



**Friends of
the Earth
Bromley**



June 2019
No. 378
ewsletter

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

June Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Double Trouble:

*Why restoring nature and keeping climate safe
are the ultimate test of democracy*

Paul de Zylva, Senior Analyst, Friends of the Earth

Tuesday 4th June - 7.30pm (*prompt start please*)

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

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

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates: June 2019

June 4th (Tuesday) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting. Paul de Zylva, Senior Analyst, Friends of the Earth.

June 7th (Friday) Friends of Jubilee Park are holding a talk on the 'Life of the Hare' by Russell Miles. In the Garden Room of St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Road, Bromley BR2 8AT. Entry is free but donations are welcomed.

June 8th (Saturday) World Ocean Day. 10am-2pm. BFoE will be having a stall in the Market Square off Orpington High St. Volunteers needed please to help on the stall. We will be asking the public to make their 'no plastic' pledges.

June 12th (Wednesday) Bromley RSPB AGM followed by talk: London National Park City. The speaker is Beth Collie, a trustee of the National Park City Foundation. Location: United Reformed Church (Verrall Hall), 20 Widmore Road, Bromley, BR1 1RY. 6.45pm for a 7pm start. Ends by 9pm Price: £3.50

June 15th (Saturday) River Quaggy guided walk- 'Flood Walk'. Meet Sue and John at Lewisham railway station at 2pm. The walk (approx 2 hrs) will finish at the Old Tigers Head, Lee Green. Our guide will be Pamela Zollicoffer.

June 26th (Wednesday) Climate Emergency Demonstration in London. Go to www.theclimatecoalition.org for details. Ann Garrett will be at the Nelson Mandela statue in Parliament Square from 1pm to meet anyone from our group.

June 30th (Sunday) Keston Countryside Day from 2pm to 5pm at Hayes Common, Commonside, opposite the Greyhound Pub BR2 6BP. BFoE will have an information stall featuring our campaigns. Volunteers needed please to help on the stall and to set up from 11am.

July 2nd (Tuesday) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting.

July 20th (Saturday) Jubilee Country Park Meadows Day 11am-3pm. Volunteers needed to help on the stall please.

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 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.

May meeting report – Anne Clark

Shaun Dey came to speak to us about his video activist group, Reel News, when he went on a 14 week tour of North America last year, to see what was happening there with a climate-change-denying president. What they found were visionary struggles, with working class communities of colour working together and getting on with implementing a just transition away from fossil fuels, themselves. We saw some short versions of various films from different areas, with peoples struggles between rich and poor.

From Alberta (ReelNews April 2019) fifteen years of 'Oil Sands' mining is coming to an end because of oil prices collapsing, but yet going ahead with 'fracking'. There were very few jobs for local workers who felt depressed anyway with the danger of new diseases and cancers, and the earth ruined for farming and fishing, there needed to be an organised transition strategy by leaders. A giant pipeline being laid, now only took 12 non-union workers brought in by the owners.

In Texas eight months after the extreme Hurricane Harvey, thousands lost their homes, which had been built under dams or next to chemical or waste water plants, and it was left to the people themselves to survive and rebuild with no government help and no insurance as poor people's homes were not built in safe places. But with the current weather conditions, all infrastructure needs to be organised working together with the government.

When the extreme weather conditions hit New York, people marched about

'climate change' and a general social movement with working classes moving from one community to another.

In Kentucky, Mr Trump promised to bring back local jobs in coal mining but only one company was left and new 'strip mining' was stopped. In elections, map borders were changed and three million dollars was spent for the voting.

In Richmond (population approx 110,000), a rather dirty town and home to the Chevron Oil Co, there was a framework for a planned people's transition. There needed to be more transparency, a public owned sewage plant etc. with reserves and there was a Richmond Peoples Assembly.

In Jackson, Mississippi, (pop.200,000.) Co-operation Jackson was taking back solidarity for the residents resolving towards zero waste, caring for one another, self defence, progressive political candidates, neighbourhood meetings and people being educated on how to solve issues with whatever resources were available.

A few questions were answered on Britain having a little more 'green' technology, how the people that they met, felt, having risked their lives in war, that they deserved some payback. Apparently the big power companies were getting more worried about Climate Change - the need to build more sustainable housing etc.

To find out more and to order any CDs (which Shaun was selling there) email info@reelnews.co.uk.

