

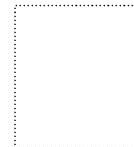


Friends of the Earth

Bromley

June 2013 No. 306 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: r.watson865@btinternet.com; website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



June Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

My Pathway into Permaculture

London Fire Fighter Steve Pagett "Pag" moved to London and wanted to reconcile the urban environment with his more natural experience and discovered opportunities for a more balanced/grounded life - Permaculture

Tuesday 4th June - 7.30pm

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 16TH JUNE *****

Contact details inside front cover.

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It's not too late to book for BOOTCAMP (oops, sorry BASECAMP) – see page 14

Diary dates:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| June 4th (Tues) | Bromley FoE's June Meeting: Steve Pagett on "My Pathway Into Permaculture" |
| June 15th (Sat) | Bee Walk, Jubilee Country Park, 10.30am (see insert for details) |
| June 30th (Sun) | Keston Countryside Day, BFoE stall |
| July 2nd (Tues) | Bromley FoE's July meeting: Duncan Law from Biofuelwatch UK |
| July 13th (Sat) | Chelsfield Village Fair, Bromley FoE stall |

What is Permaculture ??

Permaculture is a branch of ecological design, ecological engineering, and environmental design which develops sustainable architecture and self-maintained agricultural systems modeled from natural ecosystems.

The core tenets of permaculture are:

- **Take care of the earth:** Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply. This is the first principle, because without a healthy earth, humans cannot flourish.
- **Take care of the people:** Provision for people to access those resources necessary for their existence.
- **Set limits to consumption and reproduction, and redistribute surplus:** Healthy natural systems use outputs from each element to nourish others. We humans can do the same. By governing our own needs, we can set resources aside to further the above principles.

Why is there no report on the May meeting ??

Apparently, this was posted to the editor about a week before the deadline but hadn't arrived by the time the newsletter was put together. That means that it's going to have to be recreated from the reporter's notes and should be in the next newsletter.

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth nor 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 16TH JUNE** ***:

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

FoE - Introducing the new Activism teams

From the start of May 2013 there are going to be some changes in how the Activism area at Friends of the Earth is structured. This page explains what's going on and links to more information.

Why it's changed

The Activism area at Friends of the Earth has a big job to do. We're there to support and build the groups network and develop new and powerful ways to get involved and active; we work with campaigners to help shape and coordinate the activism of our big campaigns; we develop our online activism and we put on a huge range of events across the country in regions and nationally. And more.

We're always looking at how to make sure we're having the greatest effect we can and making the best of the fantastic talents of those in the staff body when trying to do all of that. Recently we've decided to make some changes to how we approach what we're trying to do. What we aim to do hasn't changed, just how we plan to go about it.

In short, what are the main changes?

We will have two teams instead of one. One new team - The Activism Development team - will be focused on the development of the groups network including setting up new groups as well as creating other ways to take action. They will work with groups and beyond to build the campaigning strength of activists and to bring in more people to get involved with us.

They will set up new groups, put on regional and training events and will be out and about with groups a lot. This team is the main general point of contact for local groups. Find out more about them.

The other new team - the Activism Impact team - will be more short-term focused - concentrating on developing and rolling out ways people can take action on the main campaigns Friends of the Earth is running at any one time. This team will also be out and about working with groups and others to help build get action happening on these important big campaigns.

It's made up of Rachel Hubbard, Richard Hines, Tom Wright, Nikki Packham and Lucy Pearce (covering for Jess Dolan who will return from Maternity leave in 2014).

We won't have Network Developers any more. Instead, groups' main point of contact is the Activism Development team.

When will the change happen?

The change will take effect fully from the first full week of May 2013 (from 6 May). Group coordinators will be emailed information in advance of this date too.

Groups

This is a different approach to before, but not a change in what we're trying to achieve. To be clear, Friends of the Earth is fully committed to maintaining, building up and supporting the groups network.

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Bee Cause campaign news – Judy Palmer

Locally – we are finalising the plans for our Bee Walk on June 15th – please see the details on the separate sheet – and book your place!

The retailer B&Q have invited local groups from Friends of the Earth to have a stall in their local store soon, and we have registered our interest in participating.

Annette, Ray and I (with many thanks to both of them, and for the warm-up cup of coffee Ray!) went out on Orpington High Street on Saturday 18th May with the Bee Cause postcards hoping to get some signed. We did, but I can't say it was our most successful venture ever! Still, every card helps.....

