



friends of
the earth
Bromley



July 2014

No. 319

newsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

July Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Beyond Bees –

A new era of campaigning for nature

Paul de Zylva

Senior Campaigner, Friends of the Earth

Unveils FoE's new, wider nature campaign

Tuesday 1st July - 7.30pm

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 20TH JULY *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Would you like to be part of the Campaigning team? – See page 7

Diary dates:

Jun 29th (Sun)

Jul 1st (Tues)

Jul 20th (Sat)

Aug 5th (Tues)

Aug 25th (Mon)

Sept 2nd (Tues)

Keston Countryside Day, Keston Common with FoE stall
Bromley FoE's July meeting: Paul de Zylva, FoE's Senior Campaigner – Nature and Eco-system security
Foal Farm Festival, with FoE stall
Bromley FoE's August meeting: Population Matters (*tbc*)
Cudham Fete – Bromley FoE stall
Bromley FoE September meeting: Focus on Fracking

Basecamp 2014

Basecamp took place over the second weekend in June. Sheila Brown was there for Bromley FoE and will be reporting in next month's newsletter.

For those of you who can't wait that long, there are photos from Basecamp on the FoE website at <http://www.foe.co.uk/news/basecamp-2014-pictures> and there are also details of the Earthmovers awards at <http://www.foe.co.uk/news/earthmovers-awards-2014>.

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson (01959-571566) or Sheila Brown (01689-851605).

Wanted - 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.

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 20TH JULY *****:

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

June Meeting Report – Annette Rose

Our speakers this month were Anna Cairns and Lynne Davies from the EIA- Environmental Investigation Agency.

Anna began by explaining that this organisation is a charity based in an office in London. They work globally from this base. They have been going for 30 years and although they are small they are effective. They are dedicated to exposing crimes against wildlife and the environment.

Investigations

Investigations start with desk based research. Then they will work out in the field. Their work is mostly undercover. They are the eyes and ears on the ground and can come face to face with illegal traders which means their job can be dangerous. They are often at the frontline of wildlife crime.

Campaigning

Once they have gathered evidence of crimes being committed, they create reports and films and lobby for change. This is done in a variety of ways including participation in national and international forums. They also provide solutions for governments and the public. They lobby for environmental crime to be treated in the same way as serious organised crime.

Cooperation

They have close working relationships with NGOs & civil societies and they work closely with governments. They engage with customs and enforcement agencies on national and international levels. An important part is to train

people on the ground to photograph and collate evidence and includes safety training as it can be dangerous work.

Campaigns

Unfortunately crimes against wildlife are growing in number. Our speakers then went on to tell us some key facts about their current 5 campaigns. These are the Elephant Campaign, Tiger Campaign, Cetacean Campaign, Forest Campaign and The Global Environment Campaign.

Elephant Campaign

It was sad to hear that poaching is back to levels before the ivory ban. The EIA seeks to expose poaching syndicates and trade routes and address the illegal ivory trade. They are lobbying for a complete ban on ivory trade. EIA was instrumental in the CITES decision to introduce an Ivory ban in 1989.

They have continued to lobby to block ivory buying status applications.

EIA along with 22 other NGOs called on the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade to adopt a permanent ban on trade in ivory. The final Declaration that was adopted by the Conference contains many commitments to improve enforcement and address illegal wildlife trade that was also suggested by EIA.

Tiger Campaign

There are now less than 3,500 tigers left in the wild. The main threats are poaching & illegal trade, habitat destruction & prey decline. Parts and

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Transport comment – Ray Watson

All up in the air

While the seemingly endless Heath v. Gatwick row goes on to determine which has the best prospects when it comes to expansion, it is easy to forget that other airports in Britain are living entities – they come and go like any other product, although, unfortunately for environmentalists, it seems mainly a story of development rather than contraction.

But let us have a glance at recent news of airports in the South East. Should we concern ourselves with what goes on at airports outside our area? Yes, because they can generate noise and pollution far beyond their boundaries. So, a brief round-up:

Lydd: This Middle East-owned airport near the sea at Dungeness, Kent, has succeeded in convincing the Government to allow a runway extension and new terminal to take 500,000 passengers a year – in spite of it being situated in an important wild life area and, more to the point, only a short distance from two nuclear power stations, a flying time of about 60 seconds. Nowhere else in the world has this been permitted.

