



Friends of the Earth Bromley



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July 2018
No. 367

ewsletter

July Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Trevor Cox (Regional Development Volunteer)

Tools with a Mission
Practical Recycling which lifts people out of Poverty

Tuesday 3rd July 7.30pm (*prompt start please*)

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

*** **SUNDAY 15TH JULY** ***

Contact details inside front cover.

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*

Diary dates:

June 30th Wild Flower Walk, Jubilee Park
10am Blackbrook Lane Car Park. Led by members of the Friends of Jubilee Park.

July 3rd Bromley FoE's July meeting
Tools with a mission – recycling in action. *See below for more info.*

July 7th National Meadows Day, Jubilee Park
BFoE stall 10.30 to 3.30. Set up from 10am. Volunteers needed please at this new event for us. We will focus on the Nature campaign and will have activities for children focusing on bees and butterflies.

July 22nd Summer visit to Ruxley Gravel Pits. *See below for more info*

August 7th Bromley FoE's August meeting
If you are able to help on any of our stalls this year, please sign up at the monthly meeting or email us at bromleyfoe@gmail.com. Thank you.

July meeting – Tuesday 3rd July 2018

Tools with a Mission

This is recycling in action, with unwanted tools being collected, refurbished and sent to the developing world for livelihood creation. These include tools for builders, carpenters, electricians, gardeners, plumbers and shoemakers as well as sewing machines, needles, reels of cotton, buttons and zips. Full details at the meeting plus an opportunity to have suitable items collected from your home.

Sunday 22nd July - Summer visit to Ruxley Gravel Pits

(follow-up from January 2017 visit) – An opportunity to perhaps see water lilies, large birds – herons and egrets and maybe a kingfisher! Meet at the gates (off Edgington Way, A223) between 1015 and 1030am. Our guides will be Martin and Linda and the tour will last around 2 hours. Please wear appropriate footwear as the paths could be slippery in places. No toilets on site – refreshments and toilet facilities at nearby Tesco's.

Next Newsletter - copy details

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** SUNDAY 15TH 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 – Sue and John Bocoek

The film *Demain* – part 2

Owing to some technical difficulties, we were only able to see a shortened version of this thought-provoking film. *Demain* shows an alternative and optimistic view of the future.

There were various recurring themes in the film. Firstly, about the economy, highlighting towns such as Totnes, Bristol, Brixton and Lewes, where they all have their own currencies. This was to encourage communities to shop and spend locally, thereby keeping the money out of international banks.

Large companies have no interest in local communities, businesses or economies. Every pound spent locally means two to four times the jobs available than when the money is spent nationally. A local economy makes for a more resilient economy and will run alongside a conventional economy.

Bristol is developing a local economy where there is a need to believe and trust in money. Their economy is centred around food, energy and construction.

Another theme was 'people power' and the role of the individual; people were taking to the streets. 'America is no longer a democracy but an oligarchy.'

In Chennai, India, an experiment in social cohesion was to build semi-detached houses where the occupants came from different castes and from different levels of wealth. This theme was not enlarged upon. Urban gardening was also mentioned as a

way in which communities could work together to grow some of their own food and be less reliant on large supermarket chains.

A further theme concerned environmental issues. In Copenhagen, Denmark, they have invested in one hundred million pounds worth of wind turbines. This will reduce emissions by 45%; they hope to be self-sufficient by 2050. Heating will be provided for 2,000 families. This scheme will make more money than if invested in a bank.

Education was another theme in the film. It was explained how Finland had radically changed its education system in the 1970s. They now have no inspectors and no national testing.

All their teachers are trained for five years, in practical ways, Montessori-led and child psychology. Special needs teachers work alongside 'normal' teachers. Good relationships between teachers and pupils are fostered. The pupils are allowed to talk in class (but not too loudly); they learn from each other.

School is more free, open and sociable. The aim is to teach children how to learn. The teachers eat with their pupils, teaching them manners and fostering trust and respect.

Running through this film is the importance of people working together to foster relationships, to make or grow things together whether it be with people, plants or local companies; co-operation is desired rather than competition.

Antarctica's Ice Loss Triples

The Antarctic ice sheet is disappearing at a rate that exceeds previous worst-case scenarios, according to new research. Up to 2012, Antarctic ice loss was contributing just 0.2 mm per year to the rising sea level and did not appear to be increasing, but since 2012 the rate has tripled to 0.6 mm per year. The 2013 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provided concerning facts, and computer modelling study in 2016 concluded that Antarctica alone could lose enough ice by 2100 to raise sea levels by two metres.