Nationally -

The EU have voted to put a temporary restriction of two years on the use of the three neonicotinoid pesticides, which has a new implementation date, moving from July 2013 to January 2014.

This will give EU Member States sufficient time to prepare and implement the procedures – in the UK FoE are saying that governments should use this time to:

- Help farmers and growers adjust by giving them better advice on alternative ways to grow and protect crops and produce
- Adjust agri-environment schemes to improve take up and funding for wildlife friendly farming

- Carry out further research but also put in place proper monitoring of bees and other pollinating insect species and effects of pesticides actually used in fields.

Hopefully the next two years will see some positive action in creating a much needed national Bee Plan.

The Bee Cause is now a year old and a year on FoE have launched a new report called Iconic Bees, the aim of which is to help people get to know their 'local bee' and understand more about bees than that some bees make honey. Visit the national FoE web site and follow the link to see the report.

National FoE held a Tea Party at Westminster recently which over 100 MPs attended. They are also planning a major Bee Summit in late June (28th) when all the major players from across civil society, business and science will come together to start working on a Bee Action Plan.

It is also nice to see that this Bee Cause is an 'arrow head' for FoE's wider work on nature – they are now drawing up a 'legacy plan' for the bees work and what it can do to help convey a wider messages on nature, biodiversity and ecosystems.

They believe that there are strong links between the plight of our bees, wider abuse of nature and land and, of course the climate effects on wildlife and ecosystems. Watch this space to learn more about the Nature Everywhere campaign.

Talk to Darrick Wood Junior School - Annette Rose

Judy and I gave our talk to Darrick Wood Juniors in April. The school was offered the talk as it is very close to our Bee World which is on Tugmutton Common. The talk was to 90 Year 5 pupils.

We had prepared a powerpoint presentation which was displayed on a large board. We began by explaining that we were volunteers for Bromley Friends of the Earth.

Only a few pupils had heard of Friends of the Earth. We then showed them some slides of different types of bees- bumblebees, honey bees and solitary bees. We explained why we need bees and that they are essential for pollination of many plants that give us food. This seemed to be a new concept and they needed help to understand the link between a packet of crisps and bees.

We read out a list of foods we wouldn't have without bees. This included chips, pizza and apple pie, much to their horror! We were careful to explain that we wouldn't starve without bees but food would be more expensive and we wouldn't have so much choice.

The next step was to explain the 3 main problems our bees are facing.

These are loss of habitat, pesticides and diseases. We told them some facts such as that 2 species of bumblebees are already extinct and that bee numbers are falling. We showed pictures of 2 habitats. These were a meadow with lots of wild flowers and a large open field with no hedges and the pupils were

encouraged to give reasons why one habitat was better for bees.

Then we went on to explain what Friends of the Earth was doing about the problem and we showed them a slide of the Bee World. It was encouraging that quite a few pupils had seen the area.

The last section of our talk was about what they could do to help. We suggested they talk to their families about bee friendly plants and keep an eye on our Bee World. We invited them to enter our competition to design a bee friendly garden. We gave them some pointers of things that need to be in the garden such as water and some wood for solitary bees to live in.

After our talk we were delighted to hear that the winning design is going to be used in the school grounds and part of their wild area will be made bee friendly.

Reporters

We are very grateful to our team of reporters, who each month provide a write-up of the talk for the Newsletter, thus reaching a wider audience and any who are unable to attend meetings.

Thank you to Sue Bocock, Anne Clark, Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and Ray Watson. If anyone else would like to join this team, please speak to Sheila or Ray.

Visit to Court Lodge Farm – Peter Gandolfi

Eleven people attended on a fine but cold windy day. Steve and Chris Miller were very welcoming, and gave up their Sunday morning to show us round.

The farm has been in Steve's family for generations, he said that farming started in his family in the early part of the 19th century, when a relative was a farm labourer, working in Essex.

The farm is arable, growing wheat, barley, oil seed rape and grass over 67 acres.

The group walked through the fields of oil seed rape, planted last year, one field showed a lot of stunted growth, due to wood pigeon damage over the winter, even though a variety of pigeon deterrents had been used. We were told how tasty pigeon was. The field closer to the church, suffered much less damage, mainly due to a foot path crossing it, with the walkers disturbing the pigeons. The pigeons usually feed on acorns and beech mast during the winter but had been driven to seek alternative food this year due to failure of their usual crop.

In Germany, the pigeons migrate to warmer climes so are not a problem for their farmers. The crop is about a month behind due to the poor spring. Barley is grown for the brewing industry but the poor weather had precluded sowing the crop this year.

