



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**



January 2016

No. 337

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

January Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Beaver Water World: look how far we have come!

Karen Wheller

*Tells us about this small zoo and rescue centre not far from Bromley
followed by*

Bromley FoE's Annual General Meeting

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.

***Can you remember what Bromley FoE did last year?
See page 6 for some clues***

Diary dates:

Jan 5 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's January Meeting: Karen Wheller from Beaver Water World, followed by Annual General Meeting
Jan 30 (Sat)	Climate Rising – FoE's response to the Climate Change Agreement (see page 14)
Feb 2 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's February Meeting: Helen Long (Liberation Foods) on Fairtrade
Feb 29	FAIRTRADE Fortnight
Mar 1 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's March meeting

Bromley Friends of the Earth's Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th January in the second half of our monthly meeting. This includes the presentation and approval of accounts, election of officers, review of the year's activities (see page 6), review of campaigns and forthcoming activities and the general direction of the group.

It is your chance to contribute and tell us what you'd like to see the group doing. Also maybe to volunteer to play a more active role in the group?

Volunteers give as much or as little time as they have available. We currently need another member of our team of reporters who write up the talks for the Newsletter, we'd love to have more people on our campaigns team, or to help with the general administration. And if numbers are your thing, maybe you'd like to take over as Treasurer?

Our speaker in the first part of the meeting this month is Karen Wheller from Beaver Water World – there's some info about Beaver Water World on page 7.

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

Next Newsletter - copy details:

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

Craig Bennett, Chief Executive of FoE - An analysis of the COP21 Paris Agreement

So we have a climate deal: it's historic, but the agreement falls far short of the soaring rhetoric from world leaders less than 2 weeks ago. An ambition to keep global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees is a positive step forwards, but the Paris agreement falls far short of an adequate plan to make this a reality.

The Paris climate deal will require people-power to make politicians live up to their rhetoric, because we have not got the legally-binding science and justice-based agreement that was needed.

This agreement leaves millions of people across the world under threat from climate-related floods, droughts and super-storms. ***However, this is still a historic moment.***

This summit clearly shows that fossil fuels have had their day – and that George Osborne's outdated, backward energy policies must be reversed if he wants to be on the right side of history. Energy efficiency and renewable power should form the backbone of Britain's future energy policy, yet ministers have spent the past 7 months undermining investment in these crucial areas at every opportunity.

The Prime Minister must also end Britain's scandalous support for fossil fuels, including fracking. This nation is the only G7 country to be actively expanding fossil fuel subsidies. People power across the world has forced Governments to start taking this issue

seriously – and people power will win the day.

Here is our analysis of COP21.

Temperature targets

We know we need to keep global temperature to well below 1.5 degrees to minimise the impacts of climate change. But all the warm words from developed countries earlier this week have amounted to nothing: there is no obligation to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees; they have only agreed to "pursue efforts" to do so.

Emission reductions

We need to be cutting emissions rapidly and deeply, aiming for full decarbonisation by 2050. Instead the new climate deal agrees to peak emissions "as soon as possible", while allowing the door wide open for the use of offsetting instead of genuine emission cuts.

The deal also kicks this action well into the future by aiming for "the latter half of the century". On a more positive note, the text does at least recognise that developed countries need to peak their emissions before developing countries.

Future ambition

It's obvious we need to up our ambition when it comes to tackling climate change: more emissions cuts and more finance to help developing countries adapt to, recover from and tackle climate change. Unfortunately, this agreement provides no legally binding way to make this happen.

/continued on page 7

December meeting report – Annette Rose

Craig Bennett, Chief Exec of Friends of the Earth, shares his vision, hopes and plans for the future.

Craig told us that it was the third time in his career that he has spoken to the Bromley group. He was appointed CEO on July 1st so has now been 5 months in the post. He described how he first became involved with Friends of the Earth as a teenager. He saw Jonathon Porritt on Question Time and was impressed by what he said and felt it made sense. He joined FOE the next day and quickly became involved in his local group in Hornchurch. Rainham Marshes was the first big campaign he was involved with.

Craig then went on explain how he sees FOE's role today. He sees it as needing to be positive about local communities but joining up at a national and international level. It should seek fairness and justice for society. He has a passion and dedication to FOE but sometimes has frustrations. He feels the organisation needs to move from 'good' to 'great' and we need to raise our game.

