

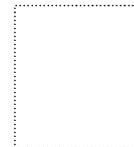


**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# March 2011 No. 279 Newsletter

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## March Meeting

Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

**If the CAP doesn't fit ...**  
*Fixing the Food Chain in Europe*

**Oliver Hayes from FoE's Food Campaign**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** - 7.30pm.  
Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by  
**SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**. Contact details inside front cover.

***Biggin Hill again – see page 5, also Jo Johnson's submission on page 10***

**Diary dates:****March 1<sup>st</sup> (Tue)****Bromley FoE's March meeting:** Fixing the Food Chain in Europe, with Oliver Hayes from Underwood Street**March 10<sup>th</sup> (Thurs)****Outing to Coolings Green and Pleasant** (see below)**March 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat)****Bromley FoE Campaign stall:** Bromley High Street, 2pm**April 5<sup>th</sup> (Tue)****Bromley FoE's April meeting:** Bob Francis, RSPB**May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tue)****Bromley FoE's May meeting:** Neville White, Amnesty Intl**Outing to Coolings Green and Pleasant, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March there is a visit to Coolings Green and Pleasant, Main Road, Knockholt with a tour starting at 11.00 am. The tour will last about an hour and a half. Cost £7.50 per person. Note: this is **not** Coolings Garden Centre, Rushmore Hill but is about 1½ miles further on.

Coolings Green and Pleasant is one of the greenest garden centres nationwide with many innovative ecological design features in its construction. The tour will also include the Nature Trail.

Meet 10.15 onwards for coffee for 11.00 start. Further details and a chance to sign up at the March meeting.

**Greater South East Regional Gathering – Ann Garrett**

I managed to attend the afternoon session of this conference on January 29th, which was useful for information, sharing ideas and networking. People told me that the lightning talks had been good: these included Marinets, Electricity Directives, Social Media, Fighting the Tescopoly, Communicating Climate Change and Local Group Revitalisation.

The main workshop I was involved in was 'How to successfully engage, include and work alongside more diverse people in your community'. We were challenged to think about how our groups can connect beyond the comfort zone. One of the people in our workshop group told us how his FoE group had made contact with a local mosque, and that Muslim support was now an on-going part of their campaigning.

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**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:**

**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

## February meeting report – Ann Clark

*John Boco* took us through the many technologies & research that is going on in sustaining our wonderful world, with slides from his various travels and experiences.

Climate Change being a major issue where no one is really taking it on board and even some scientists putting off the subject, international meetings are making slow progress.

Lionel Blue's "thought for the day" was to start the day with a smile, which was a good principle but "the Great One" will surely look down on the world in the future, where we will have all the machines and technology, but humans will have nothing but dissatisfaction and fighting to ease their frustrations! We have 9 billion people to feed somehow.

There are deserts: as in the centre of the Pacific Ocean where there are marine power stores; the ice-strewn ones of Greenland & Alaska; the sun-drenched plains of Almeria, where in this Spanish National Park, the "Sunseed Project" for desert reclamation is going ahead and huge sheets of plastic collect overnight moisture. But vegetation would shrivel if the climate gets hotter.

The huge cavernous underground workings of the Boundary Dam on Seattle's Pend Oreille river (which has a green bloom of algae upon it) has no problems, while the water is there! Research is also going into producing hydrogen from algae. The Culvin Sands, in Scotland, have been planted with Marram grass to stabilize the sand for growing trees etc.

Hopes were raised when there was to be a sustainable move at the new Thames Gateway estate, and at the old Battersea power station site, owned by the Chinese for the last 15 yrs. We will await the latest plans for luxury flats with gardens in the centre.

The BEECHE centre in our own High Elms woodland has gone some way to being self-sufficient with wood fired burners, straw bale walls, a green roof and grey water system, but could have been more educationally "hands-on" if not for health & safety issues.

Unfortunately, windmill energy still had continuity problems and legal issues.

We had an enthusiastic visit to the successful plastic bottle re-cycling plant near Dagenham, and much more needed to be done in re-cycling all plastics.

