



January 2015
No. 325

ewsletter

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

January Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Question and Answer session with Joe Jenkins

Joe Jenkins, Director of Engagement at Friends of the Earth, returns for further dialogue with us. Our chance to ask questions about the direction Friends of the Earth is taking. Please bring your questions!

Followed by our group's AGM

Tuesday 6th January - 7.30pm

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Bromley Residents Against Airport Development – see pages 8,9

Diary dates:

- Jan 3rd (Sat)** **Progressive Bromley Film Co-op:** 6pm shared food, 7pm film
– Fire in the Blood, an Indian documentary (Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley)
- Jan 6th (Tues)** **Bromley FoE's January meeting** with Joe Jenkins, FoE's Director of Engagement + our AGM
- Feb 3rd (Tues)** **Bromley FoE's February meeting**
- Feb 21st (Sat)** **FoE's London and S/East regional gathering:** @ The Printworks, Clapham Road, SW9 0HP
- Feb 24 – Mar 9** **Fairtrade Fortnight 2015**

Questionnaires

Annette Rose writes: Thank you for the questionnaires received so far. They will be very helpful for our forward planning. So far they have included some useful comments and some good ideas for speakers and outings.

If you haven't given yours in yet, please put it in the box provided at the January meeting or post to me at the address given. Have your say on the running of our group! I will give feedback on this in the February newsletter.

Bromley FoE's AGM

Our January meeting includes our Annual General Meeting where group members have a chance to influence the running of the group, elect officers and hear about our achievements. This could be your chance to become more involved. Would you like to join our campaign team to widen the range of campaigns we can be involved in as a group? No experience necessary and lots of help, support and guidance available.

In addition, our group secretary role is still vacant, someone to take over as treasurer would be good, and we are looking for another person to join our team of 'reporters' to write up reports of our monthly meeting talks. **Please contact Sheila or Judy for more information.**

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** SUNDAY 18TH 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

Bromley FoE – 2014 Round-up

Round-up of 2014

Here are some of the things we have done in 2014.

- 12 monthly meetings with speakers on subjects ranging from Population to Transport, Wildlife Environmental Investigation.
- Average attendance at meetings 26
- Published 12 monthly Newsletters
- Planted our second Bee World in Whitehall Recreation Ground
- Gave Bee Cause presentations to Chislehurst WI
- Two Campaign stalls in Bromley
- Stalls at Coolings, Keston Countryside Day and Whitehall Recreation Ground open day.
- Group members visited FoE's new office The Printworks for introductory tour, meetings and workshops.
- Group members took part in two teleconferences
- Two members attended transport workshop at City Hall
- Held very successful fundraising Open Garden Day and Plant Sale
- Held Fair Trade Forum jointly with Sevenoaks
- One group member attended Basecamp in Derbyshire
- Two group members attended Regional Day in London plus FoE workshops / DEFRA strategy workshop re National Pollinator Strategy
- Ongoing dialogue with LBB re National Pollinator Strategy
- Ongoing dialogue with LBB about Fracking
- New year lunch at Croft Tearoom
- Outings to Trosley Park, Beckenham Place Park and Croydon Ecology Centre
- Took part in St Christopher's Bluebell Walk at Cudham
- Held 3 Planning Meetings
- Attended Sevenoaks meetings about Fracking and about TTIP
- Monitoring developments in Bromley, Crystal Palace and at Biggin Hill Airport
- Working with No-2-Waste4Fuel
- Two Traidcraft stalls

December meeting report - Sue and John Bocock

The speaker was Marie-Louise Kerr, the curator of The Bromley Museum in Orpington, talking on The Treasures of Bromley Museum.

We were given a fascinating insight into the social history of the Borough of Bromley as seen through paintings, photographs and other artefacts including teeth donated by HG Wells and a local mammoth.

