



**Friends of
the Earth
Bromley**



February 2018
No. 362

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

February Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Pamela Zollicoffer

Local Amateur Alleyways Historian

“Pathways from the Past”

Tuesday 6th February – 7.30pm

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates:

- Feb 6th (Tue) **Bromley FoE's February meeting:** Pamela Zollicoffer on "Alleyways and Footpaths of Bromley"
- Feb 26th to Mar 11th Fairtrade Fortnight
- Mar 6th (Tue) **Bromley FoE's March meeting:** Cllr William Huntington-Thresher, Executive Member for Environmental Services
FoE Greater London South East Regional Gathering,
The Printworks, SW9 0HP
- Mar 10th (Sat)
- Mar 24th (Sat) **Bromley FoE stall** with Bromley Against Fracking, The Mall, Bromley, 2.30-4.30pm

February meeting – Tuesday 6th February 2018

Pamela Zollicoffer - Local Amateur Alleyways Historian

"Pathways from the Past"

Pamela takes us for a walk around Bromley looking at some of the wonderful ordinary things we are fortunate to have in our town landscape

March meeting – Tuesday 6th March 2018

Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, Bromley's Executive Member for Environmental Services, will speak to us. Questions are invited ahead of time (in writing, please) so that he can frame his talk around our areas of concern. Please send questions to sheilabrown336@msn.com by 19th February.

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 18TH FEBRUARY** ***

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.

January meeting report and AGM report – Sheila Brown

This was the earliest date our January meeting and AGM could possibly be and we were still within the 12 Days of Christmas – although there seems to be widespread disagreement as to whether the first day is 25th or 26th December. So we decided to start on a light-hearted note with another Seasonal Quiz put together and conducted by Judy. Naturally the theme was ‘Winter’ with some challenging questions.

We then moved into the AGM followed by refreshments (some more seasonal food – thanks to those who contributed this) and the meeting concluded with the usual discussion of future dates, campaigning and local issues.

AGM Report

Review of Year

We had a busy year with campaign stalls in the High Street and at local fetes and fairs and a local garden centre, continued work on the Clean Air campaign including further diffusion tubes, letter writing and a Day of Action photo opportunity with a local councillor, Freshwater Habitats Trust pollution monitoring leading to an award, attendance at Basecamp and at meetings at The Printworks.

There was also teleconferencing, networking with other groups including Bromley Against Fracking, Thames 21 and local town centre plan opposition, took part in Divestment Monster action at Bromley Council offices, ongoing participation in Bromley Biodiversity Partnership and organising a Bee Breakfast in a local park. We held monthly meetings, 12 speakers

throughout the year on environmental topics and three Traidcraft fair trade stalls.

The Co-ordinators thanked group members for their individual contributions.

Approval of Accounts

The Treasurer presented the accounts for year ended 31st December 2017 and explained some of the details. The accounts were approved.

It was agreed to send a donation to FoE in the amount of £200.

Election of Officers

Co-ordinators: Ann Garrett and Sheila Brown

Admin Team (in lieu of Secretary): Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

Treasurer: Sheila Brown

Membership Secretary: Dan Sloan

Newsletter Editor: John Street

Fundraising Officer: Bill Priestley

Press Officer: vacant

Outings Organisers: John and Sue Bocock

Merchandising: Anne Clark

Planning monitor: Tamara Galloway

Reporters (monthly meetings): John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark, Graham Hemington, Annette Rose, Paul

Enock, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown

Teas: Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

Ann and Sheila indicated that they wish to step down as Joint Co-ordinators and this will be their final year in the role.

Treasurer's report – Sheila Brown

At the AGM it was reported that subscriptions were down slightly. However, about 75-80% of our members add on a small donation, typically £2 to bring it up to £10, but quite a few give £12 and some even more. The question was raised: should we increase subscriptions? – this might not bring in a lot more, given that so many people round up to £10. (Note – since the AGM a further two subscriptions plus donations paid in 2017 have been passed to the Treasurer, bringing the amounts up to very much the same level as in 2016.)

Monthly hall collections fluctuate wildly, the highest being £67 and the lowest £17.60. These are often boosted by payment for items for sale: members sometimes bring books, jam or anything they wish to donate, but mostly it is Bill with his fruit, vegetables and plants (and the very high amount was immediately after the Open Garden). Sometimes people forget to contribute and then add extra the following month.

