



*June 2016*  
*No. 342*

# ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:  
email: [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com), website: [www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)

## June Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

### **Richard Aylard from Thames Water**

*A return visit when Richard will address the challenges faced in keeping pace with provision of water supplies and sewage facilities to meet the Government's house-building targets plus the flooding issue.*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – 7.30pm**

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

### ***In this Issue:***

Diary Dates	2	Miller's mutterings	10
Open Garden report	2	Reduce, reuse, repair	11
May mtg report	3,5	Glyphosate use	11
Campaigns and Climate	4	Pesticides and neonics	12
Walk Backwards photo	5	Nature / Bees	12,14
CACC info	6	FoE & Digital organising	13
Transport info	7	Genetically engineered trees	14
When it Rains ...	8	Bromley contacts	15
Marinet info	9,13	Non-members page	16

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE \*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

### Diary dates:

Jun 3/5	<b>FoE's BASECAMP</b> at Castleton, Derbyshire
Jun 7 (Tue)	<b>Bromley FoE's June meeting:</b> Richard Aylard (Thames Water)
Jun 11 (Sat)	<b>Croydon FoE</b> launch Bee World at Heathfield Ecology Centre
Jun 18 (Sat)	<b>Bromley FoE stall</b> at Coolings
Jun 26 (Sun)	<b>Bromley FoE stall</b> at Keston Countryside Day
Jul 5 (Tues)	<b>Bromley FoE's July meeting:</b> Orpington Priory Regeneration Project

### Croydon Friends of the Earth

Croydon FoE have invited us to support them in their summer campaign stalls.. On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June they will be at the Green Fair in Wandle Park. Also that same day they are launching their Bee World at Heathfield Ecology Centre, coinciding with Heathfield's Open Day.

### Bill's Open Garden Day

Once again we had a very successful and enjoyable Open Garden event courtesy of Bill Priestley who opened his garden to us all on 30th April.

Many members and guests came along, bought plants and had an enjoyable afternoon tea - and when it rained, we were all very British and out came the umbrellas, and then the sun came out again!! This event raised over £420.

Our thanks to Bill and to the team of helpers before and during, in the kitchen and on stalls. An immense amount of work goes into such an event, but this was amazingly successful thanks to the wonderful contributions of the team.

**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 19<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons.

## May meeting report – Ray Watson

### **A fight to the end against the airport**

You do not give up easily when you are fighting plans for expanding an airport – plans that would have a ‘horrendous’ impact on the lives of a large section of Bromley residents. That was the message from our April speaker, Tony Trinick, chairman of Flightpath Watch, the residents’ organisation formed to stop development at Biggin Hill Airport.

Indeed, for Tony Trinick, among others, the fight has been going on for 15 years – and is continuing.

With Bromley Council supporting the airport, there have been recent reverses ‘but’ said Tony ‘we shall fight to the end; it is a matter of principle and ensuring that our democratic rights are not denied’.

It all began in 1999 when Biggin Hill Airport announced that they wanted to have their lease from Bromley Council eased so that they could handle large commercial airliners to take fare-paying passengers, build a large maintenance hangar, construct an hotel and extend operating hours.

A residents’ action group was quickly formed and opposed the project primarily because of the impact on a large area of the borough, including green belt land. Hundreds of residents turned out to join the protest and the council refused permission. However, the airport went to appeal and the Government approved the hangar. The hotel was approved later by the council but has never been built.

The requests to have longer hours and to allow scheduled flights with fare-paying passengers were also rejected after long and arduous work to convince councillors to oppose the scheme and that involved hiring technical experts on matters like noise and pollution.

Another battle ensued when the airport sought permission to take a large number of flights for the period of the London Olympics. Again, residents won after pointing out to councillors the noise and extra traffic that would be created early in the morning and late at night – and this in spite of a forceful campaign mounted by the airport’s operators.

Two years later, said Tony, came the most hectic campaign of them all, primarily because Bromley Council sided with the airport and because the airport launched an expensive public relations campaign involving press advertising and surveys of residents’ views.