The Priory, a misnomer, was never actually a priory as no monks or nuns had ever lived there. The original wooden building was built in the late thirteenth century to be replaced shortly afterwards by a stone building. It is the borough's oldest building. More recently it became the church rectory. During the Second World War the building was occupied by council offices. The Museum was opened in March 1965, three weeks before Orpington had become part of the London Borough of Bromley.

The collections contain some twenty thousand objects divided into five categories: The Priory, Fine Art, Archaeology, Social History and the Avebury Collection.

The extensive collection of paintings and photographs include the oldest watercolour of the Priory painted by Amelia Long in 1819. A series of architectural drawings by George Rose were commissioned in 1942 in the event of damage or destruction.

Later, photographs were taken in 1959 before and after the demolition of the South Wing where the seventeenth century servants' quarters were. This

was prior to the construction of the new library (now relocated to the present Walnuts site). Contemporary works include 'Bromley High Street' by Peter Nolan Lawrence which includes a representation of "Bulldog Churchill". In addition there were more contemporary pieces by the artist, Stephen Chaplin. He had made a visual map of Orpington in fifty six paintings, showing typical local housing styles.

Archaeological relics included Romans coins, an Anglo Saxon brooch, and a small lead coffin containing the remains of an adult male, a pig and a chicken. The Poverest Road site was found to have a small Roman bath house and an Anglo Saxon cemetery where the remains of seventy bodies were found. Some buried with their weapons showed signs of war injuries.

World War 2 artefacts include a map showing the extent of bomb damage in the area, a child's gasmask and a caterpillar badge given to survivors of parachute jumps.

Among other contemporary items are a mangle, an early vacuum cleaner, a sewing machine and a dresser for holding thirties style crockery and two radios. Marie Louise mentioned a time recorder, in their possession, a clocking on device used between 1950 and 1970 used at Morphy Richards, the factory in St Mary Cray which then employed nearly a thousand people.

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Climate and Energy – Ann Garrett

Cost of Closure of Nuclear Reactors

The International Energy Agency says that it will cost \$100bn to shut down over 200 reactors around the world that are coming to the end of their life over the next 25 years. This is enough to buy a quarter of a billion 100-watt solar panels from a well-known online retailer. So what is the answer?

Fracking News

Hundreds of government-funded bore holes are likely to be drilled across Britain to persuade the public that a looming shale-gas boom can be delivered safely. Sensors in the bore holes would detect possible water pollution or earthquakes caused by fracking and the information would be made public. This is the result of a British Geological Survey, which would drill the bore holes.

The plan called the Energy and Security and Innovation Observing System, will cost £60 - £80 million. It is awaiting final approval from the Department for Innovation and Skills, where energy minister Matthew Hancock, a fracking enthusiast, holds another ministerial post.

Vital Steps Needed to Protect the Planet

World leaders must take the following steps at the Paris Climate Summit in November 2015 where 196 nations are due to participate, say leading climate scientists.

1. Global warming must be limited to 2C
2. Nations must make real commitments.
3. Emissions must be monitored by a commission group.

4. Developed nations must pledge billions.
5. The most vulnerable places must be compensated.
6. Green technologies must be must be shared.

A few more facts: 75% of fossil fuels will need to be left in the ground to hit climate targets. \$500 billion is the annual subsidy for fossil fuels, which is six times more than for renewables. Once released CO2 remains in the atmosphere for hundreds to thousands of years.

December report, *continued*

Other mementos of local celebrities include pictures of W.G. Grace, the famous cricketer who lived in Mottingham and was buried in Elmers End cemetery and David Bowie's green and black striped jacket.

The Avebury Collection contains items of archaeology and ethnography from around the world. John Lubbock (1834- 1913, a friend of Charles Darwin, was the eldest of eleven children, the son of a banker. When his father died he became the head of the family at the age of thirty one. Five years later he was elected Liberal MP for Maidstone. Among his many interests were writing, geology, archaeology botany, zoology and anthropology. In 1870 he commissioned the three paintings by Ernest Griset, 'Mammoth Hunters', 'Camp of Hunters' and 'Prehistoric tomb' depicting prehistoric life which now hang in the entrance hall.