The average was £35.67, but this is still short of the monthly hall cost (£42). However, it was pointed out that the profits from tea/coffee brought the monthly collections up to a sufficient level to cover the cost of the hall.

The invitation on our Facebook page to pay by PayPal has proved NOT to be a good idea and the treasurer recommended discontinuing it. PayPal exact a charge of 47p from each subscription paid in this way, meaning that instead of our receiving £8, we only receive £7.53. This means,

should we continue it, we should increase the amount if people are paying this way – I would say to £9 to include an admin charge as it's caused a huge amount of chasing around to sort it out.

Also, no-one paying by that method has added a donation – so we'd need somehow to give that option to encourage this! The original idea had been to encourage donations but none have been forthcoming.

Paying for the Hall – we increase what we pay by about 2% each year, but this year made it 2.5% to reflect the expense the Friends have had with renovations and the fact that our finances are very healthy and theirs not so. We had to be elsewhere in August – the Parish Church (which we found a delightful venue apart from having to compete with the bell-ringers!). Interestingly, what we paid them was very much in line with what we have paid at our normal venue.

The Open Garden boosted our funds hugely and our thanks to Bill and team of willing helpers for making these events the success they have been. There was discussion as to the donation to be sent to national FoE and whether the bulk of our fundraising should be sent to them, but it was agreed that it was good to have money available to support local environmental causes when needed.

It was agreed to make a donation for 2017 to national Friends of the Earth in the amount of £200; this in addition to the mandatory £20 registration fee.

Bromley FoE Accounts for year ended December 31st 2017
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	2017	2016	2015
Balance at January 1st	1,021.30	984.13	867.86
Income			
Subscriptions	388.01	388.00	229.00
Donations	160.00	171.32	*513.03
Hall collection	428.08	368.23	427.89
Tea profits	67.21	67.49	58.47
Stall income	59.20	146.95	177.38
Open Garden	545.25	421.93	549.25
Unpresented cheque wr/back	0.00	26.70	0.00
	1,647.75	1,590.62	1,955.02
Expenditure			
Hall hire	506.35	485.00	462.00
Newsletter	462.00	452.80	449.90
Stall rentals & other expenses	73.50	110.82	102.34
Goods for resale	0.00	0.00	97.99
Speaker expenses/gifts	44.55	8.98	100.00
Payments to other organisations	102.50	322.50	399.50
Donations to National FoE	220.00	150.00	220.00
Other (including gifts)	9.77	23.35	7.02
	1,418.67	1,553.45	1,838.75
Surplus / (deficit) for year	229.08	37.17	116.27
Balance at December 31st	1,250.38	1,021.30	984.13

Note * = "of which Lush donation £361.03"

Nature and 'waste' news – Judy Palmer

Well the Government published their **25 year Environment Plan** at long last, 151 pages, plus 3 Annexes, which you can download from HM Government's website if you so wish! Friends of the Earth feel that although it is essential to have the plan, more immediate action is needed now to enable a sustainable future.

FoE campaigners are working on producing a Briefing on the Plan, as they and other environmental groups are concerned that there is no 'bite' to the Plan, no legislation as yet in place to deliver the Government's strategies.

Yes, we need action on clean air and ending single-use plastics as soon as possible, but '*making it easier for people*' to take action is not the same as having legal grounding in place to do so. Taking a voluntary approach does not seem to stop pesticide companies or irresponsible farming practices, to name just two topics, does it? And, of course, one all important question which needs an answer – how will the Government fund, or even administer, delivering the Plan?

The Plan covers Restoring Nature, Nature, health and children, Marine, Natural capital, Pesticides, Plastics, Pollination, and Water and creating a new environmental watchdog. I really hope that the aspirations behind the plan become reality, as there are so many people out there who don't wish to trash our beautiful planet.

Well, leading from that to a couple of examples of **re-use or recycling**... I recently read that the rhino beds at

Woburn Safari park have been made with the shredded remains of Christmas trees from a nearby shopping centre. A great way to use up the trees, and hopefully the rhinos enjoyed their bedding!

