



**Friends of
the Earth
Bromley**



February 2019
No. 374
ewsletter

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

February Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Paul Enock

Heading for Extinction and What to do about it

*Scientists warn that we have 12 years to avoid catastrophic climate change.
What can we do? Viable ways towards the best possible outcome.*

Tuesday 5th February - 7.30pm (prompt start please)

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates: February

February 2nd (Sat) Friends of Jubilee Country Park event. Come along to find **out** more about the Small Mammals that live in the woodlands and hedgerows of Jubilee Country Park. Led by Steven Lofting. Meet at Tent Peg Lane car park, off Crest View Drive, Petts Wood BR5 1BY at 9am. No dogs please. In the interest of the welfare of the small animals, the walk will not go ahead in bad weather. The decision will be made the day before so please call 07733 004248 to check.

February 5th (Tues) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting.

February 9th (Sat) The Spanish Bluebell - Menace or Misunderstood- Fred Rumsey. Orpington Field Club will be hosting another talk at the BEECHE centre at High Elms Country Park. Fred's talk will firstly focus on what we know about the Bluebell (Hyacinthoids – non scripta) and related species and describe the research he was involved with. Entrance is a £3 donation which includes refreshments.

Feb 25th - March 10th Fairtrade Fortnight

March 5th (Tues) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting and Traidcraft stall.

March 16th (Sat) Bromley Council's Planning Seminar for Residents' Associations (**see page 10 for more info**)

March 22nd to April 23rd The Great British Spring Clean. BFoE are planning to participate. Watch out for more details!

April 27th (Sat) Groundswell: London & South East–FOE event (**see page 13 for more info**)

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

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 17TH 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 AGM report – Sheila Brown

25 people attended our meeting which started with the AGM.

During 2018 we held 12 monthly meetings, showed 2 environmental films, had 3 Traidcraft Fair Trade stalls. Ongoing participation in Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan. Took part in Great British Bee Count and “Bee Bio Blitz”. Campaign stalls in Bromley High Street and at fetes and fairs, Cooling’s Garden Centre and local events. Lobbied MPs. Monitored local planning and wrote letters where plans deemed unsympathetic to environment.

We also took part in People’s Walk for Wildlife and Climate Change March and World Cleanup Day – litter-picking in Bromley (with press coverage). Represented at Basecamp, FoE Greater London South East Regional Gathering and London Co-ordinators’ meetings at The Printworks. Further and ongoing participation in Clean Air monitoring locally with diffusion tubes. Ongoing networking with local environmental and parks groups and Bromley Against Fracking.

Thanks ...

... were expressed to office holders, campaigners and the many active group members for their commitment and work throughout the year. We are fortunate as a group to have a pool of around 20 people who have taken on diverse roles in co-ordination, admin, newsletter, fundraising, campaigning, technical support, supporting our high street campaign stalls and our fete stalls, monitoring planning, letter writing, lobbying MPs, attending Basecamp, providing hospitality and refreshments at meetings, opening up

and locking up the hall, organising speakers, networking with other groups. The Co-ordinators thanked group members for their individual contributions.

Approval of Accounts

The Treasurer presented the accounts for year ended 31st December 2018 and explained some of the details. Of particular note were the fundraising contribution by Bill Priestley with his 5th Open Garden event; thanks also to Bill for nominating BFoE to receive donations in memory of his mother Sylvia who died in September.

On the expenditure side, the stand-out item was the newly created category Campaign Expenses at £385 which was for three lots of diffusion tubes (one of which for use in January 2019) and printing of new leaflets and campaign materials. The accounts were approved. These plus a report of the AGM are sent to Head Office.

It was agreed to send an annual donation to FoE in the amount of £100. Although we have ample funds boosted by fundraising, this cannot be taken for granted in future years and it is important to have funds available to meet local needs when they arise.

Election of Officers

Last year Ann and Sheila indicated they wished to stand down in 2019. No-one had come forward. It was therefore proposed that Ann and Sheila become *Acting* Co-ordinators in the interim and mentor anyone who might come forward. Sheila has checked and this permissible.