Luton: Already a busy airport, the Government gave permission for developments that will increase the number of passengers carried by nine million. And this in the face of a consultation period in which 70 per cent of the public said No to expansion.

Manston: This Kent airport was losing £10,000 a day because easyJet and others pulled out because they could

not make a go of it. Manston closed on May 10 and 150 jobs went with it. Now there is a suggestion that it might be turning into a residential Garden City, a device to give it an easy ride through the planning process.

Southend: The owner is transport guru Eddie Stobart, who also owns Carlisle Airport – presumably he intended to use both to fly out cargo as well as passengers. His latest figures show that his operating profit from aviation last year fell by 75 per cent.

Redhill: Our neighbour, sandwiched between Biggin Hill and Gatwick, has been refused permission to convert its dirt runway into tarmac in order to take passengers. The fight is not over yet.

But we cannot ignore the big two:

Gatwick: Its submission for an extra runway to the Government Commission that is deciding where future expansion for London flights should be sited was totally opposed by local residents who argue there is no need for expansion when Stansted is only half full. Residents have also been protesting recently on another issue: routes for flights in and out of Gatwick were changed without consultation, resulting in areas not previously overflowed now suffer from noise blight. Not a good start.

Heathrow: Flights from there already fly over our part of Kent when in a holding pattern. It is seeking a fourth runway. A new element in its submission was the offer of

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June meeting report - *continued*

products are seen as status symbols and used in traditional medicine and health tonics. The EIA's work centres on reducing the demand for tiger products and bone. They participate in international forums.

Cetacean Campaign

This campaign covers whales, porpoises and dolphins. Despite the ban on whaling, Iceland continues to fish whales and ship them to Japan for consumption.

EIA has campaigned in Japan for over 2 decades to end commercial small cetacean hunts resulting in a significant decline in demand for cetacean products by consumers and the numbers of animals being hunted. EIA's market campaign exposing toxin levels has led to more than 2,500 supermarkets in Japan ceasing the sale of cetacean products.

Forest Campaign

Aims are to reduce global deforestation and curb illegal logging. Successes include EU timber regulation and controls in Indonesia of the exportation of Siamese Rosewood.

We watched an upsetting and moving video which showed some of the destruction to the rainforest that is happening.

HSBC Banking on Extinction report (2013): revealed HSBC is funding destruction of rainforests essential for the survival of Bornean orangutans and other endangered species.

Global Environment Campaign

The focus here is to protect the global environment from the damaging impact of harmful chemicals and reduce the emissions of fluorinated gases. On a positive note, many UK & European retailers have committed to climate-friendly alternatives to HFCs (incl. Tesco, Sainsburys, Metro & Carrefour) Tesco & Carrefour are looking to go HFC free in Asia. EU has now agreed to ban the use of HFCs in new equipment in a number of sectors, most notably in commercial refrigeration, by 2022.

Time for Questions

We then had some questions from the floor. The role of the drug trade and corruption were discussed. One questioner asked how much campaigns cost. We were told that they have an income of £2.2 million and it costs around £20,000 to fund a campaign.

So although the problems in the environment can seem overwhelming and immense, our speakers showed that it is possible to push for change and to have successes.

The EIA's literature states – 'Despite such a remarkable history of success, EIA remains a small organisation-living proof that a group of individuals with modest resources really can change the world.'

Bee Cause Update – Judy Palmer

Second Bee World – Annette & I are pleased to say that we planted out, with lots of help, 27 wildflower plants at our new Bee world – the ‘wild’ section in Whitehall Recreation park, Bromley, last month. Our original plan to put them round the banks of the pond there, was somewhat thwarted by the rock-hard ground! But we managed to find places for them around the perimeters of the area in the end. These were the plants we bought with our winnings from the Bromley in Bloom/Coolings’ vouchers. Big thanks to all who took part!

We will be having a stall in the park on Raglan School’s last day of term, July 22nd, as the Friends of Whitehall organise a Fun Day then, and they have invited us to join in. Please look at our Facebook page where we have posted some photos of our bee world planting – we regularly update this – and we will post some more information on the Fun Day to.

Coolings – we were invited last year to hold a stall up at Coolings Nurseries, this year, together with the Orpington Bee Keepers Association, which we duly did on Saturday June 14th. A big thank-you from Annette & I to Bill and Anne Clark who joined us for the day.