Milling wheat is grown to be milled for bread but there were large bare patches in the wheat crop due to earlier slug damage. Part of the requirement of the co-operative taking

the wheat is that they need to record their rainfall daily. Too much rain produces wheat which has a higher micro toxin content, and will not store. A grain dryer on site would be too expensive.

Grass is mown after seeding to provide a more nourishing crop, and is dried and baled for horse feed. We saw a few grain feeders at the edge of one of the fields. Any remnants of grain left over are used to feed the wild birds over the winter.

The farm is under constant satellite surveillance so that the powers that be that provide the farming subsidies can check how many hectares are down to each crop.

We moved on to admire the farm machinery in the barns. Dozen of swallows and house martins had recently returned to their nests in the main barn, and were busy chatting socially to each other.

Those of you who heard Steve's talk at a previous group meeting will remember the sound green credentials that he brings to his farming.

Skylarks were singing overhead. These are ground nesting birds that normally nest in long grass to hide their nests. These birds are in decline generally due in part to loss of suitable nesting sites. Some farmers leave metre square gaps in the crop to enable the skylarks to get down into the crop, unfortunately raptors have learnt that they only have to watch

/continued on pages 8 and 9

A poem about Bees – by Greta Sykes

by Greta Sykes, as presented to the London Voices poetry group

The bees

I dreamt of solar rays, I dreamt of heat and golden flowers,
The bee's dream multiplied in tens of thousand bees.

I dreamt of pollen, succulent and sweet, of colourful petals on tall green stems.
The bee's dream multiplied in tens of thousand dreams.
In luminous brains.

I dreamt of summer breeze and haze, of tiny cumulus clouds.
The bee's dream multiplied in tens of thousand bees.

One day, however, I dreamt of poison, my brain stopped being luminous.
Pesticides and terminator seeds darkened my body.
My darkened brain was multiplied in tens of thousands of bees,
Startled by nightmares in our brains, we lost our ways, we lost.
Some call it colony collapse.
Bees call it poisoned nature.

Washing on the line

In the narrow tenement street washing hangs
like posters for the revolution in green, pink and crimson,
the wind tumbles the sleeves, they fly up in the air, as if to greet the passers-by.
The trouser legs kick each other, play football without the ball, the nappies all in a row,
so many babies in the neighbourhood, we call and laugh across out of the window,
We share the line. It travels across the road on pulleys. It is a peace line – the washing
line. The shirts blink bright and clean in the sun.

FoE – Changes to Activism teams (cont'd)

These changes are about us being able to take a different approach to allow us to do that and all of our other work as well as possible.

Questions, information and

discussion: If you have questions, a good place to start is the "Frequently Asked Questions" document on

Campaign Hubs which addresses many of the most common ones.

You can see some more of the communications that have gone out to groups and comment or discuss it with others here on the Campaign Hubs.

You're also welcome to email Neil Kingsnorth, the Head of Activism, directly at neil.kingsnorth@foe.co.uk.

Make it Better Campaign – Annette Rose

Good news! At last Samsung have come clean about their supply chain for the tin in their mobile phones. They have confirmed that it does come from the island of Bangka in Indonesia. The good news is that Samsung have said that they will use its influence to address the horrendous mortality rate among the independent miners and environmental destruction associated with the mining.

Apple however, still hasn't responded to request for information. If you haven't already done so, please go to the Friends of the Earth website to email Apple. It is very straightforward to do. This is what the email says.

'Samsung has admitted to using tin from Indonesia's Bangka Island. They have also publically committed to help find an industry-wide solution.

It is now several months since Friends of the Earth and their supporters made you aware of problems on Bangka, but so far you have refused to confirm whether the island's tin is in your products.

How can I trust your claims to care about the impact of your products if you don't even attempt to answer basic questions about such serious issues?

Please will you finally clarify the situation, and follow Samsung's lead by going public about the action you will take?

I also urge you to go one better and support new rules to make all companies come clean about their

supply chains, starting with a Europe-wide law next year.'

This is an important campaign which is really starting to come into the public consciousness with two major news stories recently. Firstly, the revelations that our food may not contain what it says on the label and the companies selling the food don't know where the food is coming from. Secondly is the case of the collapse of a building in Bangladesh with terrible loss of life. This building housed a number of clothes factories making cheap clothes. Retailers need to know and care where their goods come from.

It is vital that companies understand their supply chains, and we as consumers should be able to make informed choices when buying.