And in the depths of Devon, two enterprising guys are hand-making eco-friendly candles from carefully repurposed wax. They receive donations from pubs, hotels, churches and some restaurants of candle stubs or even half-used remains. Wax is not recyclable, so instead of all these remains going to landfill, they go through a careful filter and purification system and come out the other end as lovingly produced candles.

Next, some thoughts from Friends of the Earth on **alternatives to plastic** products:

1. Buy loose vegetables, not plastic-wrapped ones.
2. Drink loose leaf tea (see Annette's article on tea bags!).
3. Get a reusable coffee cup if you buy take-out coffee.
4. Give up drinks which come with plastic straws! Or rather, refuse the straws.
5. Plastic detergent bottles – some are re-fillable, or another alternative is to use soapnuts.
6. Get a toothbrush made from bamboo, instead of a plastic made one.
7. Cotton buds – you can buy them with bio-degradable card sticks instead of the plastic wand ones.
8. Cling wrap is made from crude oil (yuck!), so if you need to wrap your sandwiches in something, find some beeswax food wraps.

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Campaigns

The next Mall Precinct stall with Bromley Against Fracking will be on March 24th from 2.30 - 4.30 pm.

We will have Don't Frack Our Futures leaflets and cards on the stall, and also the Clean Air Cards, with the positive emphasis as usual on renewable. Your support will be very welcome if you can spare the time.

Climate Energy and Transport

Arctic Sea-Ice Probe

President Trump has been accused of deliberately obstructing research on global warming after it emerged that a critically important technique for investigating sea-ice cover at the poles, is being blocked.

This is due to the US not agreeing to the replacement of a broken polar satellite which is vital for measuring the Arctic's dwindling ice cap. Scientists say there is no chance that a new one can now be launched till until 2023 or later.

The main reason for the US's attitude is the lack of the Republican commitment to climate change and a blatant refusal to provide essential funding for projects.

Greenpeace have launched a campaign to protect the Antarctic with a focus on stressing that there is an opportunity to create the largest protected area on Earth as an Antarctic Ocean sanctuary. The waters would be off-limits to industrial krill fishing vessels creating a safe haven

for emperor penguins, orcas and the blue whale.

Nuclear and Pollution Issues

Radioactive Mushrooms

Radioactive caesium has been found in mushrooms imported to France from Russia. The French Nuclear Safety Institute said it had found 'unusual amounts of ruthenium 106 in the air, blaming it on a cloud radioactive pollution from Russia last October. Scientists say it was likely there was a spillage of ruthenium, rather than a bigger nuclear accident.

The Russian state weather service has said that it had found ruthenium 106 at nearly a thousand times more than normal levels near the Mayak nuclear reprocessing plant in Southern Russia.

This just goes to show the dangerous build up of radioactivity generally in the atmosphere.

Microwave Ovens

New research has found that microwave ovens in the EU have as much environmental impact as the annual emissions from 6.8 million cars. A University of Manchester study found they emit 7.7 million tons of carbon dioxide per year in the EU. New design regulations, however, would lessen the impact.

Meanwhile there is a problem with the number of microwaves being thrown away creating one of the fastest growing waste streams worldwide.

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Attack on Friends of the Earth members in Russia

This message was sent by Craig Bennett, CEO of Friends of the Earth, on 20th January:

It saddens me to tell you that a group of Friends of the Earth activists were brutally attacked, and one was hospitalised, in the Russian city of Krasnodar last month.

Andrei Rudomakha and his two colleagues at Friends of the Earth Russia – plus a journalist – were assaulted after investigating the apparently illegal construction of a mansion and vineyard on public forest land near the Black Sea.

Please can you join the international call on Russian embassies across the world to protect Andrei and his colleagues?

Below is the suggested email that FoE members were asked to send to the Russian ambassador.

Dear Ambassador Vladimirovich,

As a supporter of Friends of the Earth, a member of Friends of the Earth International (the world's largest environmental network with member groups in 75 countries), I received alarming information about a recent violent attack on Andrei Rudomakha, director of Environmental Watch on North Caucasus (EWNC) - a regional organization of Russian Social-Ecological Union/Friends of the Earth Russia - two of his colleagues, Aleksandr Savelyev and Victor Chirikov, as well as a journalist.