We did generate some interest with our displays – lots of people popped by to say how much they enjoy having bees in their gardens, and wanted to check the bee ID chart to see which type of bee they have seen. We created a mini Bee ‘N Bee world in a planter, with plants and produce kindly

donated by Coolings for the day, to show how easy it was to do.

One of the products we borrowed was a ‘bee hotel’ you can buy, and we put a bowl of water with pebbles in next to it which proved to be an attraction for children – “*why is that there?*” – being the leading question! And the adults said they didn’t really need to buy a hotel, as the bees had found places themselves.

Coolings put aside space for the two stalls not far from the shop entrance and surrounded by bee-friendly plants and herbs. They have also created part of a plant display with two or three ‘bug and bee hotels’ which were a draw with their customers.

As ever with our climate the weather played its part – the variable breezes blew through the gazebo (you always need to remember to anchor your displays don’t you!), it rained a little, well more than a little a couple of times, as the displays can testify, and the sun really got its hat on – as we were packing up! But we potentially got some new group members and helped raise awareness of the Bee cause, so not a bad day out.

Bee Cause – if you go to the FoE website – www.foe.co.uk you will see a link to a new promotion they have launched for an app (its free) for your smartphone, or the web, to take part in the first ever Great British Bee count! The app has been developed by Friends of the Earth and their partners,

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Bee Cause Update – *continued*

Buglife and B&Q, and will help you easily identify bee species and log sightings when you're out and about.

We know that bees often go hungry and homeless. More than 20 UK bee species are already extinct and about a quarter of the remaining 267 species are at risk. But there's currently no accurate national picture of bee health.

The data that people collect for the Great British Bee Count will do an important job to help scientists fill in the blanks about where bees are thriving – and where they're in trouble. The data you submit will go the National Biodiversity Network to help experts improve their understanding of bees' health – and how to protect them.

How to take part

You don't need to be an expert to join in.

1. Download the free Great British Bee Count app for your smartphone, or take part online.
2. Look out for bees when you're out and about – or attract them to your garden
3. Record your sightings of bees as often or as little as you like until 31 August 2014
4. Tell your friends to get involved too.

Summer is the most active time of year for bees. So keep an eye out among flowers you pass on your way to work or school, on weekend walks or in the park, and enjoy!

Another part of the Bee cause campaign is creating a **Bee 'N Bee** for

bees – yes, it's a Bed and Breakfast for bees. If you would like to start from scratch and create an area to help our bees, please sign up for a pack which will show you how to welcome local bees to your garden. The plot will be in good company, joining lots of bee worlds and bee-friendly gardens which have been created as part of the Bee Cause.

And if you would like to show how you have done it, please share your story and photos with other Bee Savers by adding it to the FoE map at www.foe.co.uk/bees. We will have some packs available at our July monthly meeting, and our speaker will be Paul de Zylva, the FoE Nature Campaigner. Hope to see you there!

Would you like to be part of the Campaigning team?

It would be great if you do!

The group has a dedicated small band of volunteers who try and work on most of the major campaigns which Friends of the Earth undertake each year, but we could do more.

If you have a bit of spare time and feel you can offer it and your enthusiasm to us, please contact one of the officers or campaign contacts shown at the back of this newsletter. Thank you.

Campaigns Round-up

The new Run on Sun campaign materials are now available, so hope to have these to show you all at the July meeting.

It's good to know that it has broadened to include local communities as well as schools, and as our group has a lot of contacts this should be very positive for us in the future.

Judy and Annette continue with their great initiatives for promoting the Bee campaign with speaking in schools and to WI groups, as well as running stalls. Many thanks to Annette for seeing The Make It Better through all its stages.

Meanwhile there is plenty to keep us busy with the Fracking campaign, and important in making links with the Bromley Against Fracking network. Hopefully the Fracking Forum at our meeting in September will provide us with more information, and it is good that Cllr Colin Smith will be attending.

There was a lot of interest and support from the public for the Bromley Against Fracking leafleting at Green St Green on June 10th and most people signed the petition. Their next meeting is at the Greyhound, London Rd, Bromley on July 14th at 7.30 pm.

Please join Bromley Greenpeace and Bromley and Beckenham CND in an anti-nuclear trains demo (leafleting the public and local houses) opposite Bromley South Station from 12.00 - 2.00pm on July 26th. They will be supported by London NTAG (Nuclear Trains Action Group) members.