New Beers Help Reduce CO₂ Emissions

On a more positive note, brewers have made a new beer made from leftover sandwich bread. This is part of a solution to reduce food waste. More than 24 million slices of bread are thrown away by consumers each day, so this will be a helpful way to use this waste.

Suffolk brewery Adnams is using the crusted ends of sliced sandwich loaves, frozen by M and S supplier Greencore in Northampton and then sent to the brewery headquarters in Southwold - to create new beers which are already on sale in some M and S stores.

Making malted barley is energy intense, so by using bread, this reduces the carbon footprint. 1.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide will be saved as a result.

Abandoned Mines' Water - for Heating

Scientists are finalising plans to exploit the vast reservoir of warm water that fills a labyrinth of disused mines and porous rock layers underneath Glasgow. They believe this source of naturally heated water could be used to heat homes in Glasgow, and then if successful, could be exploited in other UK cities.

The £9 million project will initially involve drilling narrow boreholes filled with instruments to survey temperature, seismic activity, water flow, acidity, and other variables, to establish the state of the water beneath the city.

Heathrow Airport Third Runway

Opponents of the Government's Heathrow expansion plans have vowed to escalate their protests in the coming weeks, including a hunger strike. This is to avoid what they say could be an environmental catastrophe. The warning follows a week of direct action in which eight people have been arrested.

Environmentalists warn that the third runway proposal, approved by the Government during the first week in June, will have a disastrous long-term impact on both air pollution and climate change.

It is highly likely that a number of councils will come together to challenge the decision in the courts, if the plans are passed in parliament in their present form.

Miller's Mutterings for May – Chris Miller

April showers, cold nights and misty days. Yet again the weather has dominated us and held back the spring planting of barley and oil seed rape.

The fields were too wet to plant and the soil temperature too low. The previous cover crop is now dying off and will slowly disintegrate feeding and opening up the soil. Two weeks later the mini heat wave appeared and very quickly the top part of the soil dried out enough to hold the pressure of the tractor and Pete was able to drill the seed in good conditions.

Unbelievably, after 6 days the seeds had germinated and just broke the top of the soil as you can see. Steve has been able to put on all the P&K fertiliser and was lucky to have a nice shower of rain just as he finished to wash it in. We were about five weeks behind but now with the temperatures from the middle of April, we are now only two to three weeks behind. Fantastic.

Due to the wet winter and spring, we have sold out of straw but have enough hay and haylage for our customers.

Our yearly Crop Assurance inspection will take place in May this year. As you may remember from last year's notes, this is an annual inspection of lots of documents showing when and how we farm. i.e. dates, amounts, wind speeds, temperature, wind direction etc. when fertilising and spraying.

When different machines were serviced, cleaned and calibrated. Seed labels, rodent control spread sheets,

storage of grain are amongst the list of documents to be inspected, a bit like an Ofsted inspection really. We cannot sell our grain without this certificate so I will be busy this month making sure that all our records are ready for his inspection.

Notes from George's letters May 1916 "I am afraid I have very little news to tell you but I am afraid if I do not write tonight I may not get time as we are so very busy as in addition to my work I have got landed with the job of representing the Board of Agriculture at the Local Tribunals which now that compulsion for all of military age has come on will mean some work".

There is obviously a lot of talk in the village about this but it seems that most of the workers here are under age for conscription. George talks about various local men who have been injured and how the parents are coping. Such very difficult times.

The first two swallows appeared on the 5th April but only stayed around for a couple of days. We didn't see them during that very misty week but they returned on the 26th. Two more have joined us and have since been busy flying in and out of the barn. Such a welcome sight, pleased to see the kite here too recently. The cowslips on Chelsfield Green are looking great now, try and have a look if you can.

Weather saying for May
*A dry May and a leaking June
Make the farmer whistle a merry tune*

Miller's Mutterings for June are on page 10

Bees and Nature – Judy Palmer

The Great British Bee Count (GBBC) will be ending on 30th June and thank you so much if you have participated. Well over a quarter of a million bees sighted (mid-June figure!) and 16,000 participants, brilliant! Our group tried bee counting in Jubilee Country Park a number of times this year, as per Annette's report elsewhere.

Undoubtedly the vagaries of our weather played a part as flowering seasons have fluctuated and we have had fewer insects around. BBC's Springwatch 2018 highlighted this, and they also did a good shout-out for the GBBC which was tremendously supportive.