Climate, Energy and Transport – Ann Garrett

Campaigning

On June 26th an environmental climate action will take place at 1pm in Parliament Square called 'The Time is Now'. This will include lobbying MPs about climate change and will be supported by many different environmental organisations.

I will take our Bromley FoE banner and meet any one who can support this, by the Nelson Mandela statue in Parliament Square at 1pm.

Climate, Energy and Transport

Rainforest Action

The Waorani nation has won an historic legal battle preventing the Ecuadorian government from opening up half a million acres of their rainforest home to fossil fuel extraction companies.

A provincial court in Pastaza province has ruled that the government's 2012 consultations with the Amerindian tribe over the selling of its land were inadequate and so violated its right to self determination.

The court's decision represents a fundamental legal precedent for all nationalities of the central-south Amazon. It also shows the determination of indigenous people to defend their rights, and in doing so to help towards preventing more climate disasters.

Sustainable Energy

New leasing rules for off-shore wind farms could keep off-shore contracts in

Scotland, and so rescue their wind farm industry.

The Scottish and British governments have recently convened a summit over concerns that the Scottish supply chain companies are losing out on work, jeopardising hundreds of skilled jobs.

The Scottish government is determined to make sure that they get their share of renewable energy manufacturing and will take all necessary measures within their powers to do this. The onus is now on the UK government to guarantee immediate and sustained investment to help make the Scottish supply chain, a global player.

Transport

Low Level Pollution Zone Update

London's vehicle pollution levy is bringing in around £220,000 per day for TfL it has been revealed. During the first month, an average of 17,400 drivers of older, more polluting vehicles paid the charge to drive into central London.

Cars, vans and motorbikes with exhaust emissions that break the rules, pay £12.50 per day, while HGVs and coaches pay £100. The 74% compliance figure is above TfL's expectations, and it means there were 9,400 fewer polluting vehicles entering the zone in May, compared with 26% in March. It is too early, however, to measure the long term impact.

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London National Park City is coming: how do you want to be involved?

Paul de Zylva, Chair, National Park City Foundation, writes: London is less than 100 days from becoming the world's first National Park City – www.nationalparkcity.london/

On 22 July 2019 City Hall will host Londoners and their elected representatives to bring London National Park City (London NPC) into life for real. We'll mark the launch with a London NPC Charter and the first State of the London NPC report.

That is just for starters as there is lots of activity in the run up to and following the 22 July launch:

29 June: The 2nd London National Park City Festival at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (*see page 17*)

20-27 July: London National Park City Week

21 July: Launch of a Universal Charter for National Park Cities worldwide – because we thinking beyond London and looking to form 25 National Park Cities worldwide by 2025

22 July: City Hall Summit to launch London NPC, the London Charter and the first State of London NPC report

London NPC is backed by a majority of elected ward councillors, London Assembly Members and the Mayor of London. But the idea came from and grew because of the grassroots and it remains firmly rooted in communities and localities that want to improve life in London by making it greener, healthier and wilder with people able to spend more time outdoors, exploring, enjoying, learning about and gaining from better urban design, planning,

greening, architecture, culture and heritage.

We hope grassroots organisations will mark in their own way London becoming a National Park City, at any time in the run up to 22 July.

For example, some communities are marking organising their own 'opening ceremonies'. One idea is to have a ribbon-joining event - as opposed to a ribbon cutting ceremony - to show people coming together. Some plan to 'open' a green space or a piece of neglected land that's been improved. Others are celebrating the greening of their street, front gardens, window ledges and balconies. What will you do to celebrate?

To follow through on the launch, we will launch a team of London NPC Rangers who will personify London's NPC status by helping, guiding and advising others with their insights, knowledge and skills – our own version of the blue badge tourist guides, if you like.

That is just one way to be part of London NPC. You could be a London NPC 'Maker', or a 'Champion' and your local group could be a London NPC 'Group'. Let us know how you'd like to be involved and what you'd like to do. You can even get the t-shirt(!) - a bespoke one declaring what you are doing.

For lots of ways to be involved see: www.nationalparkcity.london/get-more-involved
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Plastics in food packaging

Some recent studies have produced some interesting information on food packaging. Supermarkets have long been telling us that they need to wrap produce in plastic to extend its shelf life. Sainsbury's said plastic is used to 'keep groceries fresh and well protected'. That means stopping fruit from getting bruised and keeping vegetables separate so their shelf life is prolonged.