I am extremely concerned for their safety, particularly as Andrei Rudomakha and Dmitry Shevchenko, another member of EWNC, have both received death threats since.

Please can you use your influence to protect environmental defenders in the Russian Federation and to allow them to carry out their vital role protecting and promoting the environment and environmental rights? Please raise the concerns outlined in this letter as a matter of urgency with the appropriate authorities.

The initial attack took place on 28 December 2017 at around 10:20 pm, when the group was returning from inspecting the apparently illegal construction of a mansion and vineyard on public forest land near Gelendzhik. At the time of the visit, security guards at the construction site demanded that they erase all photos and videos. The group were allowed to leave but were subsequently attacked when they arrived at a residential house in Krasnodar. A security camera recorded three young men in tracksuits waiting on the street near the house before attacking them as they got out of the car.

The attackers had cans of pepper spray which they used against Andrei Rudomakha. He was hit, knocked to the ground and kicked in the face causing him to lose consciousness. He sustained severe injuries including a fractured skull, broken nose, and concussion. The attackers kicked Viktor Chirikov, the driver, in the stomach and /continued on next page

Attack on Friends of the Earth members in Russia - *continued*

sprayed him several times with pepper spray. A journalist who was with the group was also hurt. The attackers then took all of the activists' belongings, including personal items, cameras and documents from the car.

Friends of the Earth International is concerned that this was a deliberate attempt to destroy EWNC material and intimidate members of EWNC while making it seem like a common robbery.

Some sources have reported that the attack was tied to the construction site investigation. However EWNC has also recently investigated allegations of criminal activity and corruption inside the department of internal policy of the Krasnodar region, illegal hunts involving senior officials, and other issues, and this may also lie behind the attack.

On 9 January, less than two weeks after being attacked, Andrei Rudomakha and another member of EWNC, deputy director Dmitry Shevchenko received threats from an anonymous sender. The threats came from the address smertrudomaxe@gmail.com (which translates as Death to Rudomakha). Both were told in these messages that it was safer for them to leave the country.

On January 13, Andrei Rudomakha left hospital. I am very concerned for his well-being and safety. Neither his attackers nor those who threatened him have been found so far. Andrei Rudomakha's lawyer has appealed for him to be provided with state protection

according to Article 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; a call I support.

EWNC campaigns for environmental and human rights and the preservation of the environment. It has, for 20 years, investigated rights abuses relating to illegal land grabbing and construction by many local officials. It and its members have repeatedly been attacked including in September 2016 in Kuban, when unidentified masked men attacked EWNC and Greenpeace camps where they were working to extinguish wildfires.

A police investigation failed to identify the perpetrators. In September 2016, the Ministry of Justice declared the organisation to be a "foreign agent". Although this designation was revoked in December 2017, when the ministry found no trace of foreign income in the group's activities, the stigma of having been +labelled foreign agents remains. The foreign agent law has legitimised hate attacks against environmental and human rights activists by stigmatising them as foreign spies.

I condemn the attack against EWNC, Andrei Rudomakha, Aleksandr Savelyev and Victor Chirikov and recent threats to Andrei Rudomakha and Dmitry Shevchenko. I believe the attack to be directly connected to their legitimate work in the protection and promotion of environmental rights.

I call on you to use your influence to prevent further attacks on EWNC activists and other environmental defenders, and to ensure that:
/concluded on next page

Attack on FoE members in Russia – concluded

1. All necessary measures are taken to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Andrei Rudomakha, Dmitry Shevchenko, Aleksandr Savelyev, Victor Chirikov and other EWNC activists;

2. An immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the 28 December attack with a view to publishing the findings results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards is carried out. According to reports, the local authorities have opened an investigation into the incident under Article 161 ("Robbery by a group by prior conspiracy with the use of violence, not dangerous to life or health, or with the threat of such violence").

However, Friends of the Earth International believes that the investigation should consider this case as "An encroachment on the life of a public figure committed with a view to ending his activity or from retaliation for such activities" (Article 277). The investigation should be led by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and not by regional level institutions, which have failed to properly investigate previous attacks;

3. Previous attacks on activists and all violations reported by EWNC and other environmental groups are investigated and that human rights defenders in the Russian Federation are able to carry out their legitimate human rights

activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

I thank you in advance for your attention and look forward to your reply.