What characterises FOE's campaigns?

He thinks we have done a good job in telling people that the planet is in peril. Broadly, society is with us now. The numbers on the climate March are a good indication. We need to take people on the next step of the journey. Our campaigns are about slowing down the decline and holding it back from getting worse. He believes that in the next few decades we can turn it around and make the planet better for

the next generation. The focus should be on clean air, water and a more stable climate. He feels it is clear what needs to be done. By 2030, the next generation will see the environment getting better. People are more likely to support a positive campaign.

Air Pollution

Electric vehicles will have an important role in improving air quality. The combustion engine has had its time. There are 50,000 premature deaths from air pollution despite the fact that clean technologies are here already. The blocks to progress in this field need to be removed.

Nature

Nature and our relationship to it are fundamental to us as humans. We are part of nature. Artificial Intelligence may be on its way. But the love for our families and our need for contact with nature are what makes us stand apart. Patients in hospital make better progress if they can see a tree outside their window. Every-one should have access to nature and this will enrich people's lives.

Health

Climate change impacts on health in all sorts of ways. Disease, poor diet and premature deaths are some of the outcomes. So the campaigns are linked.

Getting back to doing

Craig reminded us of how many local groups were involved with recycling schemes. The Bromley group did a can recycling project.

/continued on next page

December meeting report – *continued*

This led on to doorstep recycling by working with local councils. Craig feels there is the potential for more community schemes such as community energy projects that groups could be involved in. Communities can show the way for politicians.

Think global, act local

FOE is in over 80 countries now. He would like to see more links between international groups. For example, there could be video links and conference calls between fracking groups in Britain and Australia. Birmingham could talk to the Berlin group about energy grids. Also London groups could link up a lot more. We need to tap into expertise and the potential is huge.

People

There is the potential to reach out to many more communities. For example, the Bangladeshi community in Britain could have a group. There could be a FOE cycling group. There could be a City workers group that met in a pub in town after work. These groups need to have fun as well and the social side is important.

Government

Unfortunately the present government has dismantled a lot of the policies we have worked hard for and this is very disappointing. However, set backs are to be expected. There will be waves of progress and hopefully we will be moving higher up the beach with each wave. Craig compared the progress to the fight for abolition of slavery and women's suffrage movement. The progress was not smooth and there were setbacks.

There were then some questions from the audience for Craig.

Q Is there are group in Bangladesh and could we make links?

A Yes. It is important that we get out of a white middle class ghetto. We need to get beyond that and make links with many other groups.

Q Do we need to replace capitalism?

A There needs to be a system change to capitalism. A changed form is needed with clear rights, duties and responsibilities. Companies need to pay for pollution they cause. We need to make capitalism a slave not a master.

Q The Republican party in America is pro oil. Is this a set back?

Y Yes, unfortunately climate change deniers are also being supported. However, in the long term they are losing. The use of renewables is on the up.

Q How can we involve the public in our campaigns?

A We need to be smarter and aim our campaigns at different audiences. For example, the bees have been ambassadors for nature. This campaign, the Bee Cause, has been very successful and has gained us 40 to 50,000 more supporters. The Make it Better Campaign had a different younger target audience which is why it used high tech.