However a Friends of the Earth Europe study has revealed that between 2004 and 2014 household waste in the EU has doubled despite plastic packaging increasing by 50%.

Here are some of the findings from Friends of the Earth Europe and Zero Waste Europe, on behalf of the Rethink Plastic alliance. Big retailers are driving food and waste packaging waste through practises such as food grading standards and packaging food in multipacks and small format packs. Chopping green beans to fit plastic packaging has been found to result in 30-40% of the beans being wasted. 37% of all food sold in the EU is wrapped in plastic- the most widely used packaging material.

Meadhbh Bolger, resource justice campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe said 'The results are in. Wrapping, bottling and packing foods in plastic doesn't systematically prevent food waste, and sometimes even causes it. It's a red herring that's causing terrible pollution of our land, sea and air. EU decision makers need

to listen to growing public appetite to quit plastics, help Europe to adopt strict rules to limit throwaway plastics and shift to localised food systems without disposable packaging.'

What's New

In Sainsbury's I have seen bunches of bananas held together by a band of card, rather than plastic. Several supermarkets including Morrisons and Waitrose welcome customers bringing their own containers to take to the counters for meat and fish.

Many companies now seem to be responding to the public's demand for more environmentally friendly products and are advertising products that appear to be greener. It is always worth checking them out though, after the disastrous toilet wipes that turned out should not be called flushable as they have blocked sewage systems and have ended up on our beaches. 'Simple' wet wipes claim to be fully biodegradable but a better option must be to reduce the use all these types of wipes.

Transport – continued Heathrow Expansion

Nicola Sturgeon could withdraw her support for the expansion it has been revealed. The SNP is going to reconsider its support as part of its review of policies that risk exacerbating climate change. The decision followed Ms Sturgeon's declaration of 'a climate emergency' and pressure from Labour and the Greens.

Bromley Biodiversity News – Judy Palmer

I went along to the latest meeting of the Bromley Biodiversity partners a couple of weeks ago, and it was heartening to learn that all our citizen science projects locally are making a difference, with species recording on the increase.

Bird patch reporting is continuing this year, in Darrick Wood, Keston, Kelsey Park and Lilly's Wood in Chelsfield, and a nightingale and barn owls have been reported elsewhere in the Borough. Various ponds have been surveyed and our great crested newts are still surviving in some locations.

Reptiles and bats are being monitored, though bat survey results for 2018 are not available yet. Our butterflies and moths' results were quite variable, but two notable sightings were the Large Tortoiseshell and Brown Hairstreak, the latter of which was believed to be no longer present in Kent in 1971.

Please continue to send records of sightings of toad, house sparrow, hedgehog and purple emperor butterfly to bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com, particularly if you see any signs of breeding. By the end of 2019 the group will have 3 years of data for toads and hedgehogs which will help in targeting specific areas where linking green spaces can be mapped. A swift survey will also again be undertaken by Bromley RSPB this year.

If you would like to join in, please contact bromleyrspbrecords@gmail.com.

And if you would like to join a swift walk on June 22nd and 27th, as part of World Swift Week, you need to book a place! Details can be found at <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/bromley/events/>

Linking green spaces is vital for many species and if you wish to see which small native trees and shrubs will benefit our declining species, you can find lists and posters at www.bromleyfriendsforum.org under biodiversity, posters. And under 'Useful Documents' you will find 'Hedge Plants to improve Biodiversity' with details of flowering, fruiting times, soil type required etc.

This information will be most helpful if you are considering planting a shrub or small tree this year. UK invertebrates are adapted to eat native plants, and as we are seeing in alarming numbers, there has been a catastrophic decline in our native species.

As Friends of the Earth is hoping to double tree cover with the new Tree Campaign, our partners within the Biodiversity group are keen to work with us on improving links through native tree and shrub planting.

So, if you are aware of any footpaths, bridleways or back lanes which have the potential for planting to link up these green spaces, please do let us know! And if you are involved with a local sports or school, please do pass the message on, nature will thank you.

I expect most of you will have seen the release of the new Biodiversity & Ecosystem Global Assessment report from the IPBES (Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services) recently, setting out the stark evidence of nature's decline. Here is a quote from the IPBES Chair, Sir Robert Watson:

“The overwhelming evidence of the IPBES Global Assessment, from a wide range of different fields of knowledge, presents an ominous picture. The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.”