We also heard that the FoE Bee Campaigner Rory Diamond, appeared on the BBC programme Blue Peter at the beginning of June – the programme is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and is well-known for the support it gives to charity and environmental issues.

We had a bee information stall at Coolings again this month – and many thanks to them for offering us the site! We were promoting the Bee Count, but also had an example of a mini, mini pond, a vase of garden flowers, knitted bees and a small bee hotel made from a flower pot and pieces of bamboo.

These all attracted people to the stall, and one lady said she thought the bee hotel was a good idea which she planned to copy with her cub scouts the following week, and the flowers did attract the bees, so all good stuff! People appreciated the bee ID guides and our Urban Nature leaflets too.

Annette & I are most appreciative of the help from Anne C, Paul and Sheila in the setting up and dismantling, and then in relays from Bill and Sue & John. We couldn't do it without you!



And while mentioning the loss of insects, did you hear that the UK has now got a **'Red List'** of mammals? Natural England commissioned a study which concluded that at least one in five British mammals is at high risk of extinction. 12 species are on the list, which includes some of our most loved species – the red squirrel, wildcat, grey long-eared bat and hedgehog among them.

/continued on next page

Great British Bee Count Outings (report) – Annette Rose

We have had two trips so far to record our bees for the bee count, both to Jubilee Country Park.

On the first one on the 26th May, the meadow looked pretty with many buttercups but most of the flowering bushes around the edge were past their best and no longer in full flower. On that occasion we recorded a white tailed bumblebee and observed some small pollinators but the bees were not active in the meadow.

Our second trip on the 12th June was a better visit. The meadow growth had progressed and was full of the Corky Fruited Water Dropwort which is rare now across the country but flourishes in Jubilee. We observed some pretty orchids too.

Thank you to John Bocock for helping with plant identification! On the Bee Count App, we recorded three White-tailed bumblebees, two Common Carder bumblebees, one Early bumblebee and a further 8 unidentified which is 14 in total. It was still a quiet day for bees.

We came across a group of school pupils with their teachers who were orienteering and were able to tell them about the count and give them some bee posters. We plan one more trip before the end of the count at the end of June.

Thank you to our members and the Friends of Jubilee who came with Judy and me on the walks and well done to Sue Bocock for mastering the App!

Bees and Nature - *continued*

Some species are flourishing, but true data figures are scarce in some areas. To help combat this the Mammal Society has launched an app, similar to the Great British Bee Count, called the Mammal Mapper. This is where they hope citizen science, i.e. you and me, can help turn this around.

Download the app, and when you are out and about and catch sight of any mammal, use the app to record the sighting. You can also record field signs such as a burrow or mole-hill. These will all help monitor a region or habitat of a species and help detect changes.

Books and book sharing, *Judy Palmer*

As featured in the June newsletter and chatted about at meetings, we are sharing environmentally themed books among ourselves.

To help keep track of the books I have made a simple 'Library Bookmark' for lenders to keep with the book. The lender just writes the title of the book, author, owner name, who it is being read by and the date it was lent on each time it is lent.

And I will think of doing a 'Library Card' for owners to keep for themselves too! I will print out a few bookmarks in time for the next meeting should anyone wish to take one.

Air Pollution – A Public Health Crisis – *Paul Enock*

Campaigner Jenny Bates opened the session on Clean Air held at the Printworks on 13th June with a recap and summary of the national and London-wide picture. She reminded us that air quality is legislated by two EU directives, one governing the permissible concentrations of pollutants in ambient air, and another controlling the total amounts of pollutants emitted. It is the former that Friends of the Earth is targeting, and specifically outdoor air pollution, which accounts for 40,000 early deaths per year in the UK.

According to the Royal College of Physicians, 29,000 premature deaths are caused by carcinogenic particulate matter (PM) and another 11,000 by nitrous oxides, predominately NO₂. This latter pollutant disproportionately affects the most vulnerable members of the population: developing infants' lungs can lose up to 10% of potential capacity in environments containing high NO₂ levels, and the gas exacerbates the conditions of asthma sufferers as well as cardiovascular problems in older people.

While the WHO has stricter limits for PMs than does the EU, both organisations set the upper limits for NO₂ pollution at 40 µg/m³. Nationally, local road traffic accounts for 80% of nitrous oxide pollution, and diesel-fuelled cars are the biggest contributors. (One participant said that, in London, buses alone contribute as much as 24% of that).