John took us to the suburban house (his own included) where adaptations could be made, i.e. garden collection for 'grey' water systems, solar panels, wall insulation --even if no cavity, loft insulation, under floor heating etc. There is also an adapted London Victorian house which is often open to interested parties.

We were shown a Swiss science museum which really was "hands on" in getting the public to take part and showing them for instance, how much energy was needed to make everyday power, by means of them pedalling a bicycle.

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### **A long, long road ahead**

Like it or not, the petrol-driven car will be around for a lot longer than environmentalists would prefer. So far the only game in town is to replace petrol guzzlers with electric cars and that, we are told, is a long way off, primarily because the current crop have a limited range of 100 miles or so.

As you might expect, car makers and retailers have not taken enthusiastically to promoting the electric vehicles currently available – it is the mass market they are interested in. So, where do we go from here?

We are about to see the debut of the long-awaited battery powered Nissan Leaf while Peugeot's iOn is being given trial runs. But these may be overtaken by plug-in hybrid vehicles from Toyota and Chevrolet that use some petrol to extend their range to hundreds of miles.

Sadly, it all sounds a long road before these cars reach mass market motorists.

### **Free parking for some**

The simplest ideas are often the best. The tiny principality of Monaco is particularly affected by road pollution and congestion but to counter this it now allows free parking for all electric cars.

Further along the coast, the city of Nice has expanded its very successful tram system and now offers a tram every three minutes in the rush hour, while the local county government is to

continue with its one euro fares policy for its bus network, claiming there are now 20 per cent fewer cars on the road since the experiment started three years ago.

Are there lessons for London here?

### **Make them pay!**

This could be a landmark year for those like Friends of the Earth who have been fighting rules that allow airlines to escape VAT on tickets, fuel and on purchases of new aircraft and also to reclaim VAT on goods and services, losing the Treasury £9 billion a year.

Not only is this unfair on the rest of British industry, but it makes no sense in giving money to one of the dirtiest and noisiest industries.

What might change are EU rules on VAT. The EU is currently reviewing its **VAT** directive and proposals on the table include imposing the tax on all air and sea travel. That could lead to a 20 per cent increase on all flights, ferry tickets and cruises. The consultation ends in May.

It is worth noting that no VAT is payable on bus or train tickets because the EU classes these as essential public transport for people to get to work, school etc. VAT is charged on petrol and diesel which are seen as more discretionary.

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## Why we object to Biggin Hill Airport expansion

Bromley FoE has sent this list of objections to an application by Biggin Hill Airport to extend its operations for a 73-day period around the Olympic Games period. Not only do we fear the usual environmental transgressions like noise and pollution, but we believe that changing the airport's lease now would create a dangerous precedent and lead to the easing of flying restrictions even further.

Information released after a Freedom of Information Act application shows that the airport and Bromley Council have already had talks to change the lease far more radically.

### **Text of the letter -**

I have been requested by the above group to register our objection to the application by Biggin Hill Airport Ltd to change the terms of the lease held by the company from the London Borough of Bromley.

### *Please note that:*

1. Bromley Friends of the Earth has, for nearly 40 years, strived to maintain this borough's 'clean and green' claim and we regard this application as a threat to that image. Additional flights would bring more noise, more air pollution, sleep deprivation for local residents and increased road congestion and safety worries (the airport has a chequered history when it comes to crashes and near-misses).

2. The application does not give the total number of extra flights, nor does it specify what aircraft types would be used, except that large jets would be involved. Given that the council does not monitor events at the airport there

is a danger that the terms of the lease covering permitted aircraft types could be infringed, to the detriment of residents.

3. The application gives no details of the extra financial gain to the council in the airport collecting a 'tax' from fare-paying passengers – exactly who will pay, who will verify the amount etc. The council would be reliant on the airport for the information.

4. The request for longer operating hours would entail the airport opening as early at 5.30 am and closing as late at nearly midnight seven days a week. This is unfair to residents and may have an impact on health, according to EU research. Note that official figures (Pooleys Guide) show that Biggin Hill already has superior operating hours to all but five similar airports in Britain. Again, the council does not monitor the airport's activities to check if operating hours are being obeyed.