“The Report also tells us that it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global,” he said. “Through ‘transformative change’, nature can still be conserved, restored and used sustainably – this is also key to meeting most other global goals. By transformative change, we mean a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values.”

“The member States of IPBES Plenary have now acknowledged that, by its very nature, transformative change can expect opposition from those with interests vested in the status quo, but also that such opposition can be overcome for the broader public good”.

And change we must.

I heard an interesting RSPB talk by Dr. Pat Morris on hedgehogs recently.

Here are a few things he recommended that you can do to help our hedgehogs. Don't use any harmful chemicals in your gardens.

Slug pellets will be eaten by slugs and then the hedgehogs eat the poisoned slugs. If you want to feed hedgehogs, dog food and dog biscuits are best. Milk is only OK if it is watered down as it can give them diarrhoea.

There is no need to buy an expensive hedgehog home. You can easily provide a suitable place for them. They just need a firm cover such as some sticks bent over in an arch under which they can drag some leaves.

Always check piles of leaves and garden waste before burning as a hedgehog may have taken up residence. Make a small CD cover sized hole in your perimeter fences so that hedgehogs can travel from garden to garden.

I was surprised to hear that they can travel around 2 miles in a night. Judy John also spoke and has asked us to please report your sightings of hedgehogs to bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com

Here is a poem from the speaker's book.

Requiem to a hedgehog

It wasn't cars that killed him

Or viruses or bugs

Oh no! You thoughtless gardeners

He ate YOUR POISONED SLUGS

Miller's Mutterings – Chris and Steve Miller

I am writing this on Easter Saturday and wow the weather is amazing. Obviously we need some rain but it is lovely to see the sun and be working out in the garden without the chilly north and northeasterly winds.

The oats have all germinated and are growing away well. We were a little worried after a week or so, when noticing very large flocks of crows and rooks pecking away around the emerging seedlings. These birds can pull them up to look for grubs but fortunately they don't seem to have done too much damage. The wheat and the barley are at the stage of stem elongation, we will now keep our beady eyes out for fungal diseases and will treat if necessary.

Did you see the Countryfile programme on Sunday 14th April? We don't normally watch it but happen to catch the piece about direct drilling. It was very interesting to us and it confirmed our views regarding worms, soil bacteria and general soil health.

They showed two small wormeries, both with coloured horizontal lines. The one with soil that had not been ploughed had the lines mixed by the worms but one with ploughed soil remained straight. Also the ploughed soil when placed in water, dissolved quite quickly whereas the non ploughed soil, stayed together. This is the part of stopping soil erosion. The report went on to talk about environmental advantages too. All very interesting to us and great that the general public is being made aware of different farming methods.

Obviously this system doesn't work for potatoes and other root crops but has a value place in all grass and cereal crops. You may have seen a notice on the telephone pole at the entrance to the farm or public notice in the News Shopper regarding the installation of a 20 meter high lattice tower with three antennas and two dishes plus ancillary cabinets.

We were approached about six months ago by EE for the erection of the tower and were told in no uncertain terms that this tower's erection was compulsory. We had meetings regarding the siting of the tower and comprised on the position but will lose about 20 meter square of farmland without compensation.

Hopefully, they can start as soon as the crop is harvested or at least before we are due to replant. Fingers crossed.

We have been busy on the office side of the business with the year of the financial year but changing our computer system ready for the Making it tax digital and a new accounting system. Our brains have been pushed to the limit especially when the computer died. Fortunately Pete has been able to help us, I definitely think growing plants is easier than the computer side of the business!

On the wildlife side, we noticed the first swallow arrive here on the 8th April and a second one arrived a week later and one more the following week.

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Groundswell reports – Sheila Brown

Groundswell is a new kind of Friends of the Earth event being held in various regions instead of having one large gathering this year.

Over the last few years the annual gatherings have been Basecamp, a more “outdoors-y”, festival style event than the previous Conferences.

It was held on a Saturday at Amnesty International’s London headquarters. Ian Magrath and John Street also attended from Bromley FoE.

The theme of the day was the Climate Emergency, introducing Friends of the Earth’s new campaign “Climate Action”.