Climate and Energy

Mining for Shale Gas

Anti-fracking campaigners have condemned government plans to allow mining companies to drill for gas under homes and gardens without needing permission. Eco activists have said the plans could harm the environment as well as privacy.

The new Infrastructure Bill will be clarifying and stream-lining the permission process to support the development of gas and oil from shale and geothermal energy. David Cameron has denied, however, that the new bill would allow people's homes to be 'fracked', but has said that shale gas drilling could make energy prices and businesses more competitive.

The mining firm Cuadrilla has identified 5 sites in Lancashire but suspended work following 2 minor earthquakes, which measured 1.5 and 2.3 on the Richter scale. A new report just out has stated that drilling in the UK is more likely to pollute water beds here than in the US.

Radiation Safety

Workers at the Sellafield nuclear plant facility in Cumbria have been formally cautioned by regulators for unauthorised removal of a contaminated thermometer from a storage tank last December. Their actions exposed them to elevated levels of radiation and also exposed an area of the site that was not designed to prevent a spread of nuclear contamination.

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UK National Commission for UNESCO - Latest UNESCO Biosphere

Congratulations to Brighton and Lewes Downs on becoming the UK's newest UNESCO Biosphere

The Brighton & Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere was yesterday awarded this designation by UNESCO's International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the 'Man and the Biosphere' (MAB) programme, which met in Sweden earlier yesterday (Wednesday 11th June). It joins a global network of more than 600 "world-class environments" in over 100 countries, and is one of only a handful worldwide to include a city.

Achieving the status of a new World Biosphere site follows six years' work by the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere partnership to develop its bid. The partnership of some forty organisations, with Brighton & Hove City Council as a lead partner, includes other local authorities, public bodies, voluntary, educational and community organisations and private sector business.

Martin Price, Chair of the UK National Committee for UNESCO's Man & the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, reports from the UNESCO meeting in Sweden: "I am very glad to say that the decision was taken today to approve the Brighton & Lewes Downs as a new Biosphere for the UK, so it is now a globally-recognised site of excellence where many individuals and organisations work in partnership to foster all aspects of sustainable development across the region."

The Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere area covers all of the land and near-shore coastal waters between the two rivers of the Adur in the west and the Ouse in the east.

The northern boundary of the South Downs National Park marks its northern limits, while it also includes the city of Brighton & Hove and neighbouring towns of Lewes, Newhaven, Peacehaven, Shoreham, Telscombe, Southwick and Shoreham Beach.

Extending two nautical miles out to sea, it also includes part of one of the first 'Marine Conservation Zones' designated by the Government last year.

Climate and Energy - *continued*

This is the first time the Office for Nuclear Regulation has cautioned individual employees.

The Government has recently admonished the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for 'inappropriately' withholding information from the public, after backing the findings of a highly critical MPs' report into the management of Sellafield.

Overseeing the facility is one of the hazardous detoxification jobs in the world. Fukushima must be high on the list too. There is news that contamination from the leaking plant has reached the Australian as well as the US coastlines.

FoE have created a bite-sized IPCC report

FoE have distilled over 5000 pages of the three IPCC reports into two pages and ten key facts – here they are.

Climate Change – ten key findings from the climate scientists

Summary of the three reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

In 2013/14 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change produced three major reports on: the physical basis for climate change; likely impacts and adaptation; and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Friends of the Earth has produced a fully-referenced summary briefing on each report. This short briefing draws on these to identify the following ten key findings:

1. Humans are warming the planet but dangerous climate change can be avoided - it is unequivocal that the planet has warmed and will continue to warm. Scientists are more confident than ever that humans have been the dominant cause since the mid-20th century. However it is still possible to avoid 2 degrees of warming. In particular this will require peaking global emissions before 2020 and cutting global fossil fuel use by around two-thirds by 2050.

2. Warming is leading to more extreme weather - warming has already increased the occurrence of some types of extreme weather events and further temperature increases will see the frequency of heavy rainfall events and very hot days increase, with the severity increasing in proportion to warming. Each degree of

warming will increase rainfall intensity by 5-10%. There will be more droughts and floods.

3. Sea levels are rising – they will continue to do so over coming decades and centuries as sea water expands as it gets warmer, as well as additions from glacier melt water and losses from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. For each degree of warming a sea level rise of 1-3 meters is expected if the warming persists for several millennia. Sea level rises are unlikely to exceed one meter in the 21st century.