Nature News- continued

Well, have these alternatives to plastic products got you thinking at all? It is something we as local campaigners are planning on working on this year, so watch this space, as they say!

There are many ways we can alter our shopping habits, if we give it some forethought. Yes, it does take time and patience, but it is good for the environment, and for your purse as well!

Don't shop like a robot, ask yourself the question – is there an alternative to this product which is not made with plastic or wrapped in plastic? We will come back to this theme over the coming months.

Remember some of the scenes from the Blue Planet and the pictures of the rubbish on beaches and in the oceans? The recent storms in the UK with high winds and strong sea currents have stirred up the waste which is embedded deep on the ocean floor and brought it up to the surface. Then the trash washes up on the coastline, a little like being returned to sender. We created the rubbish; the sea is giving it back to us. No-one wants it, do they, let's do something about it.

Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

Hip ray, St. Thomas's Day wasn't freezing so the corn price will rise. Something to look forward to!

As you can imagine, over the past few weeks only straw and hay deliveries took place but still busy with the ongoing electrical work. We had our soil sample results back from our Agronomist and pleased to see that just a small amount of phosphate and a slightly larger amount of potash is required in various parts of the farm. This will be applied by machine during the spring months.

We have had to order some more nitrogen fertiliser, as we will be growing spring oil seed rape. We did say that we wouldn't be growing rape again but there has been a change in EU cropping rules AGAIN so we will no longer be growing peas, which are nitrogen fixing, so it is back to rape seed unfortunately.

Funnily enough, we visited the Royal Pavilion at Brighton over Christmas and were astonished to discover that the giant chandeliers were fuelled by rapeseed oil in 1830. Steve did look it up and found that the Romans used this oil for their lamps and it was used throughout the industrial revolution as fine machine oil. So oil seed rape isn't that new after all.

We hope that the pigeons stay away but as it will be a spring crop it should be ok. The winter rape crop has to over-winter and this is normally when the pigeons attack the young shoots, as there is not a lot of other food around for them to eat.

As mentioned, we had to order a further supply of fertiliser but found that the price had risen by £50 in three months. Steve quickly placed an order, as the price seemed to be rising weekly. This is reflected by the price of crude oil and the time of the year, as all farmers are buying their fertiliser for the coming year. Good old fashion supply and demand.

Notes from Steve's great-grandfather's letters. January 1918 He has decided not to send Edwin, Steve's grandfather, to Goldsmiths College but has made enquiries about going to a farm in Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire to work as a pupil on a very large farm costing £150 pa.

The threshing machine has been repaired by Smith and thinks it will work well so George purchased a presser, (baler) costing £70 Trade at the market was fluctuating but did have one good day when greens made 3/- for 40lbs.

I will finish with an early 17th century English proverb recording the tradition that the coldest weather arrives when days begin to grow lighter.

"As the day lengthens, so the cold strengthens"

On that chilly note I wish you and your family a Happy New Year.

FoE Community News +++ Teabags and Plastic

Community News - Judy Palmer, nature campaigner at Bromley Friends of the Earth, wrote this:

Getting hands-on in your own backyard can be really rewarding.

Back in November 2016, I heard Dr Naomi Ewald from the Freshwater Habitats Trust talk about a 'Clean Water for Wildlife' project which the Trust had launched. A knowledgeable speaker who brings projects to life is such a bonus, and she does.

This project was all about volunteers getting their hands wet, in order to help the Trust map areas of fresh water which were 'clean'. To do this they had 20,000 kits of small tubes to test for the presence of phosphates and nitrates. Naomi showed us how to use them and said that any source of fresh water could be tested.

Being the nature campaigner for our local group I was fired up to see how many of us would like to help with some testing. And about 20 of us ended up volunteering - brilliant I thought!

So throughout the following year we tested rivers, brooks, ponds, a lake, a well and even two springs! It was easier to do the testing in pairs as you needed to sample the water, time the results and fill out a form.

I put all the results on a spreadsheet and emailed them back. As the project finished I heard that we were going to receive a certificate and book prize for all of our hard work volunteering, which was really nice.