Keynote speaker – Asad Rehman

The keynote speaker was Asad Rehman, Chief Executive of War on Want. (I was rather proud of the fact that we’d had him come and speak to us in Bromley earlier in April! “You heard him here first!”.)

Asad said the good news was that people are far more aware now that there is a climate emergency but we have to keep repeating the truth as the severity and scale of the crisis has been deliberately understated. There’s much talk about the effect of 1.5°C warming whereas the UN estimates this could in fact be as high as 3.5 - 4°C, despite what has been pledged.

We need collective action, and fast. It is the poorest countries who are going to be the most severely impacted,

despite the fact that, ironically, they account for only 10% of emissions. The effect of drought, floods and famines can be widely seen; Mozambique, which recently experienced a catastrophic cyclone which all but wiped out its major city, was now facing further flooding.

The Indian sub-continent had seen dramatic temperature rises to 55°C, leading to irreversible melting of glaciers which would adversely affect water supply. The Philippines is still struggling following the 2013 cyclone which killed over 6,000 people. Each year a million people lose homes and livelihoods.

Inequality has increased dramatically during the past 30 years with more hunger, conflict, racial and gender inequalities. Profit has been put before people, leading to degradation of lives. Corporations have corrupted democracy and sold their ideas to the world, giving us tax havens and privatisation. The Global South has suffered but not been listened to.

But now Extinction Rebellion and the Schools Strikes have led to greater awareness. Governments have to act. Equity should be the cornerstone of policy, working with and for the poor.

The USA, for example, before pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement, had only pledged 15% of its fair share. So called “Green Deals” don’t go far enough – they could save our economy but jeopardise the Global South.

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WE MUST VALUE LIVES in the Global South where people are entitled to a dignified life and a living wage. Migration is often a question of survival.

The UK MUST do its fair share. Our colonial past gives us power but has led to high consumption and high carbon. We need to shift from 'dirty' energy to socially good energy. Extraction of fossil fuels accounts for one third of the City of London's revenue, which is more than the GDP of southern Africa. Banks and corporations resist any change but Extinction Rebellion is prepared to take them on.

The food system is broken and has been hijacked by big business with global land grab to feed the wealthy elite. Subsidies and food waste need to be eliminated; speculation on food on the Stock Exchange should be outlawed and we need to promote sustainable farming.

Deforestation continues to rise. 15.8 hectares were lost last year. One billion people rely on forests for their survival; land rights are important to counter deforestation.

We need a living wage for everyone. Our development aid has been used to strip away social protection. For example, the clothing industry uses vast amounts of water – it takes 2,700 litres of water to make one t-shirt! Multinationals take no responsibility for their supply chains.

Migration has often been said to be for economic reasons, but much is survival migration, often to another poor country. It's not just small islands that are affected. 140 million people have been displaced due to climate change. Thousands have died in the Mediterranean. And what has the response been – "more fences". Migration needs to be central to our policy. Asad mentioned the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) with the right not to move, the right to a living wage, to health and to a home.

Asad ended with two quotes: the first from the "Yellow Vests" saying of the proposed Carbon Tax, "The elite are concerned about the end of the world; for workers, we're concerned about the end of the month."; the second, from Africa "We have already been sacrificed at the altar of your big business".

Climate Action

This session was introduced by Aaron Kiely. Climate Action was the central theme of the day, identified as the greatest threat facing us. Friends of the Earth are asking the government to act regarding

- Transport – to STOP the use of petrol and diesel cars within a decade; this would solve air pollution
- Power – to stop using dirty fuels, ban fracking and coal and move towards renewables
- Buildings – fund huge scale insulation and eco-heating

- Agriculture and Land Use – stop using land in harmful ways; double tree cover
- Infrastructure – stop backing airport expansion. Introduce a ‘frequent flyer levy’
- International justice – pay to help vulnerable countries deal with climate change.

Air pollution hits the poorest the hardest. Justice is central to our movement and we want to work towards transition to a low carbon economy. We are the largest contributor to air pollution, going back to the industrial revolution, and having exported so much of our manufacturing offshore, just means the pollution is happening somewhere else but we cannot claim to be cleaner and greener.

Craig Bennett then spoke. He said the Paris Climate Agreement was no way strong enough. Action was needed at a national level but we are not seeing the leadership. and we are not doing enough to stop runaway climate change. Plans for a 3rd runway at Heathrow, new roads and backing fracking all go in the wrong direction.