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Bromley FoE Accounts, year ended December 31st 2018

	2018	2017	2016
Balance at January 1st	1,250.38	1,021.30	984.13
Income			
Subscriptions	383.00	388.01	388.00
Donations	332.50	160.00	171.32
Hall collection	446.94	428.08	368.23
Tea profits	69.98	67.21	67.49
Stall income	131.96	59.20	146.95
Open Garden	413.30	545.25	421.93
Unpresented cheque wr/back	15.00	0.00	26.70
	1,792.68	1,647.75	1,590.62
Expenditure			
Hall hire	500.00	506.35	485.00
Newsletter	459.30	462.00	452.80
Stall rentals & other expenses	20.00	73.50	110.82
Campaign expenses	385.11	0.00	0.00
Goods for resale	0.00	0.00	0.00
Speaker expenses/gifts	45.00	44.55	8.98
Payments to other organisations	105.00	102.50	322.50
Donations to National FoE	120.00	220.00	150.00
Other (including gifts)	0.00	9.77	23.35
	1,634.41	1,418.67	1,553.45
Surplus / (deficit) for year	158.27	229.08	37.17
Balance at December 31st	1,408.65	1,250.38	1,021.30

Comments on the accounts are on the next page

Comments on the 2018 Accounts

Once again our income was boosted by Bill's now legendary Garden Day, and added to this Bill invited people to make donations to Bromley FoE in memory of his mother Sylvia. Thank you, Bill.

The stand-out item of expenditure on these accounts is the newly created heading of Campaign Expenses/Leaflets. In the past small campaign expenses (last year, for example, we purchased some air

pollution face masks) have usually been shown in "other" but this year we spent a lot on diffusion tubes for air monitoring, and we did a major printing of campaign materials and publicity leaflets.

Speaker expenses were just to Rosamund Kissi-Debrah to cover babysitter.

It was decided to give £100 to national FoE plus the usual £20 registration fee.

January AGM report, *continued*

The following positions were agreed

Acting Co-ordinators: Ann Garrett and Sheila Brown

Admin Team (in lieu of Secretary): Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose
Treasurer: Sheila Brown (once again Sheila had hoped to shed this role but no volunteers)

Membership Secretary: Dan Sloan

Newsletter Editor: John Street

Newsletter production/distribution: Dan Sloan

Fundraising Officer: Bill Priestley

Website and Technical support: Peter Gandolfi

Programme Organiser: Sheila Brown

Press Officer/ Press Team: existing team Ann Garrett, Paul Enock, Annette Rose with Ruth Fabricant joining the team

Outings: John and Sue Bockock

Merchandising: Anne Clark

Planning Monitor: Tamara Galloway

Teas: Mary Ingledew and Sylvia Chance

Meeting Reporters: John and Sue Bockock, Anne Clark, Annette Rose, Paul Enock, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown (Any further additions to this team would be welcomed.)

Campaigns and Campaigning

Nature: Judy Palmer, Annette Rose

Don't Frack our Futures: Ann Garrett, John Catlin

Clean Air: Paul Enock, Annette Rose, Sheila Brown

Plastics: Annette Rose

Planning and Development: Tamara Galloway

The AGM was followed by refreshments including quiche, cakes and seasonal nibbles. During the second half various topics were discussed – *see next page*.

January meeting report (following the AGM) – Sheila Brown

The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch

2019 takes place over the weekend of 26-28 January. On the subject of Clean Air, Friends of the Earth have piloted a Clean Air Schools Pack which aims to raise awareness, particularly to idling, and to clean up the air outside schools. The packs will become more widely available.

Nature Campaign – Thanks were expressed to all who had supported the Nature Campaign as well as the litter picking in the Autumn and the Great British Bee Count. Looking forward further Urban Nature leaflets were planned plus a new one on Plastics and a revised Air Pollution one. In May we hope to participate in the "Great British Spring Clean" run by the Keep Britain Tidy group.

Idverde who are contracted by Bromley Council to manage our green spaces are tendering for contract renewal. We have worked with them and will continue to do so, or their successors. (Just heard before filing this report that their contract HAS been renewed.) We will be supporting an "Allow Wild Flowers To Grow" initiative and again taking part in the Great British Bee Count.

Plastics – Three Bromley group members are seeing Jo Johnson requesting support for the "Support Plastic Pollution Action Plan". Annette had approached Lidl requesting a 'reverse vending machine' into which used plastic bottles can be fed. They replied that they had no plans to introduce this in Bromley.