Among the gimmicks the airport used was to publish a list of 10 pledges designed to win over residents. The 10 included promises of better noise controls, 2300 jobs to be created by opening a college, no further expansion into surrounding land and others.

Tony went through all 10 and called them ‘worse than useless’. He said the noise controls would not be available for years and the restrictions worse

*/continued on page 5*

### **Walk Backwards on Climate Change**

Bromley FoE were represented on the march and at the rally at the Ministry of Health in Whitehall. Several hundred people made a big impact by walking backwards and there were some rousing speeches by climate activists. A contingent of cyclists from Brighton Climate Action cycled up and down Whitehall and then round Parliament Square.

Apart from all the summer stalls which will promote our main campaigns on bees and fracking, there will be a stall in The Mall Precinct in Bromley on October 15th from 2.30 - 4.30 pm with Bromley Against Fracking.

This will be positive in emphasising the importance of investing in alternative energies, as well as warning of the dangers of fracking.

### **Climate and Energy**

#### **Paris Climate Deal Update**

More than 160 countries have backed the world's first comprehensive deal to tackle climate change. They signed December's Paris Agreement at a ceremony in New York on April 22nd. However, the deal must be ratified, as well as signed, by at least 55 countries before it comes into effect. Some countries have yet to get their parliaments to approve it which could be a lengthy process. Meanwhile, critics say many countries are persisting with policies that risk a damaging rise in global temperatures.

On April 22nd, UK Friends of the Earth delivered a ton of coal to the government; one lump for each of the

10,000 people who have backed the petition against new mines. This action symbolised the fact that to meet the Paris Agreement, the government must leave fossil fuels in the ground.

#### **Fracking Update from Ryedale**

North Yorkshire county councillors have received thousands of objections to the planning application to frack a well, known as KM8, less than a mile from Kirby Misperton. The Council's planning department recommended approval in early May. If the council decision is successful the first test fracking since 2011 will take place, and the site will be the first in the country to go into production. Residents are concerned about seismic activity and polluted water.

#### **Nuclear Power**

Bromley and Beckenham CND and Anti-Nuclear group marked the 30th Anniversary of Chernobyl with a stall in Bromley Market Square on April 26th.

Dr Ian Fairlie (an independent scientist on radiation in the environment) in a recent report has stated that 5 million people in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia still live in highly contaminated areas. 37% of Chernobyl's fall-out has been deposited in western Europe, and 42% is contaminated. 40,000 fatal cancers are predicted over the next 50 years, similar in magnitude to the toll from the Japanese bombs in 1945.

Recommendations are being made for the European Commission and national governments to fund research to assess the long term effects.

## May meeting report *continued* +++ Walk Backwards photo

than those currently in use, while the college was not to be funded by the airport but by Bromley residents through their council tax, nearby farm land had recently been acquired etc etc.

The airport distributed leaflets and sent out a team of people to seek residents' views. Tony said there were highly irregular tactics employed, such as not recording the votes of those opposed to airport expansion while votes were sought in areas unaffected by the airport. In one case 92 per cent of votes were recorded as 'yes'.

Tony said there were many more examples of the consultation being totally skewed. Flightpath Watch conducted its own survey and came up with entirely different figures.

However, councillors went on to vote 29 -19 in favour of the expansion and this was endorsed by the council leader's casting vote of 4 – 3 when the executive met. Councillors made their decision in spite of the fact that 18 important variations to the lease were still outstanding. Six months later they still have not been agreed.

But – of course – the story of the latest demands for expanding operating hours at Biggin Hill is still raging. Flightpath Watch members are so concerned they are asking the courts for a judgment on whether the public consultation carried out by the airport before the councillors voted makes the vote null and void. This entailed presenting evidence for the High Court, resulting in Tony preparing it over Christmas – another example of how a matter of principle can take over your life.

Perhaps Bromley residents are fortunate that they have people looking after their interests, whatever the cost to themselves. The battle of Biggin Hill goes on ...



