated by Friends of the Earth, and guerrilla geographer and London National Park City founder Daniel Raven Ellison.

Friends of the Earth Director of Disruptive Innovation Hugh Knowles says:

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FoE press release on Pension Funds and Climate Change

Local Government Pension Funds failing to protect themselves from financial risk of climate change – Friends of the Earth and Platform

The largest UK Local Government Pension Funds (LGPFS) are failing to take adequate action to reduce the financial risk posed by climate change, a new report by Friends of the Earth and Platform London reveals.

The report assessed the performance of the 17 largest Local Government Pension Funds in England and Scotland, plus the Northern Ireland LGPF and the largest LGPF in Wales, in addressing climate risk against a number of questions and revealed that:

8 funds are taking no or almost no action to protect their members from the financial risks posed by climate change. These funds are Hampshire, Essex, Kent, Hertfordshire, Tyne and Wear, Nottinghamshire, East Riding and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

5 funds acknowledge climate risks, but are not acting to address them adequately. These are Lothian, Strathclyde, West Midlands, West Yorkshire and Northern Ireland.

2 funds are developing strategies to tackle climate change risks, but their actions are too heavily focussed on shareholder engagement without meaningful goals, deadlines or consequences. These are Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire.

4 funds are developing stronger climate change strategies –that include tilting or divesting away from fossil fuel

companies as well as engagement, and/or have engagement activities with clearer goals and timelines. These are Merseyside, Lancashire, London and Avon

The majority of funds assessed explicitly state that climate change is a material financial risk. Kent LGPF was the only fund to state that climate change is not a financial risk. Despite this, over 50% of funds have not measured climate risks and the majority of funds do not have strong, explicit strategies for dealing with these risks.

A small minority of funds – Merseyside, London and Avon – are reducing their risk exposure by reducing their exposure to fossil fuel companies. Other funds are applying tilts away from fossil fuel or are considering setting fossil fuel divestment targets.

Many of the funds assessed claim to use shareholder engagement with companies to address climate change but most of these funds do not have clear goals or targets for this engagement.

No fund was able to provide evidence for the effectiveness of their engagement at forcing fossil fuel companies to switch their core business models away from fossil fuels.

A majority of funds have low carbon investments but the size of such investments vary.

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FoE press releases - *continued*

FoE on Postcode Gardener – *cont'd*

“We know that greener streets are better for people, nature and the environment. They boost our physical and mental health and help wildlife to flourish in urban areas. With over half of wild species in the UK having declined in the last sixty years we urgently need a different kind of urban environment – one with flourishing nature that brings benefits to us all. Nature can, and should, be all around us – not just in parks and the countryside.”

“We are really excited to see the first ever postcode gardener starting work in E5 as Kate brings neighbours together to create fantastic spaces for plants and wildlife. We want to learn how to roll this out to other communities in 2019.”

Kate will work with local groups ecoActive and Daubeney Fields Forever, the crowdfunders and other community partners to take 10xGreener forwards. On 1 December she will hand out 100 garden saplings as part of a tree-planting weekend organised by the Mayor of London. The weekend is the latest event in the Mayor's drive to make London a National Park City.

FoE on Pension Funds – *cont'd*

Sakina Sheikh of Platform London said: “Today's report demonstrates that UK local councils must take climate action seriously. With the climate crisis underway, and a financial consensus building in the UK finance sector - it is clear that addressing climate risk has become an

expected practice to ensure councils are not invested in soon-to-be stranded assets. I hope today's report gives the necessary push to councils to start divesting away from fossil fuels and reinvesting into the new economy.”

Climate change presents multiple financial risks to pension funds. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, has warned that investors face “potentially huge” losses as climate action renders vast reserves of oil, coal and gas “literally unburnable”.

The report is published by Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), Friends of the Earth Scotland and Platform London and is available online.

Crisis – at Christmas – *concluded*

Do you provide Crisis at Christmas accommodation for volunteers?

Due to the high numbers of volunteers and cost involved we are unable to provide accommodation. We do try to negotiate discounted rates with hotels and hostels close to the centres. Information will be posted on Crisis Community as soon as rates become available. Please note that we are unlikely to negotiate discounts that will beat high street deals currently available.

There's more info about what volunteering for Crisis entails, as well as an application form for Crisis at Christmas on their website at www.crisis.org.uk.

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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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