Visit to Court Lodge Farm (*cont'd*)
these gaps for a quick meal when the birds depart or land. Steve has found a better method is when planting, making the tractor tramlines a little wider to enable the adults to swoop down land, and quickly run in away from any danger to find their hidden nest. The skylark population is now increasing.

After the tour, we all enjoyed delicious homemade biscuits and tea/coffee, and then moved over the road, to be shown the sights of London, from the viewpoint of the memorial to a battle of Britain hurricane pilot. The views spread from the windmills of Dagenham in the east to Crystal Palace in the west, and included the shard, the London Eye and the Wembley Arch.
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Campaigns, Climate and Energy – Ann Garrett

Campaigns

We will be carrying on with the Bee Cause and Make It Better campaigns at Bromley High School Eco Fair on June 7th, at Keston Countryside Day on June 30th, Chelsfield Fair on July 13th and Cudham Fair on August 26th - so a busy Summer ahead. Help with these events would be much appreciated.

Climate and Energy

Radioactive water leaks at Fukushima

A second storage pool is leaking highly radioactive water at the stricken Fukushima Dai-chi nuclear plant TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) reported in April. Around 120 tons of water breached the inner lining of one underground storage pools, with concerns that some may have leaked into the soil.

TEPCO is moving the remaining 13,000 tons of water in the tank to other pools. This leak will put more pressure on the company who are already facing criticism over a string of power cuts at Fukushima. There is a possibility that water from the tanks could be released into the sea, but this would need public acceptance. With a mounting campaign of opposition to nuclear power in Japan and evidence that the sea around Fukushima is highly nuclear toxic, this proposal won't be easy for TEPCO.

Note - each Friday there is a vigil outside the Japanese Embassy in London from 9.30am - 12.30pm

followed by a rally outside the TEPCO offices in Piccadilly from 1pm - 1.30pm. This is organised by Kick Nuclear and Japanese Against Nuclear.

Bromley and Beckenham CND organised a campaign on May 4th to highlight the dangers of nuclear waste train transportation from Dungeness through Orpington and Bromley South stations on its way to Sellafield for reprocessing. Many people took leaflets, signed the petition opposite Bromley South station (to be presented to Bromley Council) and stopped to discuss the issue of nuclear power.

UK incinerator plans

A wave of new publicly-funded incinerators being built to burn rubbish could be cancelled before they are even turned on, amid claims there will not be enough waste to fuel them. As a result the Department for Environmental and Rural Affairs [Defra] has begun withdrawing funding for new plants.

The UK already has 13 rubbish incinerators, and proposals for a 100 new ones are in the planning stages. Many of these are facing wide-spread opposition from residents groups on health grounds.

Visit to Court Lodge Farm (cont'd)

Steve had strong views that our food was too cheap as it was heavily subsidised. Perhaps if we paid the true value for our food, we would take more care of what we eat and not be so wasteful.

Imperial Science Festival - Peter Gandolfi and John Boccock

Four members of Bromley FoE attended this event, and were able to see and take part in a wide range of projects that Imperial College are working on at present, these include many of environmental interest, various energy projects, waste management etc.

All students and staff were very enthusiastic in wanting to discuss their work, and this was a great opportunity to talk to the experts directly. A number of tours were organized for seeing some of the larger projects around the campus. Details of two of these tours are below:

Carbon Capture pilot plant

With funding from a number of companies, (around £11m) Imperial now has a pilot carbon capture plant to be proud of, taking up 4 floors and looking more in place in an oil refinery. This was opened in 2012 to test and develop the strategies and techniques that could be scaled up for commercial use scrubbing the flue gasses in a power station, as well as demonstrate and test new alarm procedures incorporating elevating desks (who remembers Thunderbirds?) and video links from the installation to the team of experts.

In the pilot, wet carbon dioxide (which is slightly acidic) is passed up a long tower (up all 4 floors) whilst mono ethanolamine (an alkali) is passed down the tower, adsorbing the carbon dioxide. This is then warmed up whilst flowing down another tower, releasing the carbon dioxide, which could then be used as a feedstock, or stored etc.

In this pilot, it is fed back to the start, as this is just testing the conditions needed etc.

This pilot has a capacity of extracting 400 tons of CO₂ a year, but would need to be scaled up around 1000 times for use in a power station.

This procedure is said to be able to extract 90% of all the CO₂, but has the downside of requiring large amounts of energy to work, amounting to around 15% of all the power generated, which could be the main reason for the delay in implementation.

