



Friends of the Earth

Bromley

January 2010 No. 265 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
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January Meeting

Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

It's not easy being green

Chris Mead shares his experience of retro-fitting a Victorian townhouse with wide-ranging energy-saving ideas

Tuesday 5th January

7.30pm.

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY. Contact details inside front cover.

Why don't you volunteer to help us in 2010 – see page 2 for more details

Diary dates:**January 5th (Tues)****Bromley FoE's January meeting:** Chris Mead on "It's not easy being green" plus our AGM**January 16th (Sat)****FoE South East regional gathering:** Bonhill House, 1-3 Bonhill St, London, EC2A 4BX, 9.30-5.15pm**February 2nd (Tues)****Bromley FoE's February meeting****Let's make 2010 The Best!**

Bromley FoE's successes - or failures - depend on its members' actions. So let's make 2010 a great year by driving forward our campaigning on essential matters such as climate change, energy, wasteful farming and the rest, plus making known our views on local issues like over-development, transport, the threat to the Green Belt etc.

You can help! Most of our office holders are continuing in post next year but there is always room for additional helpers to run the group or to work on campaigns. You devote only as much time to FoE as you have available; no one 'pushes' you. Guidance is available.

So, please put your name forward in time for our AGM in January. Ask Sheila, Ann or Ray about how you can help.

NON-ALCOHOLIC CHRISTMAS PUNCH

Several people have asked for the recipe for the Punch we served at our December meeting.

Large bowl, mixing bowl or punch bowl and ladle required.

Tropical Juice - 1 litre

White Grape Juice – 1 litre

Ginger Beer – ½ bottle (to give "fizz")

½ pint Water

Orange Juice – 1 litre

To decorate: 1 lemon, 1 orange, 1 apple, sliced.

Mix juices together, adding orange juice last to taste

(as this is the strongest flavour)

Add water to taste.

Add thinly sliced fruit as decoration (+ any other fruit)

Enjoy!

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY**

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

“The Wave” Climate Change march and rally, Sheila Brown

On Saturday 5th December an estimated 45,000 people converged on central London to march from Grosvenor Square to Westminster. Some, like our Bromley group, had arrived that morning by train; others had travelled by coach from many towns and cities throughout the country, and others still had come in organised bicycle groups from Sheffield, Cambridge and other far flung places.

The organisers had encouraged marches to wear blue – and blue was everywhere to be seen: blue faces, blue wigs, blue banners, blue clothing. Despite the underlying concerns which drew people to the capital, there was a wonderful spirit among the marchers, with all kinds of music, singing and whistles to cheer us along.

Ten Bromley FoE members were among the number. John and Sue Bocock had created a Wave made of blue fabric, supported by bamboo poles, held aloft by group members and others who joined us, including some young ladies from The Netherlands. Two “swimming” dolphins on poles ducked and dived behind the wave. Our thanks to John and Sue for the inspiration and execution of this imaginative prop.

After setting off from Grosvenor Square, the march proceeded south via Piccadilly down to Westminster, and was then routed along the Embankment, over Lambeth Bridge, back along the south side of the Thames and over Westminster Bridge, thus encircling the Houses of Parliament.

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Before the march, Archbishop Rowan Williams addressed gathered protestors in a church service at the Methodist Central Hall. With passionate petitions for unity among church leaders, he called for a frank acknowledgement of humanity's contribution to global warming.

Some comments from Emma, Jess and Rachel, graduates in conservation:

'It's unfortunate that the term climate change has been used inappropriately for so long. It's not climate change that's the worry, it's the rate at which it's happening. It's naive ignorance to say it's not a problem.'

'The diversity of people here today is great and important - all ages, all nationalities.'

'You can't change things with a one-off event. It's your lifestyle, voting, taking action and so on that counts.'

Meanwhile, elsewhere ...

Elsewhere in Europe, demonstrations flooded the streets of cities in a unified call for action at Copenhagen. 8,000 people attended Scotland's Wave march in Glasgow, while hundreds gathered dressed in blue to demonstrate outside government departments in Dublin, Ireland. Saturday also saw in Brussels a

/continued on page 5

December meeting report – Ray Watson

A large and attentive audience, swelled by visitors from other FoE groups, heard Andy Atkins, chief executive of national FoE, talk about the Copenhagen climate change summit – and how much there was to be achieved afterwards, whatever the final outcome.

