

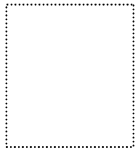


**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# January 2012 No. 289 Newsletter

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## January Meeting

Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

### How Green are Bromley's parks?

*Patrick Philips and Robert Shembri from Bromley Parks Department share with us the challenges they face in running Bromley's parks and open spaces, keeping them green and operating within budget constraints*

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - 7.30pm.**

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by  
**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY.**

Contact details inside front cover.

***What were Bromley FoE doing 20 years ago? See page 9***

### Diary dates:

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Tues)	<b>Bromley FoE's January meeting.</b> Illustrated talk by Patrick Phillips and Robert Shembri from Bromley Parks Department; followed by Bromley FoE's AGM.
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Sunday lunch at the Croft Tearoom (see below)
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> (Tues)	<b>Bromley FoE's February meeting</b>
Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> (Tues)	<b>Bromley FoE's March meeting</b>
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Campaign Stall

### Bromley FoE's AGM - Your chance to shine!

January's group meeting is also our annual general meeting – and it gives you the chance to make an impact on the work we do. Officers and campaigners are up for election and it would boost the amount of campaigning we do if you would join them in taking on a task. How much time you spend, or what job you would like to take on, is entirely your decision; no one pushes you to do more than you wish.

Bromley FoE looks like having a busy programme in 2012 and you extra support would ensure that we keep the environment well to the fore in the crucial days ahead.

Please talk to Ann, Sheila or Ray about thoughts and ideas you may have to add your efforts to the work already being done.

**You will find it very satisfying!**

### Christmas meal – in the New Year

As reported last month, it was decided to wait until after Christmas and have a Sunday lunch at the Croft Tearoom, High Street, St Mary Cray. The date is to be Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Please sign up at the January meeting, or phone Sheila Brown (01689-861806) by January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 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](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

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

## December Meeting Report – from Ray Watson

### Views from abroad

The December social evening was treated to two fascinating views on life abroad – Nancy Sloan told of spending a year at university in Japan at the time of the tsunami, and John and Sue Bocock spoke about a 21-day trip around China.

When the tsunami struck, damaging much of the north of the country and wrecking a nuclear power station, Nancy was actually visiting China. Her university, situated in southern Japan, called her back, but she was not called upon to get involved in relief activities – perhaps just as well, since the dangers of radiation from the nuclear plant became ever more apparent.

She said she felt that the Japanese did not trust their government – since thrown out of power – to tell the full story of the levels of danger from the nuclear plant. In the months following the disaster, anti-nuclear support had grown.

Nancy said that most Europeans left Japan in the immediate aftermath of the radiation leakage and when they did return they were careful to drink only bottled water and to avoid some vegetables.

Overall, she found the Japanese welcoming and polite – they did not, for example, use their mobile phones on trains. They were also very efficient; after a snowfall residents would be out clearing snow off their street.

She did not think the environmental movement was strong, though

recycling was common and both Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace have a presence there.

Nancy confessed that she struggled to learn Japanese, not helped by the language having three alphabets, while John and Sue Bocock said their trip to China followed their spending four years learning mandarin.

They found it difficult to comprehend the size of the country. Their travel included two train trips each of 15 hours or more, and two 45-minute internal flights. Because of land shortage, roads were often double-deck, with a local road having a motorway built above it. Traffic was a continual stream and added to the country's pollution problems.

Similarly, it was hard to realise just how old were some of the sites they visited – 2000 years or more. But they found that 'old China' was rapidly disappearing as the country became more commercial.

John and Sue said they found the family was still an important ingredient in Chinese life and, in spite of overcrowding, streets were generally kept very clean.

Finally, the trip made them realise just how powerful a role China will be playing in world politics in the future.