4. The poorest in the world will suffer the most - people who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally or otherwise marginalized are often highly vulnerable to climate change. Women, children and the elderly are particularly at risk. Africa is particularly vulnerable, even with high levels of adaptation.

5. Food production will be hit - Climate change is expected to reduce crop productivity by as much as 2 per cent per decade. This is within a context of growing demand from an increasing population. The risks to food production are not spread evenly, with tropical countries at greatest risk. Impacts on production could be much worse in combination with other stresses such as ozone pollution and water stress.

6. Severe threats to wildlife - 20-30 per cent of the plant and animal species assessed are at increasing risk of extinction as global mean
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temperatures exceed a warming of 2-3°C above pre-industrial levels. Climate change will contribute to increased extinction risk for terrestrial and freshwater species over the coming century.

7. Investments in energy efficiency and low carbon energy need to grow substantially - investment in low emissions generation technologies need to double to around \$300 billion per year, investments in energy efficiency need to grow by over \$300 billion per year, and \$21-35 billion per year needs to be invested in deforestation. Investment in fossil fuels should fall. Hundreds of billions of dollars would need to be transferred to developing countries to help them develop their economies in a low carbon way.

8. There are significant co-benefits from taking action on climate change – such as: reduced health impacts from air pollution, healthier lower meat diets, afforestation can benefit biodiversity, and reduced risks from water scarcity.

9. Governments' delays in taking sufficient actions leads to higher costs – the pledges currently made by governments to cut emissions would not avoid warming of more than 2 degrees. Delaying sufficient action to cut emissions is making the task of avoiding 2 degrees warming much more difficult. Delay will substantially increase the costs of avoiding dangerous climate change.

10. The impacts from 4 degrees of warming are extremely severe – business as usual in greenhouse gas emissions would lead to around 4 degrees of warming by 2100. This would lead to large increases in water stress and drought in a number of regions (for example, southern Europe and southwest North America). It could lead to the near-complete loss of the Greenland ice sheet which over a millennium or more would cause sea-level rise of up to 7 metres.

Transport comment – *cont'd*
£550million for locals as compensation for extra disturbance or the loss of a home. But, overall, Heathrow is on dangerous ground because already-high current noise and air pollution problems say experts will be worsened by any increase in flights and car traffic, which in the latter case will not be helped by Britain's first 14-lane highway proposed for the area.

Thames Estuary: In spite of considerable opposition, London mayor Boris Johnson will not give up on his drive for an estuary airport to replace Heathrow. The initial costs for road and rail access, let alone the airport itself, underpin most of the opposition's arguments.

The mayor will know in October whether his idea or has been rejected by the commission or not. Meanwhile, Boris Johnson has authorised more spending to fund research into the project – now totalling £5million. Odd that. Surely the mayor should not be spending money on a development that is not in London?

World Development Movement – or Global Justice Now

This is what WDM has recently sent to its members, in advance of its AGM in September.

We would like to invite you to one of the most important AGMs that WDM has held in many years. This September, we will vote on whether to adopt a new name.

The AGM is taking place later in the year than usual to give us time for proper consultation before the event itself. It will also be followed by a groups conference, rather than a public event, to give members of WDM the opportunity to discuss the implications of changing our name and the opportunities we hope this will give us for re-energising our campaigns.

It's taken many months to hit upon a name which we hope well reflects what WDM is and what we do. Our proposal is Global Justice Now. In this letter, we want to give a bit more background for why we've decided to make this proposal, and also to assure you that this is not a marketing exercise. It's a change which we want to translate into more effective campaigning, a bigger network of activists, and a better known organisation, without compromising our values.

Proposing a change like this is a daunting experience, but this discussion has taken place over many years. Indeed, it is part of our strategy, passed five years ago.

The reason is that many people — both long-standing supporters and potential new recruits — find that our current name doesn't really sum up what we

do. In a changing world, and a changing campaign context, words like 'development' no longer mean what we intended them to mean.

That's why we undertook several consultations - with local groups who need to convince people on the streets about the work of WDM, with our members, and with supporters in general.

The most compelling feedback came from allies we want to work with in the global south — some of the very groups we were set up to support — who have told us they find the name offputting. We've even had situations where groups haven't wanted to meet with us, assuming we are a financial institution.

In other words, our very name seemed to be an obstacle to us carrying out our work.