The Schools Climate Strike has shown this leadership, taking action to local councils. We all need to DO SOMETHING and FoE’s new Climate Action campaign is to encourage people to do things locally, where they are, channelling energy into finding solutions, targeting councils and local business groups.

If we double tree cover, this could suck out 10% of emissions. We need to fight fuel pollution and further roads and to put pressure on the government. Craig emphasised, “This is a movement led by YOU!” – building power at grassroots level, local action leading to practical solutions. Groups are urged to host a Climate Action event to bring people together and identify solutions.

Panel Discussion: Voices from the Climate Movement

Three activists representing different aspects: Lucy Barford from the Leith Hill anti-fracking group, Beth Collier from Wild in the City and Roga Levy Rapoport from the Schools Climate Strike movement.

Lucy: This group successfully fought off the plan to frack at Leith Hill, a beauty spot and SSSI with eco-habitats, woodland, rare species, owls and bats. Projected was a 35m oil rig with gas flare, floodlighting, thus causing light and air pollution and endangering the local aquifer water supply. Local councils opposed this but were overridden.

The protestors were really angry at this ‘industrialisation’ of the Weald and blatant disregard of climate change issues. They campaigned for 10 years with many different groups coming together, creating a real sense of community.

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In the end, and surprisingly, their saviour was Michael Gove and the developer was forced to pull out.

Beth: As a nature-based psychotherapist, Beth's fundamental belief is that Nature is significant in our lives and gives us a deeper connection with the world; the lack of this connection is detrimental to people's wellbeing.

In cities, there can be a huge disconnect, particularly for people of colour. "Wild in the City" promotes wellbeing of urban residents through connection to nature, offers a range of bushcraft and wellbeing activities to children, adults and businesses in London's green spaces and works to establish and nurture a greater connection, building a community of people who gather in nature for fun, to learn and feel good.

Roga: The first Schools Climate Strike took place in February and was the first such action focussed on young people, giving them a sense of empowerment not previously experienced. The movement is proud of the fact that it has no leadership structure or hierarchy. The next action is on Friday 24 May.

Drastic on Plastic

The need to phase out plastic pollution is evident and there is increasing awareness generally. Plastic free shops are popping up, and Chester was cited for various initiatives. In Rochester there was a litter pick along

five miles of riverbank and they analysed where the litter had come from. Plastic packaging can be sent back to manufacturers, using their Freepost address.

The switch to compostable bags, whilst welcome, does not totally solve all problems as not everyone has a compost heap or food waste collection, and not all local authorities can deal with them, so they can end up not composted.

The emphasis should once again be on "Refuse, Reduce, Reuse". Plastic Free Hackney has made great strides with five refill shops in Hackney. See their Facebook page, also Friends of the Earth's plastics Facebook group. Surfers against Sewage, once a single issue campaign group, has now turned its attention to the plastics threat.

For Zero Waste/No Plastics shops throughout the UK visit <https://thezerowaster.com/zero-waste-near-you/>

Miller's Mutterings – *continued from page 9*

Hopefully more will arrive shortly. Deer, rabbits and partridge have been seen in the fields and we heard a tawny owl last night which is always a delight.

Not sure where the frogs have laid their spawn but here is a weather saying for May which I hope doesn't come true

Thunder in April, floods in May

The 5G Threat – Sheila Brown

Scientists across the world are warning that the new 5G Wireless Network Technology, which involves short-wave length millimetre waves (extremely high frequencies producing photons several orders of magnitude greater energy than 4G and WiFi) which will be beamed in pulsed form from close proximity, such as lamp posts, often at body height.

This is likely to cause significant health issues, with unknown long-term effects, especially for pregnant mothers, the unborn, the young and the elderly. In addition, many warn that it will be hugely harmful to wildlife, in particular birds and bees.

This new and unprecedented technology could be rolled out without independent, strategic, broad spectrum health or environmental risk assessments, required by law before people are exposed to untested new technology.

Damaging effects include

- Various neurological/neuropsychiatric effects, including changes in brain structure and function, changes in various types of psychological responses and changes in behaviour.
- At least eight different endocrine (hormonal) effects.
- Cardiac effects influencing the electrical control of the heart, including changes in ECGs, producing arrhythmias, changes that can be life threatening.