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The Lobbying Act and what it means for Bromley FoE

It means that Ann is temporarily standing down as joint co-ordinator and Tamara as local planning campaigner – because that's what the Printworks advise (doesn't sound the same as Underwood Street, does it). This is what FoE sent to activists recently.

We are contacting you to update you on what the Lobbying Act means for local groups. We also want to offer additional support for groups who are considering election-related activity between now and May 2015.

Background

The Lobbying Act is a new piece of legislation which includes provisions to limit spending by organisations including Friends of the Earth, on politically contentious campaigning. It regulates spending from September 19 to Election Day, 7 May 2015.

Friends of the Earth led the campaign against the Lobbying Act - uniting over 150 charities and campaign groups and helping to mobilise more people to write to their MP than on any issue other than the NHS.

We won significant changes to the law before it was passed. But it is still a profoundly undemocratic piece of legislation that should be repealed.

And we are not going to let this bad law silence us from speaking out on some of the most important issues facing the country and the planet. Now the regulation is in force, we are taking a robust approach to operating within the rules, but readying ourselves to challenge them if, in practice, the new

law makes it impossible for us to deliver our organisational goals.

The Lobbying Act and local campaigning

Here is a summary briefing on the Lobbying Act for you to read and share with other members of your group (this was a pdf file linked to from an email; if you want a copy please contact Sheila). The key message is that this isn't a law that will affect many local campaigners – so don't let it gag you. But we do need to be careful when it comes to election-related activities.

Election hustings

Any materials or activities that compare the record of politicians or candidates. So if your local group is planning to spend any money on any such campaigning in your area, we will need to ensure that you are briefed on what to do.

Political impartiality

At a time when Friends of the Earth will be under increased scrutiny as a result of the Lobbying Act, we also want to remind our local groups of the importance of political impartiality. In our Partnership Agreement with you, there's a clause which states that groups mustn't endorse any political party.

We would strongly advise that any group coordinator or other role-holder who is standing in general or local elections in May 2015 should step down from their role as soon as is possible. After 7 May, if they have not been elected, they can of course then resume their position in the group.

It's holiday time - from our gardening correspondent (*Bill Priestley*)

It is cold and wet so this time of year is a good time to take a holiday. I have just spent a couple of days in Withyfield cottage which I thought you might like to hear about.

Located on a working dairy farm on the edge of the South Downs National Park, this unique roundwood timber, straw bale and cedar shingle holiday cottage is a good example of environmental design.

Inspired and built by Ben Law and his team (as seen on Channel 4's Grand Designs) the cottage is a testament to contemporary green building practice. Supremely comfortable, beautifully furnished and well equipped yet made by local craftsmen using local materials.

They have tried to make Withyfield as sustainable as possible. You can sit on the deck and see the wood where the trees that clad the outside were felled and then, of course, replaced.

In fact, all the wood has been grown in West Sussex and a lot of it has come from the nearby Cowdray Estate. The clay plaster render used to seal the gaps on the outside is made of Weald clay taken from the foundations. The straw insulation comes from a neighbour's farm and the cedar shingles for the roof are made from local wood.

They have aimed to use local craftsmen as far as possible too. The kitchen was made in nearby Partridge Green, the bedrooms chest of drawers are either recycled or made by a local

charity and the stairs are made by a local craftsman.

Heating and hot water are provided by a wood burner and solar panels. Insulation is provided by very local straw and sheep's wool. Most of the waste from the build will be used to heat the building in the future and eco paints were used for decorating. They have tried to think of everything!