/concluded on page 7

What Bromley FoE did last year

Sheila Brown lists some of the things that Bromley FoE did in 2015

- 12 monthly meetings with speakers on subjects including animal rescue, air pollution, TTIP, transport strategy, wildlife protection and fracking
- Joint meeting with Sevenoaks FoE during Fairtrade Fortnight
- Average attendance at meetings 24
- Published 12 monthly Newsletters
- Participation in Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan
- Gave talk to Biggin Hill Women's Institute on the Bee Campaign
- Working with Parks Friends' Groups, No-to-Waste4Fuel, local Greenpeace Group, Bromley Civic Society, Bromley Against Fracking and Flightpath Watch
- Two joint Campaign stalls in Bromley with Bromley Against Fracking
- Stalls at Coolings, Keston Countryside Day, Whitehall Recreation Ground Fun Day and Cudham Village Fete.
- Joint stall with Sevenoaks FoE at Bore Place (Commonwork)
- Took part in teleconferences
- Featured several times in local press plus two letters published from group members
- Challenged Barclays Bank in Bromley and Orpington re investment in fracking
- Lobbied MPs re maintaining neonicotinoid ban
- Ongoing dialogue with LBB re National Pollinator Strategy
- Ongoing dialogue with LBB about Fracking
- Participated in International Day of Climate Action and Climate Change March
- Monitoring developments in central Bromley, Crystal Palace and at Biggin Hill Airport
- Attended Council meetings discussing Biggin Hill Airport extended hours
- Held second very successful fundraising Open Garden Day and Plant Sale
- Chosen by LUSH Bromley store as recipient of their Charity Pot in September
- Also beneficiary of LUSH White City Charity Pot in September
- Attended meetings at Sevenoaks FoE and Tonbridge FoE
- Held 3 Planning Meetings
- Three Traidcraft fair trade goods stalls
- Walks, Field Trip to Chislehurst Common plus outings to Bromley Museum and Brogdale National Apple Festival
- New year lunch at Croft Tearoom

COP21 *cont'd* + December report *cont'd* ++ Beaver Water World

Craig Bennett on COP21 agreement *- continued*

There is a review pencilled in for 2018, but there is no obligation to actually increase contributions. From 2023 there will be a “global stock-take” which will start a 5-year review cycle.

Loss and damage

I’m going to be positive again: the text does include a mechanism to respond to the impacts of climate change that can no longer be avoided (called loss and damage). But, crucially, the text is weakened by the US and EU text that explicitly precludes the concepts of liability and compensation.

Finance

In the years before 2025, the deal commits finance to help developing countries address climate change and its impacts. However it doesn’t quite make it clear who is providing this finance. Overall this is a much weaker agreement than the suggestions in the previous text from Thursday.

Next steps

So what next? Let’s be clear: good politicians will use Paris to boost action at home, but Paris risks allowing bad politicians the space to go home, get some good publicity, and then do nothing. Investors and businesses will be looking out for what politicians do next.

So Friends of the Earth’s job is to use Paris to keep up the pressure on politicians to honour their stated ambitions - and turn them into concrete action before it’s too late.

December report - concluded

Q Will we see something worked out in Paris?

A Every country has submitted their intended national targets. These will stabilize at 2.7 degrees above preindustrial levels. This is 1.2 degrees off where we need to be. There will be a deal in Paris but we don’t know how good a deal it will be. It needs to be reviewed in the next two years and rich countries need to compensate poor countries for loss and damage. FOE has 60 to 70 people involved in the summit.

Beaver Water World began as an aquatics shop, until 1981 when somebody brought in a python, which then went on display in the shop for customers to see. Then another one followed to keep the first one company, and – it grew from there!

In 1997 they were granted a zoo licence and gained charity status, and the rescue work grew in scale and variety with now around 1000 animals on site at any one time, with hundreds more being rescued and rehomed every year – running into tens of thousands over the years.

Work includes educating people about reptiles and ownership of other exotic breeds, and discouraging ownership where they can. They also campaign against the import of exotic breeds into the UK as well as giving educational talks for schools, children groups, etc.

Campaigning

Richard Hart from Bromley and Beckenham CND helped me carry our FoE banner on the People's March for Climate, Justice and Jobs on Nov 29th. Bill Priestly was also on the march with members of his family, but due to the rough weather it was difficult to meet up.

Over 40,000 people marched from Marble Arch to Parliament Green for speeches, where Asad Rehman from National FoE spoke strongly about the importance of global people power in efforts to influence our government and the Paris Climate Talks.

We had an excellent group of drummers to help us on our way, as we huddled together in the gale-force winds of this period of extreme weather. There was as usual a very inventive array of costumes, posters, masks and models of animals and vegetation, and a lovely Green Man character who danced and paraded with obvious pride.

I particularly liked the guys who paraded their wind turbines which were strapped around their waists. Underlying all this was the serious message of 'No to dirty energy, yes to renewables, climate jobs now and justice for people!'

The age of fossil fuels needs to be left behind and the hope is with people who are already ahead of governments who lack the political will to act, There are also corporate interests who are blocking the changes we need.