He was speaking before departing to Copenhagen as leader of FoE's lobbying group. And only that morning he and other environmental leaders had discussed issues with Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

He called on everyone to keep the pressure up on politicians following Copenhagen. He had seen at first hand the effect on MPs and councillors when faced with protests from constituents; they really did take notice when confronted with evidence that their constituents were demanding action.

Andy reminded us of the basic science on greenhouse gas emissions, based on a simple law that had been around since the 1880's: that if you keep pumping molecules into the sky, they become trapped and the earth heats up. This, he said, had been proved to be horribly correct.

The result of the man-made pollution was that the earth had heated up by 1.3 degrees and was heading for two degrees, a point at which there would be horrendous effects through violently-changing weather patterns, with the poorest countries suffering most. Many parts of the planet would eventually become uninhabitable.

'The future has arrived', he said, because the world was already on a course where it would prove extremely difficult to slow down the overheating process. This was due to the profligacy of the past, which was only now having an effect.

Britain, as an early-industrialised nation, and other developed nations were the main culprits in CO2 emissions, even though it was done unwittingly at the time. Therefore, these nations had a moral obligation to un-developed countries to help them financially so they could reduce their carbon output.

FoE has four overall policy aims on climate change:

1. A 40 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020
2. Creation of a large fund to assist poorer nations; so far nothing like what was needed had been pledged.
3. Halt de-forestation, currently responsible for 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions
4. Improve technology transfer to un-developed nations – give them the knowledge and equipment that would help them achieve even just the basics, like weather forecasting

In the UK FoE had two aims: Decarbonise the energy sector by speeding up the contribution of renewables, and introduce more energy efficient schemes such as better public transport. Plus we must stop creating new offenders, such as

/continued on next page

The Wave, *continued* + December meeting report, *continued*

The Wave, Climate Change march and rally, *continued*

coalition of 15,000 protesters from NGOs and Unions gather to march through the city centre. Thousands came together in France for a noise demonstration organised by L'ultimatum Climatique playing rhythms on pots and pans in central Paris. In Germany activists gathered in front of Berlin's Brandenburg Gates with protesters sat in a giant aquarium dressed as world leaders.

However, these events were just a taster of what will be happening on Sat 12th Dec, our Global Day of Action, as people all over the world will demonstrate for real and radical action at the UN. Mobilisations are planned from all around Europe to Copenhagen itself, where there will be a march from the Danish Parliament building to the venue of the Talks. See <http://www.12dec09.dk/>.

On the same day there will be demonstrations and events all around the world with 10,000 expected in 'Walks against Warming' in Australia, up to 50,000 expected on the streets of New Delhi, 20,000 at a concert in Utrecht and a host of other events from Dakar to Djakarta and from Buenos Aires to Istanbul. See details of all these and more at <http://www.globalclimatecampaign.org>.

December report, *continued*
building new runways. The problem with tackling the latter, said Andy, was that politicians feared annoying voters on many such issues.

Local councils were to be a target for FoE's Get Serious campaign. The aim was to get local authorities to pledge a 40 per cent emission cut in their area by 2020 and backed by a policy strategy to show how it would be done. (*Bromley FoE will be supporting this initiative locally*).

Andy emphasised that such a campaign had an extra benefit: it would show local residents that there were gains to be had from climate solutions – for example, energy savings would reduce council tax bills. That would demonstrate to local residents that they too, as individuals, could contribute to reducing emissions and gain at the same time.

Overall, his conclusion as to the current state of play in the battle to beat climate change was that the solutions were there but the political will to adopt them was missing.

Following his presentation, Andy answered a variety of questions, ranging from the dangers of nuclear power, population control and the inadequacies of local councils, until – as ever – time ran out. He was presented with a book to mark his first visit to Bromley FoE.

However, he stayed on to be able to chat to members over drinks and seasonal food marking BFoE's annual social event.