Friends of the Earth has strongly criticised the response of successive UK governments to our air-quality

crisis. Of the UK's 43 air-quality monitoring zones, 37 still currently fail to reach legal levels of NO₂, even though these targets were set for the year 2010. This situation has led to a series of legal challenges to the present government.

A High Court ruling in November 2016 found the government's 2015 air-quality management plan to be inadequate, ordering the re-drafting of Air-Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for five cities. The 2017 plan was also successfully challenged and the government had to place a further 33 urban areas under special management.

Although this is good news for the areas concerned, it has led the government to focus only on those places where it is open to legal challenges, while paying little attention to progress in other long-standing AQMAs. Although Bromley has its own AQMA, the Council's 2017 Air Quality report unapologetically states on page 8 that: "The annual mean NO₂ objective of 40 µg/m³ was exceeded at all NO₂ monitoring locations with the exception of the Harwood Avenue automatic monitoring station".

Although Friends of the Earth sees many positives in the Mayor's new transport plan, it is disappointed that the Ultra-Low Emission Zone, limited to the area within the North and South Circular roads, has not been extended to the whole of Greater London and will not come into force before 2021.

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Bromley Civic Society AGM – Paul Enock

The introductory talk at Bromley Civic Society's AGM, held on Thursday 7th June, was given by Rob Bristow, Chief Planning Officer at Lambeth Council, who presented developments in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In terms of hierarchy, the Mayor of London (Sadiq Khan) has to be guided by the NPPF and Bromley's Plan has to be in general conformity with Sadiq Khan's Regional Plan.

Not enough guidelines

Since 2015, the government has drastically cut the great bulk of existing planning policy, and although this had indeed streamlined procedures, many fresh revisions to the NPPF are now being prompted by a perceived lack of guidelines for councils. For Rob Bristow, a particularly keenly felt loss is that of the old 'density-matrix guide'.

Delivering new housing

The newly re-named "Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government" is living up to its title by setting councils higher house-building targets. Controversially, if a council falls below 75% delivery over a 3-year period, planning will be taken out of its hands. As councils may grant planning permissions, but cannot enforce construction, this is perceived as unfair.

Having intensively developed much of the inner-city brownfield land (e.g. the docklands), London's planners are now pushing for more housing development in the peripheries. Bromley's target has, accordingly, almost doubled to 1,440 units per annum.

Green Belt protections are maintained, although there is an emphasis on using any previously developed land within greenbelt areas. But the retention of green belt protections provokes the question, how are the new targets to be met?

In general, planners are concentrating new building in 'sustainable locations' – i.e. those with good transport and infrastructure links.

The development in the area of Bromley South station (now termed an 'urban centre') is an example. Without the traditional population-density guidelines, which set automatic limits on intensive development, councils are being encouraged to create their own high-density residential designs – including terracing and frontage-and-mews style projects more typical of inner city areas.

Rob Bristow appreciates the difficulty of imposing such high-density concepts on a suburban area like Bromley. One option could be to add housing to existing schools in the form of extra storeys of apartments on top.

However, the speaker expressed his fear that Bromley Council could revert to a 'small-site emphasis' which would see the disappearance of many of the area's characteristic gardens, despite the existence of 'local-character' protections against this happening.

Miller's Mutterings for June – Chris Miller

The inspector from Red Tractor Assurance inspection will take place just as you read these notes but we are all ready for him. It has taken quite a time to prepare for this inspection, gathering necessary data, seed labels etc but as we keep our records up to date this hasn't been too arduous.

Cannot let this month pass without talking about the weather! (Again you cry). What a month May was with baking heat, thunder storms and cold nights. The spring rape started to germinate just as we had the very high temperatures, which caused some of the plants to die. The soil temperature was going up and down like a yo-yo and these little plants just couldn't survive it. Then on top of that, we seem to have had an influx of flea beetle, which has attacked the remaining plants.

We can only spray for flea beetle twice and once this has been applied the plants just have to fend for themselves. The field between the house and the church looks very patchy due to these problems. One of our other fields has been completely written off as all the plants have been either eaten or have died. Too late to replant again.

The spring barley looks amazing considering how late it was planted, what Steve's Grandfather would have called cuckoo corn. Apparently, once you have heard a cuckoo, you don't plant spring barley, as it won't yield enough to warrant the inputs given. (Not that I have heard a cuckoo in the past few years).