Climate and Energy

Paris Climate Change Conference

While writing this, the amazing news has come through on December 12th that a climate deal has been reached in Paris, signed by 200 countries after 2 weeks of talks. The legally- binding document will reduce the effects of climate change and will limit world temperature to well below 20 c. Emissions will be reduced and a100 billion dollars a year will go to developing countries.

This historic document will ensure that there is move away from the era of fossil fuels to alternatives and has been 4 years in the making during which compromises have been negotiated. A climate action plan will be reviewed by each country every 5 years.

It will now be up to environmentalists to see that their governments fully commit themselves to the terms of the agreement, and we in Bromley FoE will be playing our part through our joint campaigning to make valuable contributions.

Coal Power Plants to be closed by 2025

It has been announced that coal-fired power stations in Britain are to be closed within ten years. Plants which cannot capture carbon emissions will close and their use restricted from 2023. However this means that the focus will shift to gas and nuclear plants.

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Barclays and Fracking – Ann Garrett

Ann Garrett recently wrote to Barclays on behalf of Bromley FoE expressing their concerns about Barclays owning over 90% of the shares in fracking company Third Energy. Here's the reply from Barclays.

Dear Ms Ann Garrett

Thank you for your letter to your local branch manager concerning Barclays' association with fracking, to which I am responding on his behalf. I hope that the following information clarifies our position on the issue.

One of Barclays' subsidiaries, Barclays Natural Resources Investments (BNRI), has a majority stake in Third Energy. This is a British business with a history of investment and good corporate citizenship in North Yorkshire, and this is set to continue into the future.

We have worked closely with Third Energy as they go through the planning process, to ensure that their plans are compatible with our Purpose & Values, and summarise their position on each of the major issues in turn below:

Risks to health

Thorough research into shale gas and hydraulic fracturing by leading scientific and industry experts, including the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Geological Society, the British Geological Survey, WaterUK, the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), Public Health England and Durham University has concluded that any

potential risks associated with hydraulic fracturing are low and can be managed in a properly regulated industry.

Risks to the local economy

Third Energy has been drilling, developing and producing gas in North Yorkshire for over 20 years with an excellent environmental and safety record. To date, the operations have had no discernible effect on agriculture, tourism and fishing in North Yorkshire. There is no reason to believe that this will change in the future.

Risks to the community from increased traffic levels and noise

As with all construction and engineering projects, Third Energy's programme will create a small amount of traffic and noise. However, the company will keep the amount of traffic to an absolute minimum and constant monitoring during operations will ensure that noise levels do not exceed the limits set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. A traffic management plan has been developed with the Highways Authority, taking into account local community feedback.

Risks to ground and surface water

Third Energy plans and operates its wells in accordance with the UK's robust regulatory regime. The chemicals used, in addition to water and sand, in fracking fluid (usually less than 1% of the total volume) must be approved as "non-hazardous" to groundwater by the Environment Agency (EA).

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Barclays letter, *continued* + Photo

Letter from Barclays – *cont'd*

In addition, the flow back water will be sent for safe disposal to an Environment Agency permitted waste facility. The integrity of the fracking well is critical in ensuring that any risk of leakage is minimised and very close attention is paid to the design, construction and monitoring of Third Energy's wells. There is consequently very low risk of ground and surface water pollution.

Risks to the global climate

Fuel produced from shale gas exploration is seen by many - including the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - as providing an alternative to other fossil fuels, such as coal, while more efficient renewables can be developed to enable the UK to meet both its

carbon reduction targets and energy requirements.

The UK Government, including the Department for Energy and Climate Change, the Treasury and the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee have backed shale gas exploration,

using modern technology and practices to minimise adverse impacts.

Any extraction activity is, of course, subject to the full planning process, including environmental assessment and public consultation. We take the concerns of local communities and other groups seriously and will continue to monitor our activities to ensure that potential environmental and community impacts are minimised.

Photo below – Ruth Fabricant (Bromley Against Fracking) and Ann Garrett (Bromley FoE) after handing in this letter to the manager of Barclays Bromley



Paul de Zylva's blog – The Commonwealth and Bees

Queen bee and common wealth –
this summit took place in November
and Paul de Zylva and other FoE
Malta colleagues were there

Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles, David Cameron and leaders of over 50 Commonwealth nations are in Malta for the biennial Heads of Commonwealth Government Meeting. These summits are a kind of pollination. Even more reason for bees and pollinators to be on their agenda.