*John Catlin and Ann Garrett at the 'Walk Backwards for Climate Change' rally in Whitehall on May 8th with Bromley FoE banner*

## Campaign Against Climate Change info

### Going Backwards...

Perhaps it was appropriate that our backwards march down Whitehall to protest the government going backwards on climate change took place on a day which was strikingly hot for early May. Many thanks to those who took on the walking backwards challenge with gusto while sweltering in central London and particularly to our volunteers and fantastic speakers.

Thanks also to those who held their own Going Backwards events in other towns and cities - Leeds, Nottingham, Leicester, Bristol, York, Manchester and Sidmouth.

Missed these events? We intend that this will be just the start of challenging the government's backtracking on climate change. We have information on our website about engaging with your MP, whether individually or as part of community groups such as churches etc. If you would like to hold a public meeting or just a stall in your high street or local summer fair, we can send resources - get in touch at [info@campaigncc.org](mailto:info@campaigncc.org)

### Going Forwards... keeping fossil fuels in the ground

The past few weeks have seen some amazing direct action. As part of Break Free 2016, hundreds shut down the UK's largest opencast coalmine at Fos-y-Fran, then two weeks later activists from the UK joined others from across Europe in Lusatia where over 4000 people shut down one of Europe's largest lignite coal mines for over 48 hours. Read about these and

other actions across the world at <https://breakfree2016.org/>

On a smaller scale there have been some great actions organised by our friends in the Art Not Oil coalition - with Tate breaking up with BP, other institutions like the Science Museum and Royal Opera House have been feeling the pressure. This included new revelations about how BP uses its sponsorship leverage. But really, when the British Museum invited BP to sponsor a Sunken Cities exhibition, what did they expect?

### Dates for your diary

The Campaign against Climate Change will be holding its AGM on Sunday 26 June (venue tbc). We will be inviting nominations for our steering group - contact [claire@campaigncc.org](mailto:claire@campaigncc.org) if you'd like to find out more about what this involves.

The CaCC Trade Union Group will be holding its own AGM on Saturday 28 May from 12-3pm in Camden Town Hall. The guest speaker is Paul Hampton of the Fire Brigades Union, who'll be speaking about his recently published book on trade unions and climate change. Find out more about the work of our trade union group by contacting [climatetradeunion@gmail.com](mailto:climatetradeunion@gmail.com)

And, finally, Campaign Against Climate Change's website can be found at [www.campaigncc.org](http://www.campaigncc.org).

## Transport information – Ray Watson

### **Car sales: an environment campaigner's nightmare**

Latest figures for car sales in Britain are a huge shock: the total for the year to April was a staggering 2.2 million, the highest for 13 years. In March of this year alone the total came to 500,000, fuelled by low interest rates. *Just think about the pollution...*

A new trend was that a majority of sales were bought on credit – again, because of rock-bottom interest rates. One bright spot was that buyers were attracted to models with good fuel efficiency.

Another indicator of the size of the task facing environmentalists is the growth of vans on British roads, primarily white vans. The trade body, the Society of Motoring Manufacturers and Traders, calculates that there are four million of them – with the annual mileage figure of 46.9 billion – and that is still growing due to a surge in home delivery services. *Just think about the pollution...*

Figures from the Department of Transport show that the total number of miles travelled by all vehicles in Britain last year rose by 2.2 per cent to 316.1 billion. *Just think about the pollution...*

### **The French show the way forward**

Yes, the French have a major pollution with traffic in Paris. Yes again, they are doing something about it. Sunday driving is now banned on a stretch of the famous Champs Elysees boulevard on some Sundays and nine

other avenues become pedestrianised every Sunday and public holidays, joining 13 other boulevards already restricted to traffic.

Almost certainly, there must be lessons for London from all this. And Bromley too?

### **Gatwick: hope yet**

It is comforting that Gatwick area residents and the airport are beginning to show signs of working towards reducing ways to reduce noise and other problems caused by the airport. This comes after many years' hard work by campaigners opposed to the building of an extra runway.