The council are holding their annual Planning Seminar on Saturday 16th March with guest speaker Bob Neill MP. Up to three representatives may attend. Tamara and Richard volunteered. Ray emphasised that if someone had registered, they MUST attend or it would reflect badly on BFoE. Registration by 1st March.

Outings – Sue had arranged a walk led by Pamela Zollicoffer around the alleyways of Orpington on the 12th. Pamela spoke to us last year about the alleyways of Bromley and also led a walk there.

Fracking – The ban on fracking in the Greater Manchester area was a welcome development. Ann was going to write to Greg Clark MP (Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) sending him some signed anti-fracking cards. The next stall in Bromley will be on Saturday 23rd March.

Planning – The Broke Hill development is NOT shown in the Sevenoaks Area Development Plan. However, a greater number of houses is shown on the Fort Halstead site. In Bromley, the Bell Hotel scheme has been approved but includes a 9-storey block. The original hotel is to be restored.

Updates – Graham reported that 51% of Palm Oil goes into car fuel or being burnt as biofuel. The EU have one month to decide whether to phase it out. Graham read from a letter in the Guardian about mass extinction and highlighting the Extinction Rebellion campaign.

The Editor's Page Plus

200 up – or not ??

Hands up all those who remember the July 2002 newsletter (No. 175).

All those who reckon they know how that was different from No. 174.

Well, the main difference was that No. 175 was the first one that I edited.

So what, you may ask ?? Well, this newsletter is No. 374.

All those who realise that that makes this one the 200th that I've edited ??

Well, I'm afraid that you're wrong.

Hands up all those who reckon they know why the August 2006 newsletter was different from any other.

Anyone who says "But there was no August 2006 newsletter" – you're so right.

Because of holidays there was no August 2006 newsletter and for a while the newsletter numbering system was out of sync with the year in that the December newsletter number wasn't divisible by 12. To correct this, the December 2007 newsletter was numbered 239/240 and order was restored.

Which all means that the March newsletter will actually be the 200th one that I've edited.

Followed all that ?? Have a custard cream on me at the next meeting.

The editor's indulgence (*see end of article on page 18 for explanation*)

February 3rd 1959 – The Day The Music Died

You may well be reading this newsletter a couple of days before our February meeting, on Sunday 3rd February.

That's the 60th anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly, along with the Big Bopper (J P Richardson) and Richie Valens, in a plane crash, along with the pilot of their four seater plane.

Buddy had hired the plane to avoid an interminable overnight coach journey in freezing weather; it had been so cold in the coach that a couple of nights before one of the tour party had had to be treated in hospital for frostbitten toes.

Shortly after 1:00am on February 3rd, 1959, Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, J P Richardson, and Roger Peterson (the pilot) were killed instantly when their plane crashed shortly after takeoff from the Mason City, Iowa airport.

Buddy Holly only released his first single records in 1956: Love Me / Blue Days Black Nights and Modern Don Juan / You Are My Heart's Desire.

But it was the first record that he released in 1957, after switching record labels, that made more of an impact – That'll Be The Day / I'm Looking For Someone To Love.

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Futures Campaign

This is to inform you that there will be a stall in the Mall Precinct, Bromley on March 23rd from 2.30 – 4.30 pm. We will be supported by Bromley Against Fracking, and will be grateful for your support, if you are available. Bromley Against Fracking will also be leafleting in Orpington on March 1st at the entrance to the Walnuts from 1.30 - 3.00pm.

John Catlin is planning to visit the anti-fracking campaigners at Horse Hill near Gatwick where UK Gas and Oil are drilling, some time in February or March, and would like some support with this. He would be grateful for some supplies such as tinned and non perishable food, and sanitary products, and also people to go with him on the day when this is decided.

Climate, Energy and Transport

UN Poland Climate Talks Outcome

The talks ended on December 17th with a deal on how to put the Paris 2015 agreement into action, but left other contentious problems to be decided.

There are difficult questions about such as how to scale up the existing commitments on cutting emissions. The main aim is to achieve a 'rulebook' on putting the Paris goals into action. Stark scientific advice underpins the whole matter, and there is a need to provide finance for poorer countries to meet their emissions targets. This will be decided in the future.