I enjoyed staying at this nice place and I found it very interesting to see that an eco building doesn't have to be Spartan and this one is beautifully designed and finished to a very high specification
www.withyfieldcottage.co.uk

December report, concluded

School holiday activities at the Museum include poetry writing, making puppets, pumpkin carving for Hallowe'en and making masks to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Another of the permanent exhibitions, the Bromley's Past Gallery contains artefacts from Palaeolithic and Neolithic times. This covers the section of the curriculum on prehistory, helping children to understand chronology and is part of the Education service offered by the Museum which works with some thirty local primary schools including children with special needs.

As a follow up to this enjoyable and informative talk, we are hoping to arrange a group visit to the Museum in the New Year.

BRAAD - Campaigning against Airport expansion

Yet again, Biggin Hill Airport has opened a campaign to expand its operating hours - something that would affect almost half the borough. But now residents associations and groups like Bromley FoE are getting together to oppose the airport.

Their organisation is called BRAAD, Bromley Residents Against Airport Development. The group, manned solely by volunteers, has previously succeeded in beating off the airport's expansion plans.

Some of the airport's publicity has been highly questionable and BRAAD has analysed the claims and put together the real facts in the accompanying article. This is beginning of what promises to be a long drawn out battle and BRAAD will call upon help from residents to overturn the airport's proposals now with Bromley Council.

Editor's Note – What follows is adapted from an A4 flyer produced by BRAAD. It's been rearranged so that it better fits into the newsletter.

Be ready

On 28th November the Council announced that they are now in receipt of the expected application by the Airport to increase operating hours. A consultation is due to be launched shortly. This threat is very serious. It is easy to think that the Council should reject this proposal out of hand as similar ones were prior to the Olympics (and those were temporary – this is permanent!) However, we know that the Council intends to increase revenues from the Airport by making

concessions. Be ready to send in your objections. A further leaflet will follow.

The airport's empty promises

Noise reduction by 50% - As usual, we need to read the small print. On page 10 of their much quoted Noise Action Plan, we read that BHA will only: "Produce every five years Airport noise contours, and assess progress towards reducing the noise impacted area by 50% of that approved in the previously adopted contours included in the UDP". Hardly imminent then! No mention of take-offs in their noise action plan either, yet these are noisier than landings, particularly in view of the larger aircraft the Airport now favour. See below.

They will only fly Business Jets - But they are no longer talking of the ones WE think of as Business Jets. They want to (they already do) fly the Boeing Business Jet, the Airbus Corporate Jet and the Bombardier Global Express, among others. These are built on the bodies of the Boeing 737, the Airbus 319 (yes, the one EasyJet use) and the ultra-long intercontinental Bombardier range, respectively. See below:

The recent questionnaire campaign by the airport did not produce credible results

The Airport's campaign was supposed to be corroborated by an independent poll. In fact, the independent poll did not corroborate the Airport's findings on the most crucial of the four questions, the one concerning 'Operating Hours', which was supported by only 35% of respondents

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BRAAD - Hitting back against Airport expansion - *continued*

The airport is claiming unprecedented support by residents, but the results of the campaign show that it was heavily biased by canvassing in favourable areas – 65% of respondents were gathered by canvass, with the offer of a £5000 holiday. Only 176 people visited the Exhibition.

The second largest number of responses came from Kelsey and Eden Park, which are definitely not under the flight path but were clearly 'flown into' by canvassers!

The Airport proposes a massive 114 hour week.

They want to stay open until 11pm every day, including Saturdays and Sundays while every other competing airport in the South East (City, Northolt and Farnborough) stops much earlier. We would have other airports' air traffic over us during the most unsocial hours.

Comparison of proposed opening hours with other similar airports

Biggin Hill (as requested)

Mon-Fri	0630-2300
Sat	0630-2300
Sun	0800-2300
Total = 114 hours / week	

Northolt Airport

Mon-Fri	0800-2000
Sat	0800-1400
Sun	1200-1800
Total = 72 hours / week	

City Airport

Mon-Fri	0630-2200
Sat	0630-1230
Sun	1230-2200
Total = 93 hours / week	

Farnborough Airport

Mon-Fri	0700-2200
Sat	0800-2000
Sun	0800-2000
Total = 99 hours / week	

South East Regional Gathering

The 2015 London and South East gathering will take place on Saturday 21st February at Friends of the Earth's offices, The Printworks in London. Regional Gatherings are Saturday events for local activists to come together and:

- Get up to speed with the latest on our campaigns
- Share their skills and successes
- Network and share information.