How did it happen? An independent review of landing procedures came up with 23 major recommendations including the creation of an independent noise management board and the widening of the line taken by arriving aircraft. The airport accepted every proposal.

Campaigners see this only as a start because they want to ensure that the recommendations are fully implemented. This is parallel to the situation at Biggin Hill Airport where the leaseholder, Bromley Council, has in general approved a new lease for the airport even though there are 18 important clauses still to be agreed -- which some residents regard as a dangerous step.

## When it Rains the Rain of Fall Out – Ann Garrett Ashley

### When it Rains the Rain of Fall Out

Who will remember Chernobyl when it rained  
the rain of nuclear fall out ?

Who will remember the explosion  
as 190 tons of radioactive debris shot into the air ?

Who will remember the rescue operations  
as the evacuation of all buildings was ordered ?

Who will remember the hospitals  
as workers with skin - blackened blast injuries were treated ?

The reactor- contaminated workers and families of those who died  
will remember

The heroic firefighters will remember

The liquidators who rushed in to the reactor in 3 minute bursts  
will remember

Tired doctors and nurses will remember

People with thyroid cancer will remember

And who will understand and sympathise ?

Those who see the deserted wastelands in Belarus

The empty dust-layered flats, schools, colleges, libraries, town halls -

The neglected forests and farmlands

The people of Fukushima Prefecture

Who will remember if they were responsible in any way ?

Those who neglected to fund reactor maintenance

The Ukraine and Russian Governments who delayed compensation

Officials who have repeatedly hushed up the facts

When again it rains the rain of nuclear fallout

Only then will the world be stirred to shout

Ann Garrett Ashley [ Chernobyl 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – April 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 ]



## Marinet-related articles from the Guardian

*Here are two Marinet related articles that were published in the Guardian recently.*

### **Cruise liners challenging air pollution limits in UK's cities and ports**

*Posted on 04-04-16 in **Pollution***

### **The Guardian reports, 31st March**

**2016:** Toxic fumes from large cruise liners powered by giant diesel engines will worsen London's air pollution and could prevent the city from meeting its EU legal limits on deadly nitrogen oxide emissions, says resident groups opposing a new terminal.

Plans for a wharf in the Thames that would be able to handle 240 metre-long cruise liners carrying up to 1,800 passengers and 600 crew were approved by Greenwich council last July but are being challenged in the high court by residents.

Developers say that 55 liners a year, each weighing around 48,000 tonnes, would be expected to spend up to three days "hotelling" at Greenwich. Using their auxiliary diesel engines while moored, they would burn around 700 litres of diesel an hour for six months of the year in a borough considered a hot spot for air pollution.

But larger ships, potentially the size of the 12-deck high Crystal Symphony, may also be allowed to moor at Enderby and would emit as many diesel fumes as 2,000 lorries a day, say objectors.

### **A collapse in Antarctic ice sheets could raise sea levels by 2 metres by 2100**

*Posted on 04-04-16 in **Global Warming***

### **The Guardian reports, 30th March**

**2016:** Sea levels could rise far more rapidly than expected in coming decades, according to new research that reveals Antarctica's vast ice cap is less stable than previously thought.

The UN's climate science body had predicted up to a metre of sea level rise this century — but it did not anticipate any significant contribution from Antarctica, where increasing snowfall was expected to keep the ice sheet in balance.

According to a study, published in the journal *Nature*, collapsing Antarctic ice sheets are expected to double sea-level rise to two metres by 2100, if carbon emissions are not cut.

Previously, only the passive melting of Antarctic ice by warmer air and seawater was considered but the new work added active processes, such as the disintegration of huge ice cliffs.

"This [doubling] could spell disaster for many low-lying cities," said Prof Robert DeConto, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who led the work. He said that if global warming was not halted, the rate of sea-level rise would change from millimetres per year to centimetres a year. "At that point it becomes about retreat [from cities], not engineering of defences."