David Cameron and other leaders are here debating our ability to cope with rapid climate change and the growing lack of water and food security – in a word, resilience. Serious debate about resilience would be incomplete without action to reverse bee decline – rather like trying to make tea without boiling water.

Food security needs to address how we tackle bee decline. The many foods, medicines and materials we take for granted every day are only available to us because of bees.

70% of the world's 124 most traded crops depend on the vital free service we get from bees and other beneficial creatures visiting and pollinating plants. Most of these crops are economic staples for Commonwealth nations - from Ghana and Cameroon's cocoa, and Uganda and Papua New Guinea's coffee, to Zambia's peanuts.

India relies on pollination for its aubergines and tomatoes - and Australia loves its Macadamia nuts and sunflower seeds. Where would New Zealand be without its exports of

apples and kiwi fruit? Even its production of butter and lamb depends partly on pollination of clover and other fodder grown to feed cows and sheep.

Bee decline is a growing food security issue. Without action to help bees, people in all countries will have less rich, varied and nutritious diets.

Bees and Pollinators: A Commonwealth Concern, our new report launched at a packed event with the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, highlights how much Commonwealth states depend on pollinators.

In the report, top scientist, Professor Simon Potts, says: "The Commonwealth depends on these unsung pollinating heroes to help ensure plenty of good quality food is available, our economies prosper and our wildlife thrives."

The report shows how Commonwealth states can act to reverse bee and pollinator decline, from improving how we farm, to the planning and development of towns and cities. It also considers whether we can support bees to help us be resilient?" How do you think Commonwealth leaders will answer?

We want to share your ideas, along with our report and feedback from the people at the report launch, with leaders. Whether you – or your food - come from a Commonwealth country, what do you think leaders should be doing to reverse bee and pollinator decline?

Battersea Arts Centre Update – The Grand Hall Rebuild

Earlier this year, the Battersea Arts Centre's roof, grand hall and lower hall were hit by fire, but the front of the building escaped severe damage. David Jubb, Artistic Director, describes what's going on now.

Over the last six months:

- The structure has been made safe by deconstructUK who generously offered their services at cost.
- The salvage operation has been completed including a curatorial and photography project by Jake Tilson. Some of Jake's pictures are included in this post (see also the bottom of the page for more images).
- The architects, Stirling Prize-winning Haworth Tompkins, have been working hard to shape rebuild proposals that pay tribute to the remarkable heritage of the 122-year- Grand Hall.

How we're thinking about the rebuild

The proposal is to rebuild the exterior of the building as it was before whilst enabling the inside of the building to be more flexible so that more people can access and use the space. The emerging plans will go through the planning process early next year and we hope to have builders onsite in Spring 2016 with the Grand Hall re-opened by Summer 2018.

We want to share the evolving proposals to see what people think, to feed in ideas and continue to develop the plans over the coming six months. The Grand Hall will remain a space for weddings, exhibitions, parties,

conferences, theatre and music performances. Previously, it took a week to turn the space around from a wedding set-up to a theatre set-up with a large seating rake. By making the space more flexible we can waste less time and ensure that more people can use the space year-round. The guiding principle for our rebuild proposals has been to honour the remarkable heritage of the Grand Hall whilst making the space more flexible to use.

Here is a summary of proposals for rebuilding the Grand Hall

Building Exterior

The Grand Hall's exterior will look much the same as it did before, the only difference will be replacing some of the lost original brick-work. Much of the original exterior structure is still intact. Haworth Tompkins would plan to install a temporary roof to encase the Grand Hall, which would protect it from the elements as the rebuild takes place over the next three years.

Inside the Grand Hall

The rebuilt interior of the Grand Hall will blend past, present and future. While honouring the building's history and grandeur, Haworth Tompkins will create a fit-for-purpose performance and community venue, making use of technology that will reduce our carbon footprint and preserve the building for generations to come.

Flexibility & Seating

Haworth Tompkins have imagined ways to make the rebuilt Grand Hall incredibly flexible.

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Battersea Arts Centre Update - *continued*

These elements would allow us to shift between different events with ease, and give artists and hirers much more dynamic options for arranging the space.