Our consultations, starting back in October, first allowed us to better define how people felt about WDM. We then used that information to identify names that could better sum us up.

In March, we put several suggestions to an online poll of all our supporters to see what they thought. The runaway favourite name was Action for Global Justice. 2,884 supporters took part in the poll, and 1,560 people said they liked this name, with the next best option (People not Profit) getting just under 850 votes. These proportions were replicated by local group members and focus groups.

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WDM or Global Justice Now – *continued*

But we also asked people to leave their comments, and a common response was that Action for Global Justice was too long a name (like our current name). People generally thought that 'global justice' summed up what we exist for and liked making clear that we take action to achieve this, but felt there could be a more succinct alternative.

That's why, after some discussion, we proposed instead Global Justice Now. We would be really pleased to give you a more detailed description of the process and how we came to this proposal.

We were never going to come up with a name which pleased everyone, or which didn't have some problems associated with it. But our council felt that this name is clear, punchy and the best reflection of the concerns and preferences of supporters. We are now working with designers to ensure our logo and the phrases and language we use in printed materials and online work together to reflect all of who we are.

We want to reassure you that changing our name was never an attempt to change our values — actually it's an attempt to better express those values. Nick gives more explanation of how he believes this can happen in his article in Action magazine (enclosed).

When we discussed with activists, members, supporters and staff what we stand for as an organisation, the results were reassuringly similar. We are a democratic and inclusive

movement which aims to create a very different world where resources are controlled by and for the many rather than the few. We are a community, working in solidarity with movements that tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality. We 'tell it like it is', but also think it's important to really understand and substantiate what we talk about.

We know the change we want to create is huge — which is why we work with many others to build a diverse movement capable of long-term change.

The relaunch (with or without a new name) will be an opportunity to reassert our values in the wider world. We really want to put more effort and energy into getting ourselves 'out there' and being clear with the public why our perspective and issues are important.

We hope that this will give local groups and members a real lift, and will present new opportunities. But we know it's also going to be challenging. That's why our groups conference will focus on sharing skills, planning and getting a clearer idea of how we can help you to make the most of the relaunch.

We're also planning lots of activities for the relaunch itself, including a major public conference at the beginning of 2015. Making a big splash should lay the ground for making a greater impact in the future.

Civic Voice press release - Civic Day launched by Minister

Civic Day, which was held this year on 21 June, was launched by Local Government Minister, Brandon Lewis MP. This was the fourth Civic Day organised by Civic Voice and saw local Civic Societies putting on over 250 events across England.

Through participating in different events around the country local people will be encouraged and enthused to find out more about where they live, take pride in their communities and become more active in building them for the future.

Launching Civic Day 2014, Brandon Lewis said: "On Saturday 21st June, people will come together to mark national Civic Day more empowered than ever before by their new community rights.

"More than one thousand neighbourhood plans are in the pipeline and 1200 treasured local assets have now been listed for special protection. All this tells us that civic pride is thriving again and acting as a clarion call to all communities that they can make a difference to the places where they live."

These are some of the day's events:

- The Buckingham Society's local MP, John Bercow (Speaker of the House of Commons) presented a Citizen of Year Award
- Litter picks at the ready as the Canterbury Society organise a litter pick
- Hayfield Civic Trust organised an art competition (open to all age groups) to capture the essence of Hayfield!

- Home Secretary and local MP, Theresa May handed out the prizes and formally opened an exhibition of all the entries in the 'Maidenhead and Me' art competition organised by Maidenhead Civic Society
- Marple Civic Society asked residents to nominate Assets of Community Value
- Mitcham Cricket Green & Community Heritage group toured the Canons and Cricket Green area of the town to discuss ideas for two Heritage Lottery Fund bids
- Residents in Newton Abbot found out who has won the Civic Society Citizen of Year Award

Dr Freddie Gick, Chair of Civic Voice said: "Civic Day provides an excellent opportunity for us all to promote the work of civic societies. Whether it is John Bercow MP supporting Buckingham's Citizen of the year or the Home Secretary, Rt Hon Theresa May MP handing out prizes for the 'Maidenhead and Me' art competition, Civic Day is a great way for us all to say "we are proud of where we live".

Notes for Editors

Civic Voice is the national charity for the Civic Society movement with 275 member societies representing 75,000 individual members. Civic Day was launched in 2011 and this year will mark the 1000th event.

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

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

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.....

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

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