The UN secretary general Antonio Guterres praised countries for coming to an agreement, but demanded more, saying that there needed to be strengthened ambition from the international community.

Fracking Update

Greater Manchester will ban fracking as part of its plan to become carbon neutral by 2038. The authority will be putting planning measures in place to create a 'presumption' against fracking for shale gas. The ban came into effect on January 7th. There is determination to commit to renewable energy as soon as possible.

The ban follows the London draft plan drawn up by Sadiq Khan that will introduce an effective ban across the capital. He said that any fracking proposals that reach his desk will be thrown out following his declaration of a climate emergency.

Transport - Electric Bikes

A revolution in e-bikes is now under way that will radically transform cycling as we know it, particularly in urban areas. The underlying technology has become neater, more agile, and a lot more fun to ride.

The new Hummingbird e-bike has a motor which will enable riders to reach a speed of 15 mph, which is the legal limit. If riders want to pedal faster that is fine.

However, the prices of electric bikes generally need to become more affordable to encourage greater use by the public.

Nature Update – Judy Palmer

Some good news to begin with this month, as we have learned that **Idverde** have been re-appointed as the contractor to manage our parks and open spaces, for the next eight years. Hopefully we will be able to strengthen our ties with them and our other biodiversity partners in this time.

Jubilee Country Park

Do you remember that we played a small part alongside the Friends of Jubilee and the girls from Bromley High to create the new Digital Nature Trail in the park last year? We recently learnt that the Project Manager, Sue Folkes, was asked to write about the project for the website of London, National Park City and if you follow the link <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/make-a-difference> you can read all about and watch a video clip. But if you cannot do this, here is a copy of the text from Sue herself.

“We have recently installed a digital component to our Nature Trail in [Jubilee Country Park](#). The aim is to encourage more young people to use the park and to provide seasonal information with both audio and visual impact. Small screens can be difficult to read in bright sunlight.

“We enlisted the help of 48 year 5 pupils at Bromley High Junior School, led by their science teacher, Mrs Sheetal Kowalczyk. Helped by the Friends of Jubilee Country Park, they took photos at each of sixteen observation points over two field days and, with biodiversity expertise from Dr Judy John, we converted these into

PowerPoint presentations with a commentary read by the participants.

“To make these public over the internet, we converted them to YouTube videos and embedded them into a dedicated [Digital Nature Trail website](#). Each web-page covers one observation point and will eventually give the choice of learning about each season in the park. To access we use a QR-code at each point in the park, giving access to the appropriate web-page using a smartphone or tablet with a QR-reader installed.

“The web page URL is also printed on the plaque so can be entered directly for those without a QR reader. By using a website we can maintain the information without changing the QR-code. We successfully launched 'Autumn' in October and are currently working on Summer.

“The launch was organised by the school and attended by the mayor of Bromley as well as the leader of the council. The plan is to launch Summer and Spring as they become available. The pupils are very proud of their achievements and have great memories of their adventure.

“You can see the videos on our website jcnaturetrail.btck.co.uk. The software we used is listed on the acknowledgements page. Forgetting the hours involved, the only cost we incurred was for the weather-proof plaques!”

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A walk around the alleyways of Orpington – Anne Clark

On a chilly but dry Saturday, a group of us under the excellent guidance of Pamela Zollicoffer set off to explore the “alleyways of Orpington”. (Pamela had spoken to our group last year about Bromley’s alleyways and taken us for a walk around them last summer.) We were given a map of the area which she amusingly told us was printed off from the library’s own, priced at 2/6 (two shillings and sixpence) – which showed her how old it was !!

Starting at Orpington railway station, Pamela explained that this had been placed away from the old centre of Orpington and that suburbia had then grown up around it. We passed two long buildings that had been train sheds, now of office use, and then delved down to a tunnel going under the lines.

Pamela drew our attention to a plaque high up on the side, as all tunnels were numbered – the letters X and D, meaning Charing Cross to Dover, and the distance in an old measurement, i.e. furlongs.

Through the tunnel and past a bricked up “secret door” which had once led down to a World War 2 bunker of hush-hush usage, we emerged into an alleyway following the railway fence for a time, then over a bridge to the ups and downs of Orpington roads.