*/continued on page 13*

## Mutterings from the Millers - Chris Miller

Well, the swallows have arrived but phew it has been a bit chilly for them. The snow/hail showers were incredible, but we have not had a lot of rain just so cold with that biting wind. The crops are growing well albeit slowly due to the cold, but have managed to apply fertilizer and weed killer where necessary.

A bit of quiet time on the land, although the boys keep busy on maintenance jobs, so I thought I would tell you a little bit about the field names.

Each field has a number for government purposes, an ordnance survey number and also the farm has a holding number, but we still use the field names passed through the family.

Sometime ago, I went to Bromley library and looked at old maps of Chelsfield, around 1850s and a few of the names remain. How the others were changed we don't know.

Obviously the fields are not quite the same due to roads being built.

We all visited some farms around Crockham Hill to see land that the direct drill guru man farms and answered our many questions. The soil there is very heavy weald clay and normally you wouldn't be able to work the soil after so much rain but the crops looked good. Lots of worm casts too.

We have now found out that our ground would benefit from being ploughed at least once in every four years, so now have to think about our machinery stock. Will keep you posted.

We look forward to more sunshine, especially as in a couple of weeks' time, we welcome back members of the Bromley Friends of the Earth for a farm walk. They visited us a few years ago and have requested another visit. With a little more warmth, the peas will be up and they will be able to see the difference in wheat and barley.

### Old Names

Mands Croft

Windmill Field

Great South Field

Long Warren

Grove Meadow

Part Foxbury Field

Part Foxbury Field

Great Hoglands Bank

Packs

### Current Name

Meadow (It was a meadow for many years)

Warren Bank(Windmill gone?)

South Field (Not so great!)

Warren Bank

The Grove

Sparrowhawks (Mr Sparrowhawk lived in lodge cottage opposite the field.

Colin Turners (Mr Turner kept pigs in the corner of this field.)

Harecroft (Opposite Harefield House)

Pecks

## Reduce, Reuse, Repair (*Rob*) +++ Glyphosate use (*Judy*)

### **Rob Clark writes:**

There's an interesting trend kicking off in New York, America. It's called Pop Up Repair and it's really catching the public imagination.

At weekends a group of 'repairers' occupy a school hall to offer repair services for anything from electronics, toys, jewellery and glasses to furniture and clothes. Basic repairs cost from \$15. Each 'repairer' has their own expertise. This idea is challenging the modern in-built tendency to throw away and buy new says Sandra Goldmark who started Pop Up Repair three years ago with her husband.

Also, in California, Jamie Facciola has started a business called Repair Revolution with similar aims to Pop Up Repair. She looks to support local business, artisan skills and local talents to promote her environmental ethos, backing the repair ideas. Repair Revolution holds pop-up events too.

Again, in New York a business called Denim Therapy repairs, yes, denim clothes. Owner, Francine Rabinovich says it has been an education process getting people to understand that you can repair cloths. Some of the repair costs can run to more than a new pair of jeans but some people get very attached to their favourite clothes.

Business is booming, up by almost 50% in the past year so people are learning that repairing can be better in many ways than buying new, on environmental, financial, social levels.

Let's hope this is a global trend and it continues to catch on.

### **Judy Palmer writes:**

A few weeks ago Peter Melchett of the Soil Association published an article on glyphosate which led with the news that the European Parliament had just voted to re-authorise this weed killer's use with a number of restrictions. This is the world's most widely sold weed killer, commonly sold as Monsanto's Roundup, and which has been claimed for decades by the pesticide industry to be completely safe.

But there appears to be mounting evidence that it is a probable human carcinogen, led by a report from the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer.

So on the one hand we have the independent WHO scientists presenting evidence and on the other, the scientists from European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) who are mostly anonymous, with the EU Parliament apparently ruling in the favour of human public safety, by restricting the use of glyphosate 'on use in agricultural fields shortly before harvesting'. The EU also said that the currently allowed practice of spraying it on wheat and other crops before harvest is 'unacceptable'.