Spring barley is from the grass family so will grow nearly anywhere. Last year we had a very poor grass crop due to lack of rain and this year in fact some of it has been knocked down by the heavy rain. The mower will be able to pick it up off the ground so as long as we don't have too many heavy rain showers. The wheat looks stunning and the ears are just emerging.

The boys have practically finished the roofs on the old stable block and are looking good. The inside of our big workshop was sprayed with an insulating material which has resulted in a much more stable temperature inside the building and less noise inside and out.

We are sorry to see that we only seem to have four swallows around the farm but hope they have lots of young. I have only seen two swifts and no house martins to date but perhaps they are just late arriving from the continent.

The Chelsfield green is starting to colour with purple clover, ox eyed daisies, common vetch and grass vetchling. I love the colour of the latter.

Notes from George's letters May 1917: "No doubt you have seen by the papers there is to be about 3,000,000 acres of grass ploughed up in this country before next Michaelmas for growing corn. Kent is to plough up about 100,000 acres so it looks as though there will be some work for tackles etc, they are also going to make every

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Watery News and the Plastic Waste issue – Judy Palmer

World Ocean day took place in June, and the Government announced plans then to increase our 'Blue Belt' protection by creating 41 new marine controlled zones around the UK coasts. Let's hope that this scheme is approved soon.

A new Environment Agency monitoring team has been formed which will see over 400 beaches checked on a weekly basis in a bid to tackle the huge issue of plastic waste in our seas. This new unit will be collecting samples of water from around England to log and analyse the plastic waste found. Hopefully the results will then put more pressure on the manufacturers to invest in more biodegradable and sustainable packaging.

And on this note, Sky's Ocean Rescue was launched in Ireland in June as a Sky poll found that 85% of people there are concerned at their usage of plastic and the waste generated which finds its way into the sea around the island. Ireland produces 81kg of plastic waste per person per year which is a huge issue.

I noticed in the latest campaign newsletter from Friends of the Earth (this is sent electronically and if you don't already receive it but wish to do so, please contact me) one item featured was that 15 September this year is World Cleanup Day. This is an ideal opportunity for groups to organise a plastic clean up locally – what do you think?? Can we get more hands-on? Way back when, **very** far back, we used to do group litter picks.

Air Pollution – A Public Health Crisis – *continued*

FoE also emphasises the need not just for cleaner cars but also fewer cars – even electric vehicles contribute to fine-particle emissions through their brake pads.

Most disappointing of all is Sadiq Khan's decision to spend 1 billion pounds on the four-lane Silvertown tunnel in East London. Studies have shown that this will at best function merely as a 'congestion-redistribution scheme'.

FoE is convinced that the way to solve traffic congestion is not by adding more traffic opportunities, but by reducing levels and dedicating more road space to alternatives such as cycling and public transport.

Miller's Mutterings (June) – *cont'd*

farmer crop a third of his holding with wheat this autumn. We are going to plough up the whole of the Cricket Meadow at the back of our house, also Stoney Hill Meadow."

The weather during May 1917 was quite pleasant which helped with the young plants but they also had a storm but with a steady rain. They had awful trouble with the seedbeds that year, as there had been "a pest of the fly" which devoured the seeds as soon as they came through the ground. 100 years later we still have the same problems.

Basecamp 2018 – an overview – Sam Gee

Friends of the Earth's annual flagship event, Basecamp, took place this year at Losehill Hall, in the Peak District, from 1st-3rd June 2018. It is a weekend of workshops, discussions and speeches involving people from across the environmental movement. It is a chance to hear from inspiring campaigns and groups up and down the country, to meet with like-minded people and to get ideas on how to step up, or indeed set up, your own campaigns.

The programme was rethought significantly this year, in that the number of sessions was roughly halved. In previous years, there were as many as eight different sessions to choose from for each slot. This change was based on feedback that more 'all together moments' were needed. My view was that this new layout worked very well, with more space to think and connect, while still having plenty to do.

In their opening welcome, Friends of the Earth campaigners Anna Vickerstaff and Dan Glass introduced some key concepts for the weekend. Central to this year's Basecamp were three themes – action, connection and resilience. If we gained more of all three of those, then Basecamp was a success.

Dan explained three types of campaign thinking with "head – heart – hand". 'Head' is the cognitive, logical process involved in the planning side of campaigns. It is what enables us to think in the long-term, to set achievable goals and to measure our progress towards them, but get it in



isolation, and you have an armchair activist.

'Heart' is the emotional side of campaign work. It can often be what motivates us, but too much of it would cause a loss of agency – the sense that you have power to effect change – and deep unhappiness; after all, the problems that the environmental movement faces are huge and can appear daunting.