Please let Sheila know if you are interested in attending.

BASECAMP

A bigger event will take place in the summer – BASECAMP – which brings together local group members, FoE staff, supporters and friends as well as people from the international Friends of the Earth network.

It takes place over a weekend (12-14 June) at a youth hostel at Castleton, Derbyshire, set in the stunning Hope Valley in the Peak District.

More details at www.foe.co.uk/basecamp.

Marine issues, Judy Palmer

Earlier this year I went on a 'Nature' away day with other FoE activists at the Printworks in London, and one of the topics covered was marine issues.

The latest marine update I received covered how FoE have been working with a lady from Norway who has been campaigning for the last eight years against a plan to dump toxic mining waste next to the fjord by which she lives.

The fjord is a fabulous place in itself but is also a major spawning ground for North Sea fish stocks. And FoE have learnt that Norway's ministers have delayed their decision on this proposal, so good news there, but they do need to keep the pressure up. There are some links available if anyone wishes to 'tweet'.

Back to the UK now - next Spring will see some urban beach parties emerge! FoE would like groups to organise these parties to help engage with the public on all things marine. They held one this year in Birmingham in a new community garden 70+ miles from the sea, which was very successful. We're an island and it's rather sad that many people have no idea how we need to maintain a healthy marine environment. This is a novel way of putting information out there – are we up for that? It could be fun!

Also in early 2015 a consultation is due to start on creating more Marine Conservation Zones.

Here is the list of the proposed sites. I bet there is an area on this list which is

important to some of you – do get in touch if there is; we can compile a Bromley FoE favourites list. Mine would be no. 20 – Mounts Bay; what's yours?

- 1 Fulmar
- 2 Farnes East
- 3 Coquet to St Mary's
- 4 Runswick Bay / Boulby
- 5 Compass Rose
- 6 Holderness Inshore
- 7 Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds
- 8 The Swale Estuary
- 9 Dover to Deal
- 10 Dover to Folkestone
- 11 Offshore Brighton
- 12 Offshore Overfalls
- 13 Utopia
- 14 Bembridge
- 15 Norris to Ryde
- 16 Yarmouth to Cowes
- 17 The Needles
- 18 Studland Bay
- 19 Western Channel
- 20 Mounts Bay
- 21 Land's End
- 22 Newquay and The Gannel
- 23 Hartland Point to Tintagel
- 24 Bideford to Foreland Point
- 25 North of Lundy (Atlantic Array Area)
- 26 North-West of Jones Bank
- 27 Greater Haig Fras
- 28 South of Celtic Deep
- 29 Celtic Deep
- 30 East of Celtic Deep
- 31 Mid St George's Channel
- 32 North St George's Channel
- 33 West of Walney co-location zone
- 34 Slieve Na Griddle
- 35 Mud Hole
- 36 South Rigg
- 37 Allonby Bay

Fairtrade Fortnight is coming: 23 February - 8 March 2015

We've come so far since the first Fairtrade Fortnight in 1995 (yes, the FAIRTRADE mark is 21 years old), educating the public on why to choose Fairtrade and increasing sales on Fairtrade terms for marginalised producers.

Over the past 20 years, together we've made the Fairtrade mark the biggest and best known ethical label in the UK. 8% of the UK public recognise the FAIRTRADE mark.

From UK sales alone, £26m of Fairtrade Premium was invested by producers in 2013. But we know there is still a long way to go to make all trade fair – just 1.2% of cocoa and less than 10% of tea globally is traded on Fairtrade terms.