Bromley FoE Accounts for year ending 31/12/09

	2007	2008	2009
Balance at January 1 st	690.74`	823.08	821.46
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations	298.00	159.00	191.00
Subscriptions	323.00	375.00	464.00
Hall collection	290.00	266.00	288.00
Tea profits	16.00	20.00	28.00
Fund-raising	306.20	190.00	189.48
	<u>1233.20</u>	<u>1010.00</u>	<u>1160.48</u>
<u>Payments</u>			
Hire of Hall	400.00	400.00	400.00
Newsletter	345.77	350.00	375.80
Goods for re-sale	0.00	114.76	20.00
Payments to other orgs	40.00	65.00	70.00
Stall fees	37.00	25.00	35.00
Other (website / gifts)	278.09	56.86	114.99
	<u>1100.86</u>	<u>1011.62</u>	<u>1015.79</u>
Difference between payments & receipts	+132.34	-1.62	+ 144.69
Balance at 31st Dec	<u>823.08</u>	<u>821.46</u>	<u>966.15</u>
Other assets at 31/12/09			
CAT shares (150)	150.00		

FoE's January Regional Gathering

Mark 16 January in your diary to come along to the January Regional Gathering for the Greater South East. The day will include updates and workshops on our priority campaigns for 2010, a review of Copenhagen, plus the opportunity to learn key skills, network on local campaigns and hear from our Executive Director, Andy Atkins.

The morning will feature an update on what went on in Copenhagen, parallel sessions on the Food Chain and Get Serious campaigns, and in the afternoon there will be various skills workshops followed by a networking session on local campaigning, with the final address being given by Andy Atkins, FoE's Chief Exec.

To find out if there are any places still available, email katie.higgins@foe.co.uk at FoE.

Campaigns info, from Ann Garrett

The Wave Climate March

Many thanks to all who went on the march in one form or another on Dec 5th. It wasn't possible for everyone to link up with our main banner and Sue and John's imaginative 'dolphin wave', but 'Bromley' was certainly there joining with other groups and helping to swell the 50,000 marching from Hyde Park or Grosvenor Square and then attempting to surround the Houses of Parliament by walking over Lambeth Bridge and back across Westminster Bridge. A great effort overall and such a creative mass of blue!

Get Serious Campaign Update

The response from Colin Smith, Bromley Executive Member for the Environment, is included in this newsletter. This letter and that from Alistair Baillie, lead officer on 'Green' issues, which will be summarised next month, were both sent very quickly, indicating the concern of their intentions. Meetings are due to be organised with Bob Neill MP and Colin Smith with support from Jenny Bates and Liz Hutchins from FoE.

Meanwhile please get the cards signed for sending to Colin Carr the Leader of Bromley Council and your local councillor/s. They should be returned to me (if you don't, please post them directly to FoE in Luton), so that I can take them to the London FoE office in a batch.

Copenhagen Climate Conference

At the time of writing about this there have been demanding problems for West and developing countries leaders.

The latter countries reacted furiously to a leaked draft agreement which would allow rich countries to link financial aid to cuts in carbon emissions in the third world.

African countries hit by drought and island states in danger of being overwhelmed by rising sea levels claimed that the draft text reverses the main tenet of the Kyoto agreement, which puts the onus on western countries, which have created the bulk of carbon pollution.

Andy Atkins has stated that the draft text also violated the principle of the UN negotiations. The document is said to propose that rich countries would be allowed carbon emissions targets twice as high as developing countries in the future.

The Met Office Avoid study has said that developing countries should be helped towards a low carbon economy so that they become less reliant on fossil fuels, and stressed that that there is only 10 years to avoid climate catastrophe.

On December 10th scientists told the conference that even if emissions did start to fall by 4 per cent a year after 2018, there was still only a 50 per cent chance of keeping the temperature rise below the crucial 2C mark.

Action!! What we did in 2009 !!

In no particular order, these were some of Bromley FoE's activities in 2009 – a busy and successful year:

- Organised 11 group meetings (February snowed off) with a variety of speakers
- Held four meetings to plan future campaigns
- Went into the High St on four occasions to win support for our campaigns
- Successfully persuaded the Press to run several stories about us
- Publicised our campaigns at three country shows
- Wrote to the borough's three MPs on various issues
- Launched a food-and-farming campaign
- Monitored development plans in the borough
- Opposed some aspects of planning law
- Opposed expansion at Biggin Hill Airport
- Gave evidence on aspects of Bromley's town centre plan
- More than 200 people signed cards in support of our campaigns
- Published 12 issues of our Newsletter
- Held a Family Fun day to raise funds
- Attended the Kingsnorth Power Station protest
- Attended the Heathrow climate camp
- Attended the Crystal Palace Park public inquiry
- Organised social outings and walks
- Supported Bromley Civic Society
- Sent delegates to FoE's annual conference
- Supported FoE regional and co-ordinators meetings
- Addressed two school groups
- Supported a Viva animal rights stall
- Joined the Marinet 'protect the seas' campaign
- Co-operated with Bromley Council on a waste campaign
- Asked the Mayor of London questions at a public meeting
- Organised two Traidcraft stalls
- Marched with 20,000 others at the central London climate change demo
- Attended Bromley Council's planning seminar
- Arranged a visit and speech by FoE's chief executive

And: We Made a Difference!