The Soil Association is now wondering what this means in general to the whole of the pesticide industry – if the EU Parliament's recommendation is implemented it would lead to what has been a secret industry-dominated process to be opened to scientific, public and political scrutiny for the first time – now wouldn't that be a first!

**Pesticide / neonics news, FoE Press Release**

In May the National Farmers Union once again made an emergency application for farmers to use banned neonicotinoids, but thankfully this time the Government rejected the application. This is the press release from Friends of the Earth:

“Welcoming news late today that Defra has rejected an emergency application for farmers to use banned neonicotinoid seed treatments on oilseed rape this autumn, Friends of the Earth bee campaigner Dave Timms said:

“The Government’s decision to reject this application is great news for Britain’s bees. Allowing farmers to use banned bee-harming pesticides would have been a real threat to these crucial pollinators.

“The Expert Committee on Pesticides has given a damning verdict on the applications. We hope the NFU will get the message and give up trying to bring back these dangerous chemicals. This refusal is extremely welcome, but the applications and evidence submitted are all still secret. They must be released immediately. Ministers must now push for the ban on these chemicals to be made permanent.”

Friends of the Earth had urged the government to refuse the application, pointing out that:

- Government figures show the average UK oilseed rape yield rose nearly 7% last year, in the first harvest after the ban was introduced

- Recent scientific evidence has added to the concerns about the impact of the three neonicotinoid pesticides on bees and other pollinators
- The neonicotinoid seed treatments allowed last year may not have been effective against Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle
- Crop losses due to Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle were lower this autumn, compared to the previous one
- Non-chemical means of controlling pests are available to farmers.

---

**Nature / Bees news**

2016 is flying by isn't it? This is the June edition of our newsletter and the bees and butterflies have been out and about in ever-increasing numbers since March, and now the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Friends of the Earth Bee Count is well underway!

Bees are still in danger; remember since 1990 the UK has lost 20 species of bee and a further 35 are at risk. We need these little pollinators, they are essential for a healthy environment and a healthy economy. So please take a moment to do a little bit to help save the bees. If you log on to [www.greatbritishbeecount.co.uk](http://www.greatbritishbeecount.co.uk) or #greatbritishbeecount you can download the app and have fun counting bees in your own back yard or park.

*/continued on page 14*

## FoE's digital organising project

Rosie, FoE campaign assistant, sent this email to Judy recently.

Here is some more information about the **digital organising project** as requested. Please take a read through and let me know if you have any questions. ActionNetwork is the tool we are looking at testing first.

### What do you get from it?

\* **Free access** to the ActionNetwork tool, which allows you to:

- Set up petitions
- Set up email-your-local-X actions (not just your local MP – anyone you have an email for)
- Organise events
- Email people who have taken your actions
- Communicate with other groups members
- Embed online actions on your website

\* **Access** to ActionNetwork for a minimum of 3 months, and help with next steps if it's not working, and we decide to try a different approach based on your feedback

\* **Help** with the technical set up

\* **Help** you promote it to Friends of the Earth supporters in your area and engage more people than you might otherwise get

\* **Access** to the data that your petitions/actions generate, which will benefit your group

\* **Help** reviewing how your campaign went, to help you – and us – learn lessons for next time

\* **Contact** at Friends of the Earth to flag technical issues

**Your feedback** will help us to choose and define the digital tools we give to groups, benefitting the entire Friends of the Earth network

### What do we need from you?

\* **You should** be running – or planning to run – a campaign with a specific target, ideally with an end target date

\* **Commitment** to use the tool throughout your campaign

\* **You need** to be somewhat comfortable with technology: you don't need to be a hotshot programmer, just someone who is comfortable enough with trying out new websites

\* **Feedback**, lots of feedback. Without your feedback – occasional calls or surveys, we won't be able to improve, so it's vital you're willing & able to tell us how things are working.