Having a life-long interest in my local natural spaces, I am so happy to be within a community of like-minded souls. My colleagues and I will be linking with the Trust, and other NGOs again, working to help understand and preserve our local natural spaces.

Teabags and Plastic - Annette Rose writes:

This first came to light when some composters noticed a thin white film was left when teabags had decomposed. This turned out to be a thin layer of plastic that the manufacturers use to seal the teabags. There is no indication of this on the tea packaging. Questions were asked and yes it turns out that almost all brands of teabags contain plastic.

So why is there is a need for **plastic in teabags**? Plastic (polypropylene to be exact) is apparently added to the paper teabag to help heat seal them during manufacture so they don't come open in the box, or in your cup.

1.65 million cups of tea are drunk in Britain everyday with 96% from teabags. This amounts to billions of pieces of plastic getting into the environment.

There are various campaigns started to get the big tea companies to remove the plastic from their products. It seems that it is quite possible to replace the plastic with a plant based or fabric based material and there are already

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Biggin Hill, Northolt Airport +++ Broke Hill Golf Club

Is Biggin Hill Airport funding the "Stop Northolt" campaign?

Paul Enock writes: In the latest edition of "Hillingdon People", a magazine produced by the local council of the London Borough of Hillingdon, one can read an article with the title "**Who is really behind the Stop Northolt campaign?**"

In the article, the leader of Hillingdon Council, Ray Puddifoot (Conservative), accuses the company that runs Biggin Hill Airport of financing, in an "underhand" way, a local campaign that seeks to stop the expansion of commercial activities at RAF Northolt.

Cllr Puddifoot had already, in November last year, issued an open challenge to organisations and individuals behind what he calls a "scaremongering campaign" to prevent the expansion of commercial flight activities at the local airport. He had called on them to "stop hiding ... and declare their interest and level of financial support".

Now, in the Jan-Feb edition of the Council's magazine, Cllr Puddifoot openly accuses Biggin Hill Airport of funding the "Stop Northolt" campaign because it has "a commercial interest in acquiring the private aircraft flights currently using Northolt".

According to the councillor, Biggin Hill "have commissioned a professional campaign organisation who claim that there are ways of telling a story that *become almost infectious and they change minds*".

The irony is not lost on the leader of one Conservative council that similar tactics had been used by Biggin Hill Airport to argue an opposite case for more flights, and to get its way with another Conservative council in Bromley, thereby growing its business "in what is otherwise a green and residential area".

Broke Hill Golf Club under threat

Tamara Galloway writes: Just when you thought the Green Belt was safe, another threat emerges.

Broke Hill golf club, a Green Belt site on the edge of the London Borough of Bromley but coming under Sevenoaks District Council, has been sold to property developers.

A Sevenoaks District Council spokesman said: "Broke Hill golf course was put forward in the 'call for sites' over the summer and is being considered by our planning policy team. Their assessment will be reported to councillors in the spring."

As people who live near the Green Belt in this area, and benefit from it, our views are very relevant.

There's a tree lined **public footpath** through the course between Church Road and London Road, near Knockholt station.

<http://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/council-confirms-sevenoaks-golf-club-770983>

Hayes Farm development ++ Campaigns *cont'd* ++ Teabags *cont'd*

Bromley FoE comment on Hayes Farm development application

This planning application is for the demolition of the existing farm buildings with the exception of the listed farmhouse, and the erection of nine houses.

Dear Planning Officer,

We are writing on behalf of Bromley Friends of the Earth to object to the proposed development on Hayes Farm land, on the following grounds :-

1. Building on this site would unsuitable as it is 'deemed' to be 'green belt' land.
2. The site is not designated as brownfield.
3. Open space is especially precious in this area on the outskirts of London.
4. Preserving open green space is particularly urgent in terms of climate change conditions.
5. This a unique farm site and should be preserved as part of ' farmland heritage'.
6. Building on part of this site could set a precedent for any future further development of the site.
7. This farm land is an important ' breath of fresh air' and amenity for local people.

Finally we would ask for a protection order to be put on this site so it is preserved as an open green space.

With many thanks.

Yours ...