Most of the “ways” were very ancient and usually field edges, short cuts and footpaths until the railway came along and cut through the countryside, then the suburban houses were built. We were into more affluent properties now, and then across green spaces – many

of them of triangular shape, and were these dips ‘bomb holes’?

We descended to the older part of Orpington with its Victorian cottages, then up again to Broom Hill, which used to be strawberry fields, and were shown an old photo of farm workers there. In one corner, there had been a WW2 bunker and air-raid shelter and, looking across, we had a lovely view to the horizon in the direction of the onetime Perry Hall farm.

Pamela told us about a farm building near there where Sir Malcolm Campbell (father of Donald Campbell) had a workshop at the turn of the 20th century, trying out and inventing different “flying machines” – a true hero of his time.

After a group photo, we made our way back down to the High Street where we refreshed ourselves in a sociable, welcoming Wetherspoons to warm up and realised how much we’d learnt in our nice relaxed ramblings. Thank you to Pamela for the interesting walk and to Sue and John for organising this.

Planning Seminar

Bromley Council has invited us to be represented at their annual Planning Seminar for Residents' Associations.

This will be held on Saturday 16th March 2019. Coffee 10.00 am, Seminar 10.30 - 1.00. If you are interested in attending on behalf of Bromley FoE, please contact Sheila Brown. We need to register by 1st March.

Plastics and the Environment – Annette Rose

MP Visits

Some Bromley FoE members are hoping to see their MPs very shortly to ask for their support for a 'Plastics Pollution Action Plan'. This would form part of the new Environment Bill and it has the following three demands.

Now - Begin phasing out unneeded plastics.

ASAP - End pollution from hard-to-replace like car tyres, paints and clothes.

By 2042 - Aim for near zero plastics pollution. Hopefully we can update the group on our visits at the March meeting.

Thank you for your interest

Thank you to the people who came forward to speak to me after the AGM and campaigns discussion at the January meeting, who have expressed an interest in participating in the plastics campaign. There will be lots of interesting actions we will be able to take in 2019 and we hope to form a 'plastics' sub group.

To all who would like to see some of the ideas put forward by FOE so far, do have a look at the new 'Campaign Guides for Local Action' under 'plastics.' We have some new campaigning materials too which will be available to view at the February meeting.

Lush launch packaging free shop

Cosmetics company 'Lush' has launched a packaging free shop in Manchester. They have been able to do this by turning gels and liquids into solids. A shampoo bar can last for

around 100 uses. Solid products are activated by water or body heat. Shoppers can use their own containers to take purchases home or the shop provides paper bags, metal soap boxes or trays made from recycled coffee pots.

If you hear of any interesting innovations in reducing our use of plastics, particularly single use plastics, please do let us know at bromleyfoe@gmail.com or let us know at the meetings.

Nature Update - *continued*

10xGreener!

Did you read about this new initiative from Friends of the Earth recently? If you are interested in gardening and are friendly with lots of your neighbours, you could sign up to get help in crowd-funding to hire a gardener to make your neighbourhood 10xGreener.

A greener neighbourhood can boost biodiversity, reduce air pollution, reduce the likelihood of flooding, as well as help keep you fit – and maybe even provide free food! Well, the first Postcode Gardener has already been appointed, in the E5 area of London, and a second community in Bideford, Devon, is well on the way to hiring their Postcode Gardener. You may have even caught the E5 community on TV in January, as the BBC filmed the project in their Wild Metropolis programme.

But if you would like to read more about it, visit www.foe.co.uk and have a read.

Thanks to Local Groups from Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth thanked local groups for all the amazing work they have done during 2018. Here are some of the highlights.

Local people and our group in Merthyr Tydfil have stopped Nant Llseg from being wrecked by an open cast coalmine.

With our funding, teachers across the country are using Clean Air Schools Packs to educate children on air pollution.

People all across Europe demanded action to help bees. The result? The EU has now banned three bee harming pesticides from being used outdoors.

Our donations meant that FoE lawyers were able to intervene in the case of three peaceful anti-fracking protestors who had been unlawfully jailed and help secure their release.

Millions of people are talking about Plastic Free Fridays on social media and across the country local groups are turning whole cities plastic free.

We helped keep the frackers out of Sherwood Forest – more good news for the climate.