So for Fairtrade Fortnight 2015, we're going to celebrate the impact of Fairtrade and ask you to turn a spotlight on the producers who grow the products we love. By sharing their stories in a fresh and compelling way, we can remind the UK of the dramatic difference choosing Fairtrade makes and how much it is still needed.

We're focusing on a few core commodities – cocoa, sugar, and tea – in new materials, case studies and a brand new 15 minute film that will be available for Fairtrade Fortnight. Whether you're an individual or part of a Fairtrade group, there will be opportunities to take action – including asking businesses directly to switch to Fairtrade in a "stock it" challenge.

Visit <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight> to find out more about Fairtrade Fortnight

What is Fairtrade?

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

What is the Fairtrade Foundation?

The Fairtrade Foundation is the independent non-profit organisation that licenses use of the FAIRTRADE Mark on products in the UK in accordance with internationally agreed Fairtrade standards. The Foundation is the UK member of Fairtrade International, which unites over 20 labelling initiatives across Europe, Japan, North America, Mexico and Australia/New Zealand as well as networks of producer organisations from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

What is the FAIRTRADE Mark?

It's an independent consumer label you see on a product that meets the international Fairtrade standards. It shows that the product has been certified to offer a better deal to the farmers and workers involved. It does not endorse an entire company's business practices.

FoE on Lima climate talks and Action on air pollution

Lima climate talks end with little progress

The international community have failed to make significant progress towards securing an effective climate change agreement in Paris next year, Friends of the Earth said today, as the latest round of talks in Lima, Peru closed.

Friends of the Earth's International Climate Campaigner Asad Rehman said: "The only thing these talks have achieved is to reduce the chances of a fair and effective agreement to tackle climate change in Paris next year. Once again poorer nations have been bullied by the industrialised world into accepting an outcome which leaves many of their citizens facing the grim prospect of catastrophic climate change.

"We have the ingenuity and resources to build the low carbon future we so urgently need – but we still lack the political will. With the world speeding towards catastrophic climate change, wealthy industrialised nations who have contributed most to our polluted atmosphere must take the lead in tackling this threat.

"People across the world must show their leaders how embarrassingly short they are falling against expectations. We must demand that our nations put our wellbeing and safety ahead of narrow national politics and the interests of dinosaur dirty energy firms. The next 12 months are crucial – failure to act will have a devastating impact on us all."

Friends of the Earth says a number of key areas must be resolved if a fair and meaningful agreement is to be reached in Paris next year, including:

- Wealthy industrialised nations must pledge bigger cuts in their emissions by 2020;
- Wealthy industrialised nations must provide adequate finance and technology to enable developing countries to tackle climate change and adapt to its impacts and support those already being impacted;
- Wealthy industrialised nations must provide the finance and technology for a global renewable energy transformation
- All countries to commit to doing their fair share of effort to keep temps below 1.5c

EU action on air pollution and waste under threat

Fears are growing that the EU is to scrap crucial plans to clean up our polluted air and cut waste.

According to reports coming out of Brussels, some business organisations may be successful in lobbying the EU to drop these key areas of work - which are crucial for our health and the long-term efficiency of our economies. EurActiv, the EU news network, reports that the EC will announce next Wednesday (17 December) that the rules will be ditched from its 2015 work programme.

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FoE on Energy efficiency and Action on air pollution

Energy efficiency crucial after new report on energy prices and bills

In response to the new report, from the Government's committee on climate change, which has found policies to support low-carbon electricity have already reduced emissions by the equivalent of taking 10 million cars off the road, Simon Bullock Senior Climate Change Campaigner, said:

"There is a clear message for politicians – if they are serious about cutting the cost of punishing energy bills and tackling climate change, making the UK's heat-leaking housing stock energy efficient must rise rapidly up their to-do list. This report is further evidence that the last decade's whopping energy bill rises are overwhelmingly due to gas costs going up, not support for renewables – which has added just £35 of the £490 increase since 2004.