- Chromosome breaks and other changes in chromosome structure.
- Histological changes in the testes.
- Cell death (what is now called apoptosis, a process important in neurodegenerative diseases) .
- Lowered male fertility including lowered sperm quality and function and also lowered female fertility
- Oxidative stress.
- Changes in calcium fluxes and calcium signalling.
- Cellular DNA damage including single strand breaks and double strand breaks in cellular DNA and also 8-OHdG in cellular DNA.
- Cancer which is likely to involve these DNA changes but also increased rates of tumour promotion-like events.
- Therapeutic effects including stimulation of bone growth.
- Cataract formation, previously thought to be thermal, now known not to be.
- Breakdown of the blood-brain barrier.
- Melatonin depletion and sleep disruption.
- Interruption of the Magnetic Compass which aids orientation of birds, insects, spiders and mammals
- Disruption of plant metabolism

Wireless is the New Tobacco and the sooner we wake up to it the better. Fibre Optics is far safer, more reliable and more effective.

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Bromley Living Streets – free event on Monday 3rd June

Bromley Living Streets (BLS) is the local branch of the national charity '[Living Streets](#)'. BLS promotes walking and campaigns for safer, quieter, low-traffic neighbourhoods. BLS is hosting a **free** event in **Bromley Central Library on Monday 3rd June, 7-9pm**.

The event is for: health professionals; teachers; parents; PTA's; residents and anyone else interested / concerned about children's health, speeding traffic, congestion, air pollution and the local environment. More information and to register visit [Eventbrite](#).

Here's some of the info from the Eventbrite page:

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods can help

Improve Children's Health - cut car journeys, reduce air pollution & traffic 'idling' outside school gates, tackle obesity, asthma and create Healthier Communities throughout our Borough.

Residents to enjoy our Streets - allowing you to drive in and out of your neighbourhood but stop rat running and cut down on speed. By including "School Streets", traffic around schools can be reduced and make the area safer and quieter. Encourage walking and promote the growth of local shops.

Make Bromley 'Clean & Green' again - be a cost-effective way of meeting government & TFL targets, Develop businesses in secondary Shopping Centres & Gain support for an improved local environment. Meet

Zero KSI Targets & Support LIP Bids for Liveable Neighbourhoods.

Speakers

- Introduction - Dr Brendan Donegan (Chair of Bromley Living Streets)
- Cllr Will Harmer & Alexander Baldwin-Smith (Bromley Council) - current policy in Bromley Borough
- Catherine Maguire (Clean Air Parents Network) - air pollution and the adverse effects on children
- Jeremy Leach (Living Streets London) - School Roads & Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- Annie Miller (Sustrans) Shortlands Liveable Neighbourhood - an update

For even more info please email: Bromleygroup@livingstreets.org.uk

London National Park City – cont'd

What happens in cities has a very real bearing on people's lives and on our global environment. How cities are planned, maintained and operated matters both to their residents and for how cities can help make life on earth viable.

The National Park City idea and movement is thinking at that level as well as how to green our city for everyone's benefit.

CPRE London – threats to parks and green spaces in London

CPRE London is updating its map of threats to parks and green spaces in London.

Bromley Friends Forum have asked:

Please circulate this to all the groups? It would be really helpful for Alice (Head of Green Space Campaigns, CPRE London), she's got so much work on her plate already!

Also, it would make our lives easier, if it's at all possible, to include a postcode.

Threatened green spaces that have already been identified (from the local plan):

- Walden Woods (though I understand from Chislehurst Rec friends that all but a small part is relieved)
- land around Edgebury Lane Primary school, opposite Belmont Lane Open Space (a square has an education covenant but the rest is derelict?)
- land and path along the river bank behind Bromley Gym in St Pauls Cray

Just in case you're not aware, the problem in Bromley is that development on Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) or green space is getting through on appeal, because LBB cannot demonstrate that they are going to fulfil the 1400 new units a year they've been allocated.

This is making our green spaces an open goal for developers and speculation. Alice is hoping to compile a report that can then be used to try

and improve the council's (correct) identification of brownfield sites for this new allocation, and save both the town centre heritage / conservation area and the green belt from being trashed.

I urge our friends groups members to help identify threatened green space (i.e. green belt, urban open space, MOL etc). This would include sites that are deliberately allowed to become derelict in an attempt to circumvent planning restrictions.