In Northern Ireland, supported local campaigners who were working to save the Owenkillew River from toxic gold mining pollution.

Hundreds of veggie meals have been sold at Portsmouth University thanks to a pilot loyalty scheme. Kale Yeah!

Launched a legal challenge against expansion at Heathrow Airport and West London groups are running an inspiring campaign to stop the plans.

Amazing activists have established over 50 Bee Friendly sites in Wales.

As well as taking all sorts of action online, thousands of you took to the streets to celebrate wildlife, defend our climate and march against Trump's policies.

Together we've achieved so much this year, and none of this would have been possible without you.

Here's to the next twelve months of changing the world!

Future Speakers for 2019

Sheila Brown writes: We hope to have a full programme of speakers during 2019 from environmental, humanitarian and international development organisations.

Due to enormous pressures at year end and in January, finalising accounts, preparing for AGM and report writing after it, I've not got very far with pinning people down but have feelers out and a 'hit' list.

Hopefully the programme will be more advanced by the March Newsletter. If you have any ideas for future speakers, please let me know.

Groundswell 2019

Friends of the Earth had said that there would be no Basecamp in 2019.

Instead they are holding regional campaigning events, aiming to be bigger and better versions of the previous regional gatherings. These are to be held in Bristol, Birmingham, Cambridge, Darlington, London and Manchester, all focussed on action to tackle climate change.

Saturday 27th April is the date for the London one. Tickets for this were sold out within a couple of days, but it is possible to book through localgroups@foe.co.uk.

Groundswell London will be held at Amnesty International, New Inn Yard, EC2A 3EA

From FoE's website:

The clock is ticking. Less than 12 years. That's all the time scientists say we have left to fix the climate.

We've endured the heatwaves and experienced the floods. The hottest years on record. We've seen people forced to flee their homes because of rising waters. We've seen forest fires in the Arctic. The effects of climate chaos are happening around us and the window of opportunity to act is closing.

Yet we have hope. Because we are our hope.

The solutions for stopping climate change are out there and they're achievable. But it's going to take all

of us working together to make them a reality.

And the tide is turning faster than many decision-makers realise. More and more people are joining together to not only demand a better a future, but to create one themselves.

Will you be part of it?

Friends of the Earth's Groundswell will bring people together across the country and step up our mission to stop climate change.

Join us in London and get the inspiration and tools you need to act against climate change.

The mix of informative sessions, practical workshops and stimulating talks means there's something for everyone. So whether you're just starting your journey for climate action or a seasoned climate campaigner, taking part in Groundswell will be your next step to creating a better future.

So much has already been achieved but we're still a long way from creating a cleaner, safer, fairer environment for people and planet. There's never been a more important time to act. We are the people we've been waiting for. We are the Groundswell.

Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

I mentioned in a past December mutterings that if the sun shines through the apple trees on Christmas morning, there would be a bumper crop. Well, the sun was wonderful wasn't it, so watch out for a good apple harvest this year.

Not a lot to report this month. All a bit quiet here on the farming side as you can imagine but the crops are looking good.

Still carrying out a little work on the inside of the buildings. The plastering and painting in the new office has been completed and new electrics installed.

The boys are to attend a day course on Pesticide practice management later in the month. This will keep us up to date with new legislation that has come in the last 12 months, very important. They will also attend a follow up meeting on the cereal trials from last June. This will give us value information on different varieties and how they performed in the field.

Dr Susan Pittman visited some time ago to ask questions about the Miller family. She was writing a book about the Miller family and farmers in Crockenhill and wondered if we had any information for her.

Fortunately we had plenty for her plus lots of photographs that she was able to use in her book. Albert Theodore Miller, together with his brother Ernest and our George took over the lease of Wested Farm around the early 1900's but Albert emerged as overall manager of the farm with George taking over

here. Dr Pittman has kindly given us a copy, which makes very interesting reading especially if you are a local history enthusiast.

Notes from George's letters. On the 25th January 1916 The 7th City of London have left the Brewery for Aldershot today. 1,400 of the Hon Artillery Company men have come to take their places. (George is referring to Fox's Brewery in Green Street Green where soldiers were billeted)

His letters to his sons in the war tell of the mild weather, lack of trade at market and the threshing of the wheat. In those days, the corn was cut in August/September, stooked for three weeks and then brought into the yard to store in straw stacks.