Campaigns etc *continued*

Transport

Campaigners have welcomed the news that sales of new diesel cars have plummeted as drivers increasingly choose greener vehicles. In December 2017 sales for diesel models fell by 31 per cent, while overall sales for the year were down by 17 per cent.

On January 17th government ministers faced a new threat of fresh legal action over the third runway at Heathrow, after airport bosses proposed a different shorter design. Heathrow Hub, which wants to extend the northern runway for simultaneous landings and take-offs, said: 'We would certainly consider legal action on the basis that the process has been unreasonable if Heathrow continue to change their proposals'.

Teabags and Plastic *-continued*

some brands of tea bags that don't use plastic. Examples are Pukkha teas and Jackson's of Piccadilly. Twinings pyramid tea bags use a maize starch.

Unilever is the market leader and owns PG tips so many campaigns are calling on them to make the changes which will make a big difference.

So what can you do? Sign up to campaigns to get plastics removed from teabags. Choose your teabags with care. Dig out the teapot or tea infuser and use loose leaf tea of course. I've been going back to loose tea lately and it's delicious!

CND prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary

CND General Secretary Kate Hudson looks back at CND's history, as CND prepares to mark its 60th anniversary

The history of CND is the history of post-World War II, told from the side of those fighting for humanity against the horror of war. It is the story of ordinary people's struggles to shape a world without nuclear weapons and war, based on legality and morality; to make our governments responsive and accountable over our right to stay alive, our right to breathe air free of radioactive pollution, our right to say no to the indiscriminate killing of other peoples.

CND has been most successful and effective when it has related directly to people's most pressing concerns – linking our issues to the reality of what is going on in the world. Nuclear weapons are not the preserve of technological or military experts, in some specialist niche that isn't relevant to ordinary mortals. Nuclear weapons are the concern of us all, for in them humankind has created something that could end our very existence – and governments will only shift on nuclear weapons policy when enough of us demand change.

For sixty years, we have inspired, led and organised – and no doubt infuriated and annoyed! – many hundreds of thousands of people, and have contributed to changes in politics and society that have shaped the lives of millions. Our movement has been remarkable for its flexibility and dynamism, embracing methods as

diverse as vigils, lobbying, mass demonstrations, non-violent direct action, human chains, peace camps, die-ins, theatre, leafletting, petitioning, street stalls, and many others besides!

We have opposed all nuclear weapons from Polaris to Trident and before and beyond; we have campaigned against wars where nuclear weapons may be used and against illegal wars that destroy the framework of international law; against weapons in space, NATO, remote killing with drones; nuclear power, nuclear waste transportation; the militarisation of Europe, the use of radioactive 'depleted' uranium in conventional weapons; the waste of spending on arms and much more.

From our founding conference, we have fought both for Britain 'to renounce unconditionally' the use or production of nuclear weapons, and for it to use the 'utmost endeavour' to bring about the end of all nuclear weapons globally. These have been our central aims throughout; indeed the last decade has been dominated by our work to prevent Trident replacement and secure a global nuclear weapons ban treaty.

Of course, 2017 brought a major advance for us, with the agreement of the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, despite the increasingly tense global political situation. But as we go forward with our campaigning into 2018, the crucial – but very difficult – task will be to get our government on board with the Treaty.

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Final push to make London a National Park City

This email was sent by the National Park City campaign to its supporters recently.

Our campaign to make London the world's first National Park City is on track for success. With a fair wind we will be able to confirm that London will become a National Park City this Spring. With your help, we hope to launch it in 2019.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the campaign so far. We could not have got this far without the help of thousands of people.

Making London a National Park City is an extraordinary and historic way to recognise London's remarkable outdoor culture and natural heritage. It's also an opportunity to challenge and inspire us to make the city and our communities far more healthy, green, fair, resilient, wild, enjoyable and prosperous.

Many things are already happening too.

The Mayor is helping to make London the first National Park City by making £9 million in funding available for projects that help to plant more trees, restore our rivers, create natural play-spaces for children and green routes to encourage walking and cycling. He also shares our target of making 50% of the city green by 2050.

At the same time, London Friends of Greenspaces Network and Campaign to Protect Rural England are getting reading to launch OUR SPACE, a project which will bring lots of support

for the vital work of Friends groups – and help make London a successful National Park City. This is just the start.