*Many thanks to all those who contributed to the seasonal food and drink that followed the presentations.*

<b>Bromley FoE Accounts for year ended 31 Dec 2011</b>
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	2011 £	2010 £	2009 £
<b>Balance at 1 January</b>	855.48	966.15	821.46
<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions	333.00	389.00	464.00
Donations	181.00	158.34	191.00
Hall collection	303.64	293.12	288.00
Tea profits	12.30	25.00	28.00
Stall income & other fundraising	148.62	114.96	189.48
Donations for National FoE	72.00	620.00	0.00
	<u>1,050.56</u>	<u>1,600.42</u>	<u>1,160.48</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Hall hire	420.00	400.00	400.00
Newsletter	370.00	365.60	375.80
Stall rentals & other expenses	66.00	35.00	55.00
Goods for resale	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conference subsidy	0.00	90.00	0.00
Payments to other organisations	25.00	187.50	70.00
Donations to National FoE	92.00	620.00	0.00
Other	0.00	12.99	114.99
	<u>973.00</u>	<u>1,711.09</u>	<u>1,015.79</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>	<u>77.56</u>	<u>(110.67)</u>	<u>144.69</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<u>933.04</u>	<u>855.48</u>	<u>966.15</u>

**Transport info** – *final para, continued from next page*

Meanwhile, any thoughts of Heathrow expanding have receded further – Labour, previously in favour of building a third runway, now say they oppose it, while a report by a committee of MPs

concludes that a third runway will never happen because of air pollution problems which, they say, are 'impossible' to overcome.

## Transport info – from Ray Watson

### Poor relation

Once again public transport comes off worse when the government is handing out money. While huge amounts of spending on roads were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer little is to come the way of buses – a mere £25 million for bus companies to buy low carbon vehicles while road schemes get £6 billion for major works including improvements to the M3 in Surrey and the M6 between Birmingham and Manchester.

Rail does a bit better with millions to be poured into projects such as extending the Northern line, £80 million for 130 new carriages for trains in south London and expanding the oyster card scheme around London. Fare increases previously announced were cut from six per cent to four – but that is still above inflation, and, anyway, increases in unregulated fares will be on top of that.

Splashing the cash on more roads that will attract more traffic will hardly help the government reach its carbon targets. A better way of helping the environment would have been to ensure that rail and bus fares are kept low. Note that bus fares in London have increased by 55 per cent since Boris Johnson became mayor.

Much the same argument applies to the Chancellor's decision to drop the rise in fuel duty due in January, costing the Treasury £1.5 billion in revenue. The move may please the voters but, again, it will lead to an increase in car journeys and the pollution that goes with it.

### Parking problem

You have been warned: Bromley's parking fees will be going up, probably from April. This warning came from no lesser person than Cllr Stephen Carr, leader of the council. He claimed it was a difficult decision because charging more at the borough's car parks would drive customers away – some to Bluewater shopping centre where parking is free –, thus reducing the overall take. However, he pointed out that the charge had not increased in two years. And we know councils are always short of money...

### About turn?

The government made half an about-turn when it said it might find millions to build tunnels for the London-Birmingham high speed link following strong objections from Home Counties residents. Are we about to see a similar retreat on the Thames estuary airport – a project being pushed hard by mayor Boris Johnson?

Until recently the government set its face against the scheme, but there are now suggestions that it will 'have a further look' at it. One of the things it will uncover if it does is powerful objections from Kent County Council and local councils, along with bodies such as Friends of the Earth.

Architect Lord Foster has stirred up matters by releasing details of his proposal for a four runway airport in the Thames to cope with 150 million passengers a year.

*/Last para is on the previous page*

## Campaigns, Energy and Climate info – from Ann Garrett

### **London Climate Justice March**

Three members of our group went on this on December 3rd/2011 from Blackfriars Bridge to Parliament Green for the rally. We were joined by some Greenpeace supporters from Bromley and met fellow FoE members from Croydon.

There were some powerful messages for the climate talks in Durban, urging negotiators to be responsible in the decisions they made and saying that the future of the planet rested on their shoulders. Speakers also emphasised that switching from fossil fuels to green energy would create more jobs and shield us from rising fuel bills, and also spoke of the dangers of fracking for oil.

The main speaker was Phil Thornhill co-ordinator of the Campaign for Climate Change who warned that the world's population could reach 9 billion by 2050, and that only the richest half a billion might survive by the end of the century.