The wheat was threshed during the winter. George says that the wheat grains were coming out lighter than normal but the price was good. This was then loaded on the trains at Chelsfield to send away to be sold.

He sent razors, socks and shaving soap to George (junior) in Malta although the battalion had moved to Egypt, George was unwell and was staying in Malta. The American tractor was due the next day but the price had gone up by 35 guineas since he had bought it.

This month's weather quote is from John Keats reflecting the fact that St. Agnes Eve, 20th January, is reputedly the coldest day of the year in southern Britain.

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The Need to act Now to avoid Catastrophic Climate Change

Extinction Rebellion is an organisation formed in 2018 which aims to drive radical change through non-violent resistance in order to avert climate breakdown and minimise the risk human extinction and ecological collapse.

It has formed in reaction to the perceived complacency and inaction of governments, concluding that only by peaceful civil disobedience can the whole issue be elevated to the urgent priority status it requires. Friends of the Earth are in agreement with its aims but do not condone anything illegal.

At the January meeting, Graham drew our attention to a letter in the Guardian from a young woman who had resorted to civil disobedience to draw attention to the massive threat we are facing. She was arrested for gluing herself to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial strategy in London and risked further detention by illegally occupying Lambeth Bridge along with hundreds of others, as part of Extinction Rebellion's campaign for mass civil disobedience.

Scientists warn that the sixth mass extinction is now under way and that we only have a few short years in which to act. The UN also warns that we have just 12 years to avoid catastrophic climate change. The science is clear – we're heading for an existential crisis.

Until these events, this woman had been a law-abiding citizen, trying to drive change by making lifestyle changes, lobbying politicians, being

active in the Green party, etc, but decided that non-violent direct action and mass civil disobedience are now both necessary and urgent.

She has a beautiful, innocent little niece who is enthralled by the natural world. She says she knows she will not be able to face her knowing that she has sat back passively and allowed its destruction. She concludes: "Along with thousands of others I'm now willing to sacrifice my freedom in an attempt to draw attention to this emergency and to force our government to act immediately and radically."

In December there was a powerful letter written to The Guardian signed by 100 academics, authors, politicians and campaigners from across the world calling for urgent action to address climate change.

They say that in our complex, interdependent global ecosystem, life is dying, with species extinction accelerating. The climate crisis is worsening much faster than previously predicted. Every single day 200 species are becoming extinct. This desperate situation can't continue.

They speak of complacency in the developed world and say that we in the materially privileged world, must commit to accepting the need to live more lightly, consume far less, and to not only uphold human rights but also our stewardship responsibilities to the planet.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/09/act-now-to-prevent-an-environmental-catastrophe>

What FoE has been saying recently

No-deal must now be taken off the table to protect the environment says Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth is calling on party leaders to come together and take 'no-deal' off the table following Theresa May's Brexit deal being rejected by parliament.

The environmental campaign group says that a no-deal Brexit would have an immediate effect on the environment; from the dirty emissions which come from turning Kent into a car-park to deal with border queues, to rubbish and recycling which we can no-longer export to Europe piling up around the UK.

However, Friends of the Earth argue that it is the long-term environmental consequences of a no-deal Brexit which means it must be taken off the table, and that Article 50 should be extended until a solution which doesn't threaten our health and environment is found.

Craig Bennett, Friends of the Earth chief executive, said:

"Theresa's May's deal is now firmly in the dustbin and we're sleep-walking our way to a no-deal Brexit - this would be catastrophic for the environment.

"With climate chaos and nature in rapid decline, our environment is already in a worrying state. A no-deal Brexit would leave the UK without all the environmental protections we need, and nobody to enforce the ones we do have. Not only that, but political desire to get the economy moving will likely

lead to pressure to lower standards to secure quick trade deals, and the chaos of a no deal could push much needed environmental ambition to the back of the queue.

"Whatever happens next, a no-deal Brexit must be taken off the table and the timeline paused until we have a better solution. Nobody voted for a Brexit that threatens our wildlife, our health and our environment."

"World leading" air pollution plan is 'severely lacking in detail'

Government commits to tighter air pollution standards, but fails to set date and releases a plan severely lacking in detail on how such a target could be met.