"Our bills would have been even higher, if not for cuts in energy consumption – energy saving has in fact been protecting people from the decade's stratospheric gas price rises."

The report does illustrate several good news stories on energy efficiency, but Friends of the Earth thinks that there is more to be done. Examples include:

- 13 million people homes now have more than 15cm depth of loft insulation to keep warm at night, but four million have less than 10cm, and 600,000 still have none at all.

- There are now two million A+ rated fridges in the UK; that's a one thousand fold increase on 2003. Similarly, there are 5.4 million A+ rated washing machines, nearly a two thousand fold increase in 10 years – however, there are still more than 15 million lower-rated machines in use.

Note to editors:

The Committee's report sets out analysis of energy bill impacts from meeting carbon budgets to date and in future. It includes assessments of price impacts from wholesale gas prices, financing low-carbon investments and energy efficiency measures, together with scope for reductions in energy demand and bills through energy efficiency improvement.

Action on air pollution, *continued*

Senior Economics and Resources Campaigner David Powell said:

"Protecting our health and scarce resources should be a central plank of EU policy-making – caving in to short-term, industry lobbying on these crucial issues would be shameful.

"If the EU's vision of a new Europe isn't long-term, green and focused on wiping out waste, it's not fit for purpose in the 21st century. Mr Juncker must give the green light to desperately needed proposals which put people, the planet and our future economic health first – or face a backlash."

FoE Campaign and Programme Updates

Get buzzing for the Wild Garden Weekend

We have a new event coming up next spring. The Friends of the Earth Wild Garden Weekend is new and exciting. We know that our supporters have some incredible gardens. That is why we're asking if you will throw the gates open and invite others in to raise money for bees? Forget manicured lawns and perfectly pruned rose bushes; that's not for us! We want your beautiful, wild, bee-friendly gardens to inspire people to create a safe haven for our buzzing friends and other wildlife.

It will be a chance to share ideas, show off your green fingers and raise money. That way we can continue our work to make all of the UK a bee-friendly place. For more information, get in touch with Saminder.kharay@foe.co.uk or call on 0207 566 1675.

How Councils can help Schools Run on Sun

Local councils have a key role to play in helping Schools Run on Sun. Between them they run over 17,000 schools across England; and many are working to save energy, support community-owned renewable power and to tackle climate change.

Not every council is doing as much as it could, so our Roundtable held for London and South East councils in the Printworks brought together some of the leading councils and community energy groups. We spent a lively day sharing ideas, hearing about the obstacles they faced, and how they overcame them.

TTIP: Companies and the power to sue Governments?

Friends of the Earth Europe have just released a report looking at the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism. Included in a whole raft of existing trade deals, we discovered that EU taxpayers have forked out €3.5 billion already, with 60% of the known ISDS cases involving environmental regulations. Find out more about taxpayers footing the bill for EU trade deals at <https://www.foeeurope.org/how-taxpayers-footing-bill-europes-trade-deals-04>.

Festive Funnies From Judy

- Q. What part of a clock is always old?
A. The second hand.
- Q. Where do cows go on a Saturday?
A. The moo-vies.
- Q. What did Cinderella say when the chemist lost her photographs?
A. Someday my prints will come.
- Q. How do you communicate with fish?
A. You drop them a line.
- Q. What is a frog's favourite drink?
A. Croakacola.

And finally ...

Bromley FoE continues to support residents of St Paul's Cray affected by a mountain of waste sited close to their homes. The campaign is led by Jan Watkins whose name we misspelt on one occasion in our meeting report.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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r.watson865@btinternet.com

Climate and Energy:

vacant

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

Planning and development:

Mary Stirling
maryellenstirling@hotmail.co.uk

Campaigner:

Annette Rose
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Fracking / Clean British Energy

vacant

Bee Cause

Judy Palmer
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Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and
Ray Watson

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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