The march was perhaps one of the smallest, about 450 people, but it is vital that we keep up the impetus each year in the hope of influencing the public as well as our governments, especially the present coalition which is far from being 'the greenest government ever'.

### **FoE London Local Groups Meeting**

This was held on Dec 7th/2011 at Underwood Street and led by Tom Wright and Katie Higgins. There were two main discussions 'Who are events for?' and 'How can we bring activists together?'

There were suggestions that the first one could be for key organisers /co-ordinators , active members, people we're not reaching, other groups, campaign activists, and FoE supporters who are not in a local group.

The second discussion ideas were:- specialised training events and networking opportunities, campaigning updates and briefings, monthly skills-share workshops, peer support and trouble-shooting, and engaging the public/new people.

We then received some information about campaigns - in April the Bees campaign will be launched, and the Final Demand energy phase 2 campaign will finish.

This was followed by suggestions for future national / London and local events which included quizzes, questionnaires, film shows, mini arts festivals and surveys.

Finally a short film link was shown about youth mobilisation in Brussels, international clips from the Durban conference, and from an African women's group chanting slogans in opposition to the World Bank, corporate control and financial markets' elite as part of a lively demonstration supported by FoE activists.

The meeting was a good opportunity to meet other group contacts and generally very constructive.

## Campaigns, Energy and Climate info, *continued*

### Energy and Climate - Durban Climate Conference

The UN climate talks finally ended with a deal to draft a new international treaty to cut emissions by 2015 which would come into force by 2020. The meeting overran by 36 hours and a compromise was reached between the EU and India after a long struggle. The agreement is the first time the world's biggest polluters- the US, China and India, have all signed up to negotiate a legally enforceable deal.

The conference also established a 'green climate fund', which will be used to channel billions of pounds to poor countries, but did not decide how the money would be raised.

Britain's climate secretary Chris Huhne, said the deal was ' a significant step forward ', but environmental campaigners warned that the deal would not be enough to tackle global warming, and the worrying news has just come through after the conference that Canada is withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol - it is thought due to their highly polluting tar sands industry.

Andy Atkins from FoE is reported as saying ' that the UN climate change process is still alive, but this empty shell of a plan leaves the planet hurtling towards catastrophic climate change. If Durban is to be an historic stepping stone towards success, the world must urgently agree ambitious targets to slash emissions'.



Ann Garrett, Barbara Finnis, Patrick Beatty and Julie Etter at the Climate Justice march on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Bromley FoE 10 and 20 years ago

In order to spice up the newsletter, I thought I would give you the chance to relive the Bromley FoE talks from days gone by.

### Here are the ones from 2001 –

January 2001

Target 2001: What campaigns should be our priority in the coming year?

February 2001

Coral Gibson – Bromley's Principal Tree Officer

March 2001

Martyn Williams (FoE) – Saving Energy, Creating Jobs

April 2001

Bill Priestley – An environmental view of New Zealand

May 2001

Duncan Philips (Bromley Council) – Air Pollution

June 2001

Ewa Prokop (Bromley Council) – Bromley's Wetland Campaign

July 2001

Geoff Chown and Dan Sloan – Real Food – Reformed Agriculture?

August 2001

Philip Brooke – Compassion in World Farming

September 2001

The Big Debate – the changing face of campaigning

October 2001

Craig Bennett (FoE) – FoE's Corporate Campaign

November 2001

Adrian Bell (Bromley Council) – Transport choices in Bromley

December 2001

Dave Witherspoon – West Kent Badger Group

## Jubilee Debt Campaign – The Big Give – thanks and update

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated this week through The Big Give Christmas Challenge. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity - and your persistence in spite of problems with the Big Give website.

The good news is we've raised a total of £13,880 so far, 70% of the way to our £20,000 target and a big boost to our campaign fund for 2012.

The matched funding provided by The Big Give has now run out, but you can

still make a donation to help us reach our target. Your donation will be increased by 25% at no extra cost if you tick the Gift Aid box.

The Big Give website is still accepting and processing donations, and in next week's regular campaign email we'll let you know the final amount we've raised - along with the latest campaign news on vulture funds, dictator debt and the Eurozone debt crisis of course!