After four years of campaigning, we now need a FINAL PUSH to secure our mandate to make London a National Park City.

We already have the support of the Mayor of London and 1,000 politicians, but to make the campaign a success we need the majority of the capital's elected ward teams to declare their support. With elections in London on May 3rd it's important, but not vital, that we hit this majority before the end of April. This gives us 100 days to secure the London National Park City's political mandate.

The good news is that 302 ward teams across all of the capital's boroughs and main political parties have already declared their support. We only require a further 26. This could be just one ward team from 26 of the boroughs that are yet to fully declare.

Let's hit our target and recruit the support of just 26 more ward teams before the end of February.

Take action and volunteer part of your day to help make London a National Park City by doing as many of these three things as you can.

Join the Team4Nature Thunderclap in support of National Park Cities. The Thunderclap already has nearly 750 supporters and a social reach of over 5 million people.

/continued on next page

Final push to make London a National Park City – *continued*

Check it out, find our more, join and share it!

Contact an undeclared councillor or councillor ward team and ask them to declare their support. You will find everything that you need here (http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward_support?utm_campaign=january2018&utm_medium=email&utm_source=greaterlondonnationalparkcity), including a map of which ward teams have declared so far. If you've asked before and not had a reply, do ask again. We've had a lot of follow-up successes recently. Contacting them by email is great, but if you are on social media do use Twitter too. We are a positive, proactive and friendly campaign, so please do campaign in that spirit. Councillors, please champion the National Park City and help to convince your colleagues.

Write an article or blog in support of the London National Park City and call for more councillors to back the National Park City. The more positive and thoughtful articles, blogs, tweets, updates and forum posts there are the better. We need to spread the word! Please share any you write with us.

Here are some other ways you can get involved too.

- Enter our writing challenge to imagine London as a National Park City
- Share a route for a walk between two London stations for our Station Walks project
- Come to our next campaign meeting in central London (on January 30)

- Join our Facebook group to share news, idea, opinions, advice and events
- Remember to tag us on Twitter in your #NationalParkCity related photos and events
- Sign your group, network or organisation up as a supporter

Bromley is certainly not at the forefront of this. Only two out of Bromley's 22 wards have signed up.

More info from <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/>

CND at 60 – *continued*

And that means winning the Labour Party to support it too – we may well see our Vice- President Jeremy Corbyn in 10 Downing Street.

As ever, the struggle for global abolition is inseparably linked with the campaign to scrap Trident – British nukes will have to go if we are to sign the Treaty. So as we mark our 60th anniversary, let's recommit to the cause of peace and to a nuclear weapons-free world.

Visit www.cnduk.org/CNDat60 for more information on what CND has planned for our anniversary, including an event at AWE Aldermaston.

More info on CND at www.cnduk.org or phone 020 7700 2393. This article is taken from the January 2018 edition of Campaign, the magazine published by CND.

TOADS ARE IN TROUBLE!

TOADS ARE IN TROUBLE!

Toad populations in SE England have fallen by more than 50% since 1985. Toads live most of their lives on land in scrubby areas, hibernating in log piles, deep leaf litter and burrows. In February they emerge and return to their ponds to breed. Please let us know if you see one! We are particularly interested in finding ponds where they breed so please look out for **ribbons** of eggs around pond plants or male and females together in February-March.

Note golden eye with pupil a horizontal slit. (Frogs eyes are more circular with rounded pupil).



Dry, warty skin generally with no coloured patterns. Frogs have smooth skin.

Legs adapted for crawling, unlike frogs whose longer back legs are good for hopping & jumping.

E-mail the date, place (postcode or grid reference), number seen and if possible a photo to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership: bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com
Your information will enable habitat improvements to be put in place to try & increase toad numbers.

How You Can Help Toads: have a wild area in your garden with some scrub, a log pile and maybe a pond with at least one sloping side. For more information & to see how frogs look different from toads, see <https://www.arc-trust.org>

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership is a partnership of local groups, organisations and individuals with specific expertise committed to protecting, enhancing and celebrating biodiversity within the London Borough of Bromley.

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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 £8 annual subscription. 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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