Transport info – from Ray Watson

Bus route to ruin

As we enter 2010, users of public transport will soon feel the impact of Mayor Boris Johnson's package of measures to reduce the cost of Transport for London: and not just the above-inflation fare increases that start in the New Year.

Largely unnoticed in the mayor's announcement was the fact that he wants TfL to reduce bus coverage by 26 million kilometres annually. That means fewer routes or a greater gap between buses, or both. In inner London areas where there is greater frequency than the suburbs that might mean an extra minute or two between buses. But in outer London the wait might well be much longer for services that at present are already one every 30 minutes or one an hour.

That hardly helps the need to get people out of their cars and on to public transport.

Unfair fares?

In a double-whammy bus users must get used to shelling out for a 12.7% increase, while tube riders will pay an extra 3.9%. The mayor says the extra income will go towards modernising the transport network and to reduce the growing reliance on taxpayer subsidies, which, for the bus network is £620million annually and, in the case of the Underground, now around £700million.

He also points out that 40% of bus passengers will continue to travel free or at a substantial concessionary rate.

There is also no escape for users in the Congestion Charge Zone. The fee rises to £9. At the end of 2010 it will increase to £10 for those drivers who do not join the mayor's new automated payment scheme which will allow them to pay by credit or debit card or by direct debit.

Shipshape

The aviation industry has – quite rightly – attracted fierce criticism for the amount of CO2 it emits. Meanwhile, shipping has been quietly getting away with using low quality fuel oil that constitutes three per cent of all global emissions. Therefore, when ship-owners come out with their own plan to reduce their greenhouse gases it must mean that something serious has been going on. Perhaps they are getting in a pre-emptive strike?

Their scheme is not to clean up their act, but merely to operate a trading scheme so that the biggest polluters can continue to pollute by just buying the allocation of those who have not used all their 'entitlement'.

Friends of the Earth says this is not good enough. Stop polluting at source!

Scrappage bonus

There is an unexpected green bonus from the Government's subsidy scheme to encourage the scrapping of old cars. Surprisingly, purchasers of new vehicles have been going for less polluting models – usually ones with smaller engines. This follows the pattern of a similar scheme in the US which saw old pick-up trucks and off-

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The Seas Roll In – a poem by Ann Garrett

The Seas Roll In

Concrete covers front gardens
Polluting four-by-fours zoom by
Carbon dioxide hazes mingle
Deforestation creates arid wastelands
Orang-utans cease to breed
Corporations heedlessly profit

And the seas roll in

Forest fires burn luxury pads
Land masses slowly sink
Polar bears cling to snow islands
And drown as the ice caps melt
Cliffs crumble and slide on to beaches
We build more defences and hope

And the seas roll in

And as the seas roll in
Their constancy brings energy
Tidal turbines whine and throb
As the waves swirl and break
Saving us from obliteration
from sinking into the abyss

Let the seas roll in

Ann Garrett Ashley [Nov /05 – revised Oct/09]

Transport info, continued

road four-wheel drive vehicles account for 83% of trade-ins.

But, says Friends of the Earth, while this is welcome, Ministers must now do more to encourage low-carbon development to ensure European targets for CO2 emissions targets are met, given that the motor industry has consistently opposed measures to drive down emissions.

Re-User Item [2]

For sale:
Computer monitor (CRT).
Logic LGX182
17-inch screen
£20 ono – half to FoE

Contact Graham Hemington
01689-822527

Letter to Cllr Colin Smith about the Get Serious Campaign

Letter from Ann Garrett to Cllr Colin Smith

I am emailing you on behalf of Bromley Friends of the Earth about local authorities' emissions targets as part of our FoE 'Get Serious' campaign.

As you know, local authorities have been asked to adopt a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 in the local authority area, and to produce a Climate Change Action Plan to deliver the cuts.

Authorities should also have appointed a senior officer for climate policy with clear and extensive responsibilities, to ensure resources are directed towards action on climate change.