Imperial's own in house composter

Recently commissioned, and in a self contained building about the size of a domestic single garage. All food waste from the university's many canteens, bars and restaurants are collected in covered bins, and taken to the composter where the contents are checked for any non organic objects such as cutlery etc, then macerated using a large version of a domestic kitchen waste disposal unit. Excess water is squeezed out, and as the resultant material, low in carbon for the composting process, is bulked out with 20% wood sawdust pellets before being tipped into the starting end of the composter.

This consists of a large drum that is turned by a motor, 3 or 4 times a day, slowly moving the material through the system. The contents are monitored throughout, using a number of temperature sensors in the drum, to ensure all nasty bugs are killed and the contents are sterile.

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**Latest from MARINET – Newsletter
May 2013**

**"Sustainable Seafood Coalition"
wants to bring ethics to fish
retailing**

A new initiative to make the labelling of sustainable fish clearer and more consistent for consumers has been launched on 26th April 2013 by industry and retailers, with the backing of the Fish Fight campaign set up by celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

The voluntary code of conduct by the Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC) whose supermarket and supplier members represent over 80% of fish sales in the UK, should mean "consumers will be able to shop safe in the knowledge that [sustainability] claims are meaningful and harmonised across products, retailers and brands,." SSC says.

Group members including Tesco, Sainsbury's and Birds Eye are considering a draft of the conduct, which SSC say is being brought in due to frustration at the slow pace of legislative reforms.

More on this story on the Marinet website www.marinet.org.uk ; also news of Electricity generating "tidal lagoon" proposed for Swansea Bay, Global warming expands Antarctic sea ice, Threat to Wind Turbines – bad vibrations and the urgent need to protect coral reefs

**Imperial Science Festival visit –
cont'd**

The temperature must stay above 60 degrees for at least 2 days whilst in the composter. The plant requires no power other than to drive the macerator and to turn the drum occasionally. As the compost is self heating this temperature was always higher than this.

The process from being put into the composter to coming out the other end, takes 10 weeks, and the resultant compost looked and felt good, with a very slight smell of ammonia which went after a few days.

They process half a ton of food waste a day, using most of it on the plants and grounds around the university. As they are now producing too much for their own use, they are considering making into pellets to burn in a bio mass boiler.

The plant cost £104k to install, including the building. This was not done initially to save money, but more for environmental reasons, but now find that not needing this food waste to be collected and disposed of, saves the college around £90K a year! They are finding a lot of interest from organizations needing a solution to lots of food waste over a limited period, such as a large scale sporting event, where a similar plant and building could be easily transported and craned in to the event, to avoid unnecessary collection and disposal issues.

Those of us who attended found this a fascinating day. Maybe it should be on the BFoE visits list next year.

Air Future - Will we have more or less of it?

From the Campaign for Better Transport's May newsletter, written by John Stewart

This will be an important year for aviation. The government has set up the Airports Commission, headed up by Sir Howard Davies, to look at whether the UK will have enough airport capacity over the coming decades to retain its excellent connections to the rest of the world. In practice, it will focus on London and the South East as there is likely to be sufficient capacity in the rest of the country.

Davies is due to produce an interim report later this year and a final report in 2015, two months after the next General Election. The noises coming from the Commission are that Davies will adopt a transparent and even-handed approach.

The first question he will need to consider is whether any more capacity is needed. The Department for Transport estimates that the UK, including London and the South East, has sufficient capacity until almost 2030.

If demand were to be managed through the imposition of tax on aviation fuel and VAT on the purchase of tickets, there would be no need for further capacity. The higher prices would reduce the growth in leisure travel (currently around 75% of the market) sufficiently to free up capacity for an increase in long-distance flights from the emerging economies of the world.

However, since it is unlikely that these fiscal measures will be taken, Davies may conclude there is a need for extra runway capacity in London and the South East to ensure the UK has good connections with the emerging markets. Davies will need to take a view on where that extra capacity could best be provided.

He will be operating in a very different political climate from that faced by the Labour government in 2003 when it published its expansionist Air Transport White Paper. The biggest new factor has been the break-up of BAA. Each of the four main London airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton) is now owned by different companies.

Each is pressing its case for expansion. In particular, Gatwick's new owners are making the case for a second runway to enable Gatwick to become London's second hub airport. Others are backing an expanded Stansted or a new four runway Estuary Airport.

The government has made it clear that, in making his decision about capacity, Davies will need to take account of environmental factors. Climate change considerations will limit the overall amount of growth that is possible; noise impacts will influence where that growth takes place.