---

### Marinet info, *continued*

Prof David Vaughan, at the British Antarctic Survey and not part of the research team, said: "The new model includes for the first time a projection of how in future, the Antarctic ice sheet may to lose ice through processes that today we only see occurring in Greenland.

"I have no doubt that on a century to millennia timescale, warming will make these processes significant in Antarctica and drive a very significant Antarctic contribution to sea level rise. The big question for me is, how soon could this all begin. I'm not sure, but these guys are definitely asking the right questions."

**Genetically Engineered Trees: A New Frontier or Climate Catastrophe?**

This comes from Adrian Appley, via Sheila Brown. You can find the rest of this article, and more, at <https://blog.greenamerica.org/2016/05/16/genetically-engineered-trees-a-new-frontier-or-climate-catastrophe/>

By: Kat Battaglia, Fellow, Green America's Better Paper Project

Most consumers in the United States are now aware of genetically engineered foods, but far fewer realize that, beginning formally in 1988, biotech scientists have been working on the next frontier of genetic engineering: trees. While the biotech industry claims GE trees could be a natural solution to deforestation, it's far more likely that a shift to GE monoculture forests, heavily dependent on chemical inputs, would further pollute our soil, air and waterways, and exacerbate the problems of climate change.

**Not All Forests Are Created Equal**

Natural forests are more than a collection of trees. They are rich, biodiverse habitats for millions of species of plants, animals, and microorganisms that are essential to life. Forests protect soil and waterways from pollution, and even protect humans from heart and respiratory diseases. Perhaps most miraculously, the earth's forests also store 289 gigatons of carbon in biomass, making forests one of the greatest contributors to slowing the rate of climate change.

**Nature / Bees news, continued**

The app is available on Google Play and the App Store. The count runs from 19 May – 30 June this year, which gives us plenty of time to participate. This period will be used as the comparative period for data research.

The Great British Bee Count uses a data capturing method which is very similar to BioBlitz to find out which plants bees love. By finding this out we can encourage people to plant these plants, giving lots of food to hungry bees. There is a team of volunteer entomologists who verify key records and they also use the data to check which habitats are doing well for bees, as well using location data to see which areas are attracting more bees.

Our group held a bee breakfast up at the meadows, where our bee world is, on Tugmutton Common on May 28<sup>th</sup> to help promote the bee cause and bee count. But due to newsletter deadlines, I don't know how we got on – so more next month! The meadows have altered quite a bit since we created, with the help of the Tugmutton Friends group, our little wild patch in 2013, but it is always a pleasure to have a walk around it.

There is more detailed information available on the Friends of the Earth website at [www.foe.co.uk/beecause](http://www.foe.co.uk/beecause) which has information on creating bee-friendly environments. And more locally, the Orpington Field Club has lots of good information on plants and activities you can join in with.

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605  
*email – shellabrown336@msn.com*

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295  
*email – anncgarrett@yahoo.com*

### Secretary:

vacant

### Treasurer:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Press Officer:

Ann Garrett

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Outings organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 020-8464-5990  
*johnbocock@hotmail.com*

### Newsletter Editor:

John Street 020-8460-1078  
*johnstreet@gn.apc.org*

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

### Bromley FoE web site:

***www.bromleyfoe.co.uk***

Peter Gandolfi  
*petergandolfi@hotmail.com*

### Admin team:

Judy Palmer: Group emails  
*bromleyfoe@gmail.com*

Rob Clark: Facebook co-ordinator  
*bromleyfoe@gmail.com*

Annette Rose  
*annette.rose1@ntlworld.com*

### Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689-820469

### Campaigns –

#### Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566  
*r.watson865@btinternet.com*

#### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

#### Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352  
*tamaragalloway@yahoo.com*

#### Campaigner:

Annette Rose  
*annette.rose1@ntlworld.com*

#### Fracking / Clean British Energy

Ann Garrett

#### Bee Cause

Judy Palmer  
*judy.palmer@talk21.com*

#### Monthly Meeting reporters:

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

#### Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

#### Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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

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

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

---

**Non-members' Section**

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

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

---

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

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

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

Name..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

.....