Tim Jones, Jubilee Debt Campaign



## Bromley FoE 10 and 20 years ago, *continued*

### **And for those of you with even longer memories, here are the ones from 1991 !!**

January 1991

Annual General Meeting – also second birthday of the aluminium can collection

February 1991

Terry Mills – London region rep on the FoE Board

March 1991

Welcome to new members

April 1991

Ethical funding: how environmentally sound is your bank ??

May 1991

Successful campaigning, with an emphasis on recycling

June 1991

How green are your holidays ??

July 1991

Bob Francis from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

August 1991

Peter Martin (Bromley Council) – explaining the UDP

September 1991

Bromley FoE's Energy Questionnaire

October 1991

Come all ye + Local Groups Conference

November 1991

John Hudson (Dept of Env) – Pollution Control

December 1991

Roger Allen – Raptor Rescue

## Jubilee Debt Campaign – The Big Give, *continued*

### **What will the money be used for?**

Through the Christmas Challenge we are aiming to raise a total of £20,000 towards our 'Freedom from Dictator Debt' project. This will enable us to continue the momentum of our 'End Dodgy Deals' campaign, which has the support of almost 200 MPs in parliament.

We are calling for the details to be released of debts owed by countries like Egypt, Kenya, Indonesia and Iraq to the UK so that any which are unjust can be cancelled.

These debts came about because our government sold goods to repressive regimes, and auditing the debts gives people in the countries concerned information that helps them in their struggles for democracy, as well as freeing up money currently being used to repay illegitimate dictator debts.

### *Contact details*

Jubilee Debt Campaign, The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London, N1 6HT, 020 7324 4722, [info@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](mailto:info@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk), [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

## **Biomass (Energy from Waste) in our backyard?** *from Dan Sloan*

Site 104, as it is currently referred to, in the Kent County Council Minerals and Waste Development Framework has been earmarked as a possible site for the construction of a biomass facility to generate electricity.

This site, although in Kent, is right on the border of The London Borough of Bromley, it is the triangle of land adjacent to Hewitts roundabout between the slip road to the M25 and the A224 leading to Badgers Mount (see Map - each ring on the map represents 0.5km distances from the centre of the proposed power station.

Genuine small scale Biomass power generation can be clean, environmentally sustainable, carbon neutral and might be encouraged - but to achieve this goal all material MUST be locally sourced (a 10 to 20 mile radius perhaps) timber from well managed rotaed woodland which then provides a continuous uninterrupted source of fuel. Very few biomass generators actually achieve this ideal, in fact most end up importing foreign material in order to maintain their supply.

This proposal, although referred to as Biomass actually appears to be a waste incinerator, a very different beast entirely. This method of energy generation is a means of disposing of waste. Not so clean, far from environmentally sustainable, far from carbon neutral, and certainly not desirable in close proximity to residential areas. The proposal claims 60% of waste will be taken from the local area (a 30 mile radius) this still would mean 40% from anywhere!

The increase in heavy truck movements to the area generally would be immense, having to feed this proposed facility, and the pollution, even with modern scrubber systems would be unacceptable.

Badgers Mount residents held a packed meeting on Friday 18th November at which their MP Michael Fallon and KCC Councillor Roger Gough expressed their support for the residents very powerful campaign to fight against this proposal along with a further proposal for a second waste transfer facility at the former MoD ammunition depot off Shacklands Road.

This site is one of many proposed for consideration - People may make comments on the proposals until December 19th by visiting: [http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/planning\\_in\\_kent/minerals\\_and\\_waste.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_in_kent/minerals_and_waste.aspx)

This proposal, if it were to be adopted, will cause major disruption to our local environment, health and our daily lives. Badgers Mount residents are doing an incredible job in fighting it. I strongly urge Bromley FoE supporters to take a very close look at the proposals and join with the Badgers Mount residents to fight tooth and nail against it.