If the government signs up to the previous government's climate targets, it will constrain growth. If aviation is to reduce its CO2 emissions to their 2005

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Eco Friendly Fashion? It's all about supply chains – from FoE's website

As an avid Fairtrade supporter, I'm a great believer in well-labelled products on supermarket shelves that explain their origins. Fairtrade and other schemes such as Rainforest Alliance guarantee that the processes and materials behind a product are all earth and human-friendly.

Quite simply, they promote the idea of companies being transparent about their supply chains.

These labels are normal on food and drink. But I was surprised to learn recently that I can discover the life history of the cow that my leather handbag is made from. And from an unlikely source: Gucci, the Italian designer has launched a line of handbags made from cows living in specific deforestation-free zones. That means areas where no forests have been cut down to allow more cattle to graze. As evidence of this eco-credential, each handbag comes with a passport, detailing the life history of the cow it's made from.

Products that are better for the environment don't necessarily cost more.

Take Puma's new InCycle line of biodegradable and recyclable sportswear. It's not only made of greener materials but uses less energy and natural resources during production. For example, it takes 21% less water to make InCycle shoes than suede shoes because leather tanning uses more water than yarn production.

It's clear that companies can come up with innovative products that have less impact on people and the planet.

Friends of the Earth's Make it Better campaign would like to see more companies rethinking designs and processes. Being more transparent about what it takes to produce a handbag or pair of trainers is a good place to start.

Air Future – *continued*

levels by 2050, it would be difficult to see how more than one new runway could be built without retrospective restrictions on flight numbers at many airports across the country.

Noise impacts are worst at Heathrow. According to the EU, 725,000 people live under the Heathrow flight paths, 28% of all people disturbed by noise across Europe. Around 12,000 are affected at Gatwick, 9,500 at Stansted and 8,500 at Luton.

In the end, though, whatever Davies recommends, the decision will be political. It appears that many politicians are putting Heathrow expansion and a new Estuary Airport in the 'too difficult' box. Labour has now come out against both. The Liberal Democrats oppose all new runway building in the South East. Many Conservatives also know that they cannot risk losing another ten year battle over a third runway.

The key decisions will not be taken until after the next General Election.

CYW – BASECAMP, New Activism Teams, Green Film Festival

BASECAMP

BASECAMP is the first in our new series of events that replace our Friends of the Earth Conference. It's a chance to get together and think about how we campaign.

Over the weekend of July 12/14 2013 we'll be doubling the population of the small village of Hartington, Derbyshire, as we come together for our inaugural BASECAMP get-together.

It's all about participation. BASECAMP is an opportunity to attend or run a session and shape the future of Friends of the Earth's campaigning. BASECAMP will also host the Earthmovers awards ceremony.

To make this event accessible for all, there are three levels of accommodation. You can stay in a tent, a dorm bed or nearby B&B. Many tickets are much cheaper than past conference tickets – with access to all sessions, food and camping costing £30. If you prefer to stay indoors, two nights in a dorm room is just £60, or £105 for a B&B room.

Places are limited, and recent Friends of the Earth events have sold out long before the booking deadline – so please book early. Buy tickets online at www.foe.co.uk/basecamp

The deadline for bookings is 30th June. Free shuttle buses will run from Derby and Buxton stations. Please do give thought to whether you can attend as our group delegate(s).

New Activism Teams

(This is a summary from Change Your World; in case you haven't noticed, there's a full page on this on page 3.)

There has been a basic restructuring at Friends of the Earth. Formerly things were structured according to regions, but now we have an Activism Development Team and an Activism Impact team, coming under the leadership of Neil Kingsnorth, Head of Activism. Our point of contact will be Jenny Thatcher, leader of the Activism Development Team. Jenny has already been in touch to introduce herself. This team aims to support and strengthen local groups, organise regional gatherings and national events.

The Activism Impact Team, headed by Lucy Pearce, will focus on major campaigns, currently The Bee Cause and Clean British Energy, and this will be our port of call for support with our campaigning.

UK Green Film Festival

This runs from June 1st to 8th; the nearest venue to us is the Greenwich Picturehouse, 180 Greenwich High Rd, SE10 8NN; also at other London venues.

The programme includes seven inspirational and thought-provoking environment themed films and you can find out more at the Festival's website www.ukgreenfilmfestival.org.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson or Sheila Brown on the numbers shown above.

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 should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email r.watson865@btinternet.com.

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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