A recent opinion poll commissioned by the Local Government Association showed that 82 per cent of MPs and 76 per cent of the public agree or strongly agree that councils have a key role to play in tackling climate change.

I wonder if you would be so good as to inform me what action and progress has been made by Bromley Council in tackling the above issues, so I can update our FoE group.

There has certainly been some very good evidence of positive recycling procedures in the local press.

I will send a Friends of the Earth 'Getting Serious about Climate Change' publication to you, which contains a report prepared for local government officers and members.

Cllr Smith's reply to Ann

I have copied in the Council's Mr Alistair Baillie, him being our lead officer on 'Green' issues to enable him to forward you the relevant information on the work that the Council has undertaken with the Carbon and Energy Savings Trusts over the past eight months with the aim of reducing our emissions by 25% over 5 years.

Providing the electoral Gods are kind next May, much as I hold targets and bureaucracy in complete and utter contempt, this is a target I intend to leave no stone unturned in achieving and hopefully surpassing.

Premiere of global warming play

Serious -- and funny
Bromley FoE members are invited to see an entertaining play about surviving climate change -- jokes included -- which is being staged at Greenwich Playhouse from January 19 to February .7

The play explores society's different response to the warming of the planet, approaching the subject via various angles -- environmental, ethical, political and economical, but without preaching. Its director says it is both funny and thought-provoking.

Tickets are £12, concessions £10 and if BFoE members can get together a group of eight to attend the same night there is a discount to £8 per person. The theatre box office is 020 8858 9296. *Further details from Ray.*

Pig Business – an invitation from Tracy Worcester

Four years ago I set out to discover who was paying the true price for the 'cheap' imported pork for sale in Britain's supermarkets. I have produced a film called 'Pig Business' which documents the damaging impact factory farming is having on the quality of our food the environment and the health and welfare of agricultural communities.

We need your help to ensure the film results in less but better pig meat being the norm. After watching the film many environmentalists told me that they had no idea of the extent of harm that factory farming causes.

Of particular interest to FoE is the focus on soya production in the Amazon. Not only destroying the forests but replacing local food production with crops that feed animals. The link between meat consumption and climate change was highlighted by Lord Stern.

Our campaign

We are organising an event at the House of Commons to lobby MPs. It will be a chance for MPs to hear what experts are saying and commit to the legislative changes on labelling on procurement of sustainable welfare friendly meat in schools and hospitals and on banning imports of pig meat that are of a lower standard that UK laws allow..

Zac Goldsmith, Peter Ainsworth MP (Con) Alan Simpson MP (Lab) and Tim Farron MP (Lib) will host the event and many NGOs including FoE will speak to the assembled MPs and journalists.

What you can do

We hope to galvanize enough popular support for MPs to really feel the pressure by getting as many people as possible writing letters. This is the perfect time pre-election for MPs to show that they respond to the concerns of their constituents.

Can your Friends of the Earth group and/or members do the two following things?

1. Screen the film to raise awareness in the local community (we can send you a copy)
2. Write a short letter to tell your MP how you feel about the film and why it shocks you, and ask your MP for three key things:

- To watch the DVD of Pig Business that we will send them and invite them to your screening if you can hold one.
- Ask your MP to attend the Pig Business event at the House of Commons on the 27th of January 2010 at 6-8pm. To contact your MP please click on this link:

<http://www.pigbusiness.co.uk/email-mp.php>

Please contact us on info@pigbusiness.co.uk or by phone 0207 584 6592 where a member of the team will be happy to answer any questions and if you are to host a screening send you a DVD free of charge.

Alternatively to find out more about the film please visit our website:

<http://www.pigbusiness.co.uk>. To watch the film for free on You Tube please click here: <http://bit.ly/2SNoTZ>

Christmas message from MARINET's director, David Levy

May I take this opportunity to wish you all Seasons Greetings, and a multitude of thanks for all the hard work that you have given during 2009 to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, now an Act. I cannot convey to you how gratifying it was to us all having a strong network lobbying on MARINET Amendments as the Bill passed through Parliament (see MARINET website report, <http://www.marinet.org.uk/mreserves/hpmr.html>)

We as a movement came out of this process with integrity, and were in fact the only NGO that stood up for the scientific evidence as recorded in the 2004 Report by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP).

The fact that we were on our own is due to our stance supporting the RCEP Report and our lobbying for Highly Protected Marine Reserves (HPMRs) as one of the most important management tools for delivering the ecosystem approach to our seas.