Any help would be appreciated. Email either lfgngreenspaces@gmail.com or Alice at campaign@cprelondon.org.uk

5G Threat – *continued*

We must not let convenience or economy go before Public Health and Environment.

Our UK Government is the financial driving force behind 5G but neither they nor the industry have been able to categorically state it is a safe, time proven technology, nor have there been any consultations to ensure public consent.

It should focus on fibre-optic connections which are more effective and which do not pose a threat.

Bromley Council press release - dockless e-bike hire available here

Lime given approval to launch dockless e-bike trial in Bromley

Dockless electric-assisted bikes will soon be available to hire in the borough following an agreement between the council and Lime for a 12 month trial.

Following successful launches in Milton Keynes, Brent, Ealing and Islington, and close discussion with the council, Lime e-bikes will soon be distributed to key locations in the borough such as stations and town centres where they can be unlocked by using a smartphone app.

Due to the need for battery replenishment, bikes will be attended to on average every three days, and relocated when required. Lime have also agreed that any bikes causing an obstruction will be removed within two hours of reporting. A contact number and email address will be imprinted on each bike.

Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, Executive Councillor for Environment and Community Services, said: "This is yet another example of where technology is giving additional choice to the way we will soon be able to travel. It is a welcome addition to the travel options available to residents and visitors to the borough. Battery powered bikes are easy to use and have proved to be popular elsewhere and could help facilitate more people to take-up cycling too.

"We are grateful for Lime's professionalism in working closely with the council before launching their

scheme, which will ultimately provide flexible, healthy and emission free travel options for those who live, work and travel in and around the borough, without requiring any investment from the council."

Jaanaki Momaya, General Manager for Lime UK, said: "We're delighted to be working with Bromley Council to bring our dockless e-bikes to another London borough. Thousands of Londoners already regularly use our e-bikes to make zero-emission journeys in the capital – helping to improve air quality and tackle congestion. We look forward to serving the people of Bromley in the next few weeks."

The bikes are expected to be available from mid-May onwards with further information to be provided nearer the time.

London National Park City Talks and Fair 29 June 2019

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square

Building on the success of last year, we're organising another National Park City Fair along with some inspiring National Park City Talks at Conway Hall in Red Lion Square, Holborn.

• Speakers • Market stalls • Experiences • Art free • Free walks • Free maps • Free National Park City Maker guides • Volunteering • Art displays • Films • Picnics • Makers • Connect • Wilder • Greener • Healthier

<http://www.nationalparkcity.london/fair>

FoE - UK Overshoot day: resources used faster than they are replaced

17 May was UK Overshoot day, the day when the UK had used up all its natural resources for the year – overshooting what the earth can replenish by more than six months. Friends of the Earth warns that we must “think again about how we consume” as it outlines the solutions needed to push this date back.

A country’s overshoot day is when demand for ecological resources, like fish and forests, goes beyond what can be regenerated in that year.

For the UK, that day is today (17 May). It means that we are now in deficit because we consume more than the planet can provide and from today on, we have gone beyond what the planet can renew.

Aaron Kiely, Friends of the Earth climate campaigner, said:

“Earth’s resources are finite, and we are in a climate and environmental emergency. It’s past time to focus on what we, and government, can do to reverse climate chaos.

“Today is a warning about how wrong we are at the moment. We know what the solutions are so let’s grab the opportunity with both hands to reverse climate change while we still can.”

Friends of the Earth implores the UK government to adopt its Climate Action Plan by 2020, and:

- Aim for 100% clean energy
- Invest in green and affordable transport
- Double tree cover to tackle climate change and support nature
- Ban fracking and stop using dirty fuels
- Fund huge scale insulation and eco-heating schemes
- Stop backing harmful infrastructure – like airport expansion
- Pay our fair share to help vulnerable countries

Not all countries will have an overshoot day, but according to research, Kyrgyzstan’s is December 26, meaning that per capita, they are the most able to live within their ecological budget.

Aaron Kiely concluded:

“We have to think again about how we consume. Large-scale political intervention is desperately needed, but as individuals there’s things we can do too: we can stop buying stuff that we just don’t need, make things last, insulate our homes, and collectively stop digging ourselves into ecological debt.

“We need earth and UK overshoot day to be December 31 because we really do only have one planet.”

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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

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

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

Non-members' Section

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

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

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

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

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my 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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