'Hand' is the action part of campaigns: the stalls, the petitions, the demonstrations. These are critical to the success of any campaign, but again, having them alone would result in knee-jerk reactions without long-term aims.

Dan also introduced the "self – community – wider world" model, which looks at how your campaigns and actions can not only benefit you individually, but also the many communities that you may be part of, along with the wider world, the people you'll never meet.

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FoE Campaign Updates

Bee Cause Update

Since we last sent an update we have had a huge campaign win. In April, countries across the EU, including the UK, voted to ban bee-harming neonicotinoids on all outdoor crops. This is fantastic and what we have been campaigning towards for years.

But the fight against pesticides isn't quite over yet. We have a new petition targeting Environment Secretary Michael Gove, asking him to make sure there is a clear plan to reduce overall pesticide use across the country.

In more good news, we are halfway through this year's Great British Bee Count, and there have already been a quarter of a million bees spotted and over 16,000 people taking part. Thank you for continuing to promote GBBC, if you need any more materials to use on stalls or at events you can order them online.

To accompany the 'protect our pollinators' campaign postcard targeting councils, we have a new online action. Results from the action and postcard will be collated at the end of the summer with the aim to persuade councils to adopt pollinator-friendly practices.

Brexit Update

We've been working hard to hold the government to its promise of maintaining EU environmental protections after exit day. And we even had a bit of a victory.

The Lords voted for an important addition to the Withdrawal Bill which determines how things will operate after exit day. This change would lock in government promises to establish a strong, independent environmental watchdog and ensure that future laws are based on environmental needs.

Thanks to all of you who wrote to your MPs asking them to defend this change. In the end, the Lords' addition was watered down but without you, it could have disappeared entirely. That means the bill is better than when we started, but we all need to keep up the pressure for the protections we really need.

So, what can you do now? Please help beef up the government's plans by responding to the Environmental Principles and Governance consultation – it's currently pretty weak, so we need as many people as possible to demand a watchdog with teeth. Keep your eyes peeled for our briefing if you'd like some help in writing your response.

If you would like more information on our Brexit work in general, feel free to email kierra.box@foe.co.uk, or have a look at our local groups briefing on Environmental Principles and Governance.

Fossil-free Update

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FoE Campaign Updates - *continued*

Coal

The government has defended the decision not to allow an open cast coal mine at Druridge Bay in Northumberland, despite a challenge by Banks Mining Company. It's great news; the application to mine was thrown out on climate change grounds, the first time this has happened in the UK.

Our campaign will now focus on securing a legislative ban on any new open cast coal. A ban would not only help to keep us on target for less than 1.5 degrees of global warming but would send a strong message to the international community.

Fracking

A few weeks ago, the government proposed sweeping changes to fracking. It will be creating a single regulator to speed up decisions and proposes bringing fracking into the Infrastructure Act.

The biggest threat however, is a proposal to bring fracking-related activity under what's called permitted development. If successful, this could remove the need for planning approval to build fracking infrastructure and drill, up to the point of fracking. It shows complete disregard for local democracy and could threaten our countryside with mass industrialisation.

We'll be campaigning to stop permitted development being applied to fracking sites and will be working with groups up and down the country to apply political pressure and create national outrage at the proposals. Sign up to

join us and we'll be in touch next week with more details

And if you haven't already done so, please sign our petition to say no to permitted development and to receive more information about how you can join the campaign organising around permitted development.

At Preston New Road, our legal team have spotted a problem in Cuadrilla's Environmental Permit, one of the core pieces of environmental regulation, and are taking a case to the High Court to challenge its lawfulness.

Meanwhile, Greg Clark is making the final decision on whether to grant consent for fracking to start at Preston New Road. It's imperative he doesn't make this decision until the court has made its verdict. If you haven't already, please write to Greg Clark and urge him to refuse fracking consent.

Basecamp overview - *continued*

I learnt so much at this year's Basecamp, and I left feeling energised and inspired. Next year, Friends of the Earth is taking a fallow year to reach out to people *in* their communities, rather than running Basecamp, which is very expensive for the charity. As for 2020, they are carrying out a review of it, but have decided nothing as yet.

Over the next newsletter or two, you will see articles from some of the key sessions that my father and I attended this year.

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Peter Gandolfi *details as above*

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Bill Priestley 01689-820469

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 annual subscription (£8 single / £15 couple/family). I also enclose a donation (optional) of to help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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