### **Here's some of the info from the Kent County Council website:**

The site is proposed for an energy from waste facility which would use waste wood to generate electricity. Wood would be sourced from within a  
*/continued on next page*

## The Crystal Palace Transition Town group, from Lynette Aitken

We are a group of local people and we are also part of a global Transition Town movement in which communities are taking their own steps towards a more sustainable future. We could wait for governments to do something about the serious challenges of climate change, depleting resources and economic insecurity, particularly the impact of the end of cheap oil, but we believe it is up to local communities to start taking action now.

We are working together locally to become better prepared for, and more resilient to, the transitions we will need to face. At the same time we get to live in a simpler, greener way, having fun and getting to know our neighbours.

We are currently focussing on awareness-raising through films on our 'Green Screen' days, informal chats at 'Green Drinks' and holding events, such as our highly successful Skills Share Day. We are also in the process of getting other project groups off the ground and beginning to take action. Some examples are as follows:

**Food and Growing** - Growing more of our food locally, Community Growing and Garden Sharing projects and having sustainably-sourced food in our shops and restaurants)

**Energy** – Reducing the amount of energy we use, using more renewable sources and collective and community strategies to maximise our efficiency

**Waste** - Reducing our waste, creative and local recycling

**Fairtrade** - Raising awareness about Fairtrade and how it contributes to sustainability, encouraging retailers and caterers to stock and sell Fairtrade

and shoppers to ask for Fairtrade when buying products that cannot be produced locally, and organising activities for Fairtrade Fortnight

There are many more projects we are hoping to get off the ground but we need more people from the community to come and join us.

To find out more about us, go to our website at [www.crystalpalacetransition.org.uk](http://www.crystalpalacetransition.org.uk) and sign up for our mailing list, join us on Facebook or Twitter, and come to our events, such as Green Screens at the Gipsy Hill Tavern or Green Drinks at the Grape and Grain.

We hope to see you there!

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### **Biomass in our backyard**, *continued*

30 mile radius of the site and be transported by road with approximately 24 lorry movements per day. The site has potential access to the road network particularly the M25 and A224.

The site is located within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a County Wildlife Site and part is Ancient Woodland and consideration would need to be given to the impact of the proposal on the surrounding area. Open storage of wood waste in such a sensitive environment could adversely impact on the designated areas. There are no residential properties within close proximity of the site and the proposal has the opportunity to provide local employment opportunities.

## **FoE - Pushing for a strong, fair agreement following the UN climate talks in Durban**

In Durban, countries agreed to create a new treaty by 2015. This will require all countries, including the USA, China and India to cut greenhouse gas emissions from 2020.

This outcome is significant, but far too weak to prevent dangerous climate change.

### **Challenges**

The new treaty won't take effect until 2020 but scientists have warned that we need to cut global emissions well before 2020 to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Rich countries are failing to take the lead by cutting carbon emissions despite being responsible for the majority of emissions and having benefitted most from burning fossil fuels.

This will leave millions at threat from increasingly frequent extreme weather events, and will hit the world's poorest people hardest.

Delaying action will also fail to drive clean growth and create green jobs through investment in renewable energy sources.

The agreement is still an important step as all countries have agreed to work on a future agreement.

### **Other positives include:**

The Kyoto Protocol is still alive and will be discussed further next year.

A Green Climate Fund to help poor countries adapt to climate change has been established, although no money has been put forward yet.

### **The road ahead**

Friends of the Earth will now be working hard to:

Push rich countries to reduce emissions in line with science, and provide finance and technology for developing countries to act.

Make sure that finance for the green climate fund comes through the UN and not from risky carbon trading schemes.

Promote clean and affordable energy as an alternative to fossil-fuels and a solution to energy poverty.

We have little time left to avoid catastrophic climate change, which makes our campaigning work in this area even more important.

### **FoE Europe says:**

The lack of ambition will not prevent the suffering of millions of people in Africa and across the world due to climate change.

For yet another year the international climate talks have failed to make real progress to tackle climate change. Developed countries spent their time trying to unravel previous agreements and shift the burden on to poorer nations like China or India.

Rich countries want a deal where they continue to pollute, their corporations profit from pollution and destructive carbon trading, and the poor and the most vulnerable to climate change pay the price.