Reacting to the launch of the government's Clean Air Strategy, Jenny Bates, Friends of the Earth air pollution campaigner, said:

"The government has made a welcome commitment to set an ambitious new target for cleaning up the most dangerous fine particle air pollution, based on World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.

"But while the WHO says standards should be reached by 2030, there is no date set in the government's strategy and the plan is severely lacking in detail on how such a target could be met.

"The biggest problem with our currently illegal NO2 air pollution is road transport –
/continued on next page

What FoE has been saying recently - *continued*

“and cars and other vehicles are also a key source of particle pollution, both from exhausts and also brake and tyre wear.”

Friends of the Earth is calling for the government to:

- Set a target for the UK to meet the WHO standard for PM2.5 by 2030, with plans to ensure that is met
- Bring forward the date by which the government say they will end the sale of conventional new diesel and petrol vehicles from 2040 to at least 2030
- Require more Clean Air Zones across the country, and to come in sooner – together with a government led, manufacturer-supported scrappage scheme
- Set plans to cut traffic levels – fewer as well as cleaner cars and other vehicles are needed to tackle air pollution, and also to prevent climate breakdown
- Investment more in public transport and active travel - which will make our cities and towns more attractive places
- Not allow new road-building to add to traffic, air pollution and climate emissions

Also at the AGM

We sang Happy Birthday to Graham who was going to be 94 the following Monday.

Friends of the Earth in court to continue challenge against unlawful decision to build third runway at Heathrow

Friends of the Earth is taking legal action against the government in a bid to overturn the decision to build a third runway at Heathrow. Tuesday (15th January) sees the pre-trial hearing at The High Court, with Friends of the Earth spokespeople available for interview.

The campaigners argue that the decision is unlawful due to its failure to consider the climate change and sustainable development implications of the project and the consequences on future generations (see notes to editors for full explanation).

Laura MacKenzie, climate change campaigner at Friends of the Earth, added:

“The government should never have entertained the idea of a climate-wrecking third runway, with Heathrow already the UK’s single biggest source of emissions. Support for airport expansion ignores the severity of the climate crisis and the harm that it is already inflicting on people and nature around the world including right here in the UK.

“The government should cancel the third runway and adopt fair and equitable policies to keep aviation demand within environmental limits, such as a frequent flier levy.”

Inquest Granted: death due to Air Pollution?

Ella Kissi-Debrah died at the age of 9 from a severe asthma attack. Her mother Rosamund spoke to us in October about Ella's life and her campaign to have a second inquest into Ella's death to establish air pollution as the cause of death (See November Newsletter page 3).

On January 11, it was announced that the Attorney General had granted a fresh inquest into Ella's death. Mother Rosamund had been campaigning for this for several years in order to prove that Ella's death was due to a severe asthma attack brought on by illegally high levels of air pollution and for this to be shown on her death certificate.

Lawyers acting for the family said this is a "hugely important" step. No individual death has previously been officially linked to illegal levels of air pollution.

In August Ella's mother delivered a 100,000 signature petition to the Attorney General Geoffrey Cox calling for a new inquest into Ella's death. She said, "Hopefully if we are successful, national government, local government and individuals will have to do something about cleaning up the air. It is unacceptable that children in Britain today die from asthma".

One of the grounds for calling a fresh inquest was that permitting illegal levels of air pollution was a potential breach of human rights under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights which protects the right to life.

The Editor's Page - continued

That's just two and a half years from first Decca recording to his death but his influence on the early 60s British pop music scene was immense, not least on the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

That's all there's room for here. There's plenty more on Wikipedia if you're interested.

You may think that Buddy Holly, his life or his death, have nothing whatever to do with Friends of the Earth. And you would be right. As it says at the top, this is the editor's page and the editor (i.e. me) has taken the view that after nigh on 200 issues he can be permitted this one indulgence. In the unlikely event that I'm still editor of this newsletter in December 2035 (that'll be 400 issues from me, more or less) I might allow myself another indulgence.

Miller's Mutterings – continued

*St. Agnes Day, ah bitter chill it was,
The owl for all his feathers was so cold,
The hare limped trembling through the frozen grass,
And silent stood the sheep in dusky fold.*

Wishing you and your family a happy New Year

*Chris Miller
Court Lodge Farm*

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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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