Other NGOs relied on the Government to stand by their word when the Government said that it supported HPMRs in principle. However when the final draft of the legislation came before the House of Commons at Report Stage in October, HPMRs were not there. The reality therefore was that the RCEP's recommendation to urgently create HPMRs had been ignored, and the Government had hoodwinked the NGOs who had trusted in it. The only NGO that had not been taken in was MARINET, and this enabled us to table the HPMR amendment at Report Stage which you lobbied so hard for.

The result of your lobbying for HPMRs in the legislation was that the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats decided to support our HPMR Amendment, as did several Labour backbench MPs, and the Government had to introduce a full Whip in order to defeat the Amendment by 158 votes to 246. Thus although we lost this particular contest, we won a moral victory. The Conservative and Liberal Democrats are now on record in Parliament as supporting and voting for the ecosystem approach and the use of HPMRs, whereas the Labour Party is on record as taking a contrary position. We trust parliamentary pressure and the voting record will now force the Labour Party to see the error of its ways.

2010 will be equally hectic. The Regional Groups established by Natural England to identify the marine conservation zone networks for our seas will have MARINET members sitting on them, and this will bring responsibility to others in MARINET for delivering our aims. During the forthcoming year we will also be working on OSPAR and the Defra Review of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, along with the EU's reform of the Common Fishery Policy. All this means we have a real job of work to do.

It is my earnest wish that Andy Atkins really understands the nature and complexity of the national and international obligations we have to marine issues and what a great job we are doing. You have my sincere thanks as your Chair and Best Wishes for 2010.

Keston and Bromley CPRE, published with permission

In the 1930s, not very long after the launch of a new organisation by the name of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, when suburban London was expanding rapidly across its outer green spaces, some residents of a small village on the fringe of SE London (and then in Kent), decided to form a protective group which they called 'the Keston Branch of CPRE'.

And so it remained until 1984 when the London Branch of CPRE came into being and Keston Branch became the Keston and Bromley District Group.

Some of the large estate houses have remained, but now provide offices in agreeable surroundings. The largest estate is that at Holwood, former abode of William Pitt the Younger (although the present Grade I listed, Decimus Burton house and Humphrey Repton landscaping came later). It was over this site and the valley beyond that the Keston and Bromley District Group fought its biggest battle.

Leading an action group of residents and environmental organisations we were able to defeat both the developer, a Mr Gold, and the local council, which had been half-hearted in its opposition: appearing to consider an estate of executive homes appropriate use for land adjacent to the very spot where Pitt and William Wilberforce had agreed to abolish the UK slave trade.

Much later, more sympathetic proposals that kept to the footprint of a one-time office building were eventually allowed.

Apart from the remains of the Wilberforce Oak, the remnants of an Iron Age hill fort - less well treated by Mr. Pitt - and a medieval tile kiln are still in place.

Across the road that leads from Bromley down to Biggin Hill a second hill fort encompasses much of the surviving area of Keston Common. The artificial lakes here, now heavily silted, once provided reservoirs of drinking water from the spring at Caesar's Well, the seeming source of the River Ravensbourne.

Still popular today, they were once the focus of attention for thousands of day-trippers. With the former fairground at Keston long since swallowed by development within the village, Keston Countryside Day still provides a welcome echo of times past.

Bromley is the largest of the Greater London Boroughs. More than half of its area lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt. There are numerous farms, now mostly devoted to "horsey-culture". The last big dairy farm, with around 100 cows, moved its herd - lock stock and udder - to Cornwall two years ago.

A local authority Article 4 directive has stopped fences and other clutter so far but there will be problems - not least one of how to take hay or other crops from land in such fragmented ownership.

There will undoubtedly be battles to come. Keston and Bromley District Group may well need allies and reinforcements.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson or Sheila Brown on the numbers shown above.

Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

Reuser Column
Don't throw It away - Reuse It!

If you have any items to sell, or anything that you require, please send details to the Editor. Items will be displayed for three months, the number in brackets after an item indicating for how long it has appeared. Could you please contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the newsletter.

Any donations to Bromley FoE generated from this column gratefully received!

Non-members' Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth, BFoE, then hello. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators, Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

Membership Application/Renewal* Form (*please delete as appropriate.)

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN.** Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email raywatson@iclway.co.uk.

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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