## FoE news stories

### **Canada ditches Kyoto climate agreement**

Reacting to Canada's decision to pull out of the Kyoto climate agreement, Friends of the Earth's Head of Policy Mike Childs said:

"Canada's decision to ditch the Kyoto climate agreement and focus on dirty fuels will cost them and future generations dearly.

"By ignoring climate change and forcing damaging oil onto the rest of the world, Canada is creating a dangerous dead end for its people and economy.

"Meanwhile, countries like Germany, the UK and many developing countries will remain open for business as they lead the way in tackling climate change and developing clean energy."

### **Portas right about damage of out-of-town shopping**

Commenting on TV retail expert Mary Portas' recommendations to Government on how to revitalise British high streets, expected today [Tuesday 13 December], Friends of the Earth's Supermarket Campaigner Helen Rimmer said:

"Mary Portas is right to highlight the disastrous impact out-of-town developments have had on our high streets - but the Government's planning reforms will further tip the balance in favour of big supermarkets at the expense of local economies.

"We need tough new planning rules to support small retailers and invigorate

town centres to give people a genuine choice of where to shop."

### **Tens of thousands face redundancy as solar deadline passes**

Friends of the Earth is urging the Government to re-think its plans to slash payments for solar electricity schemes as the rush to install solar payments ahead of a crucial payment deadline comes to an end.

The Government has halved the payments for any solar electricity scheme completed from today, which will almost double the payback period for homes, businesses and communities.

Later this week (Thursday 15 December 2011) Friends of the Earth and two solar companies - Solarcentury and HomeSun - will ask the High Court for permission to challenge Government plans to cut the payments.

The premature cuts could cost up to 29,000 jobs and lose the Treasury up to £230 million a year in tax income, a report commissioned by Friends of the Earth and Cut Don't Kill - an alliance of solar firms and consumer and environmental organisations - revealed last month. Earlier this month construction firm Carillion warned 4,500 workers their jobs are at risk because of the Government's proposals.

Countless schemes have already been abandoned, denying cash-strapped homes and businesses the chance to free themselves from soaring fossil fuel prices.

## Recycling in Bromley is UP, says Cllr Colin Smith

### ***Cllr Colin Smith, writing in Bromley Council's Environment Matters -***

Thanks to your growing support, Bromley is recycling record amounts equating to just over half of all our household waste. According to recent statistics we were London's leading recycling Borough and are battling with neighbouring Bexley for top spot.

We still have some extremely tough and unpalatable decisions to make as a Council over coming years as a result of the Coalition Government's funding reductions to our budgets and your recycling has become a critical component in our sums by helping us reduce the amount paid needlessly in Government landfill tax, thereby helping to protect other key local services.

Throughout winter, we will remain on 24 hour standby to salt priority routes in frosty or icy conditions. Even in this economic climate, the Council has started the winter season with 9000 tonnes of salt, the largest stockpile of any London Borough.

This year, even more so than last, snow clearance work will be supported around the Borough by our expanded resident Snow Friends groups and we thank them immensely for their commitment and support in their local neighbourhoods.

Enjoy the turkey sandwiches, but please, don't forget to recycle its carcass!

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

### **Also in Environment Matters –**

#### **Rising cost of Landfill means recycling more**

The £2.3m we paid in landfill tax last year will rise each and every year unless we recycle more.

As the cost of sending waste to landfill continues to rise, residents are recycling more than ever. With your help, the amount sent to landfill has reduced by an average of 1,800 tonnes per month since the successful kitchen waste collection scheme was introduced borough-wide.

Also, the overall volume of waste has also fallen substantially, with the average reduction running at almost 1,000 tonnes each month. These reductions have helped pay for the costs of the additional food waste collection service and make valuable savings.

With landfill tax currently costing £56 per tonne, reducing the amount sent to landfill by 22,500 tonnes annually is saving around £1.25 million pounds this year alone. This saving will increase by £180,000 every year as landfill tax is set to rise by £8 per tonne for each subsequent year - and by 2014, will cost £80 per tonne.

With the year on year landfill tax increases, we still need to boost our level of recycling and divert waste away from landfill to prevent waste disposal costs from increasing.

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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!

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**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.

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**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 [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com).

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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