For example, roof void walkways would provide grid access for technicians and allow for easier installation of light and sound equipment. This would make it much quicker to switch between 'performance' mode, 'wedding' mode, 'tea dance' mode, and so on. Acoustic banners in the roof could be adjusted depending on the desired sound – whether we're hosting a full orchestral ensemble or a solo comedian.

The proposed seating would be mobile and easy to rearrange. It could connect to the Grand Hall balcony (which was not destroyed by the fire) or stand apart. And gangways on both the east and west sides of the hall would dramatically improve access.

Green Technology

To reduce the Grand Hall's carbon footprint, upgraded insulation would be installed. A built-in ventilation system would keep the space cool in the summer and triple window glazing would keep it warm in winter. New electrics would then provide better technical infrastructure while reducing energy waste.

What happens next

All the plans are subject to further discussion, design and approval and planning per- mission. Thanks to you we have got this far. And we're excited about the next stage. Do get in touch if

you haven't been able to see the Grand Hall yet, close-up, and would like to come and visit. We'll do everything we can to make that possible. Thank you again for being part of this story and I look forward to being back in touch with more updates when we reach the next design stages.

In the meantime, do make sure to come and visit us. We've got a great season of theatre on, with shows from artists like Sara Pascoe and Will Adamsdale, and lots of exciting gigs in our Scratch Bar. And if you haven't yet watched Live From Television Centre you can still catch it on BBC iPlayer. Hope to see you soon.

Editor's Note – In case you're wondering what this article is doing in the Bromley FoE Newsletter, it's the Editor's Special Choice.

If you're interested in the BAC, visit its website <https://www.bac.org.uk/>

Climate and Energy *continued*

The Importance of the Vegan Diet

While on the climate march I was handed a leaflet which reminded me of the importance of aiming towards a vegan diet. It stated that more people are becoming vegan and that it is vital for animals, the planet and people. It is not only kinder to animals but is better for health, as well as the environment. One quote from the writing of Albert Einstein struck me as particularly significant: If a person aspires towards a righteous life, their first act of abstinence is from injury to animals'.

Flooding – article from FoE website

The December 2015 floods in Cumbria are a shocking reminder of how even a rich, well-prepared country like the UK is at the mercy of extreme weather. The costs – emotional and financial – will be huge. The sorts of storms that hit Cumbria are seven times more likely to lead to extreme rainfall, because of climate change. And the risks and impacts of catastrophic weather will only worsen, until we cut the coal, oil and gas pollution that is making climate change worse.

But this is not solely a UK story. As the floodwaters slowly recede in Cumbria, we should also think of people in countries far less equipped to cope with such disasters. There are floods all round the world, and climate change is increasing their likelihood and severity. UNICEF reports that more than 500 million children live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence.

Here are some of the floods which have hit poorer nations recently:

- *** 280 people die in floods in Chennai, India, December
- *** Floods in Kinshasa, DR Congo, kill 20 people, December
- *** 17,000 homes damaged by floods in West Algeria, November
- *** Thousands of people made homeless by floods in Freetown, Sierra Leone, September
- *** Hundreds of thousands of people hit by three weeks of flooding in Pakistan, July-August.

That's why "loss and damage" – a means to help developing countries cope with the impacts of climate change - is a crucial part of the

#COP21 climate talks in Paris which finish this weekend. Loss and damage is likely to be one of the most contentious issues in the talks' final hours, as richer countries seek to minimise how much responsibility they take.

The UK is one of the nations which are most historically responsible for the climate change we are seeing now – we have a moral obligation to help the people in other countries whose lives are being wrecked. The UK needs to be at the forefront of nations championing a strong loss and damage mechanism in the crucial final hours of the Paris talks.

Climate Rising: London, January 30

The Paris climate talks are centre stage at the moment. But it's what we do next that is crucial. Climate Rising is the perfect opportunity to come together after Paris and get energised for 2016. So please join us in January for a day of workshops, inspirational speakers and updates from the talks.

Climate Rising is a chance to celebrate our many victories from 2015 – and get ready to rise up for the climate together in 2016. Everyone is welcome. Whether you're new to the climate movement or a seasoned campaigner, you'll leave feeling inspired, motivated and connected with the climate community.

The venue is not yet available – more info from the FoE website at <https://www.foe.co.uk/act/climate-rising-london-30-january>

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

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

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

Non-members' Section

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

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

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

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, and Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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