5. We believe that the council alone under the lease has the power to permit fare-paying passenger flights. The phrase permission 'will not be unreasonably withheld' as used elsewhere in the lease, does not apply to this part of it. To vary the lease -- as approved by the High Court – to allow individual fare-paying passengers even for a temporary period would create a dangerous precedent.

This application is light on facts and heavy on dangers; it would be foolish for councillors to accept it as it stands.

*/continued on page 7*

## Campaigns info – Ann Garrett

### **March 19th - next Bromley High Street Stall**

Many thanks to all who already offered their support for this. We should be receiving recycling campaign materials soon as it will be a national FoE day of action. The stall is from 2.00 - 4.00 pm outside Caffe Nero or in the Mall precinct if it rains.

### **Environmentalists concern re BP plans**

The Arctic is to become 'a new battleground' campaigners have warned after BP announced plans in January to drill for oil there. This has been expected for some time, but they are now determined to go ahead and set up rigs in an area of great biodiversity and treacherous weather conditions. The Arctic region is one of the few remaining havens for polar bears, walruses, and beluga whales.

The decision has been bitterly opposed by FoE, Greenpeace and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

After the Deep Water Horizon oil spill there are great worries that BP has the equipment and competence to carry out their plans successfully and there will always be a danger of pollution.

BP is also pressing ahead with its joint venture partner Husky Energy in a \$2.5bn project in Alberta Canada. This involves extracting oil from tar sands, a difficult operation that releases high volumes of greenhouse gases.

Greenpeace will be campaigning heavily on exploitation of the Arctic this year.

### **Nuke plants built without permits**

A new alliance of anti-nuclear power campaigners has claimed that work has already begun on two new power stations before permission to build has been granted. Communities Opposed to New Nuclear Power Development (Conned) brings together groups around seven sites earmarked for possible development. Their aims are to raise public awareness about the consequences to health, the environment, safety and security of potential new nuclear power developments, as well as supporting an alternative energy strategy.

The group has accused the nuclear industry of jumping the gun by commencing site preparations at Hinckley Point and Sizewell. The EdF company, for example, have issued a statement saying that they plan to be environmentally and socially responsible at Sizewell, and that nuclear power development will bring new jobs. On the other hand critics are saying that the energy companies won't have enough money to finance what they say will be expensive white elephants, and that local countrysides will have been trashed in vain.

### **UK joins gas rush**

A controversial new technique for drilling gas wells, which campaigners say has polluted water courses in the US, is to be tried for the first time in the UK.

Supporters of hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking' say it could unleash so much gas across the globe, that it will solve

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## Continuations

### **South East regional gathering** (*from page 2*)

We then had to select a possible group e.g. the WI, and think about how our own local FoE organisation engages with people in their community through deciding on objectives, showing an interest in their activities and finally building relationship strategies.

It would be interesting to hear members how successful you think we are in Bromley in connecting with the wider community, and whether this is something that we need to discuss in the future.

The gathering ended with a moving solidarity action when we all posed for a photo holding up letters as part of a statement to be sent to Paraguay to support the family of Silvino Talavera and call for justice. Eleven year old Silvino died as a result of pesticide spraying on a monoculture soy plantation while cycling home. The soy producers have been found guilty, but eight years on have neither been imprisoned nor paid their fines.

### **February report** (*from page 3*)

We were taken in slides to an ultra modern cheese factory and, in Africa, to a hospital incorporating the very basic ways and materials with modern medicine.

John concluded that although we don't know it, sustainable technology and research is going on quietly and let's hope that the latest interested party, China, gets on board to finance things here.

### **Transport info** (*from page 4*)

#### **Are you safe?**

London City Airport, another of our 'local' airports, has won a victory over the green lobby to allow a doubling of its flights. But it is not having it all its own way because the CAA is now considering extending the airport's Public Safety Zone which will affect future housing and other developments, including forcing London City to buy up some properties at great cost.

Our very local airport, at Biggin Hill, might just keep that in mind if it continues to push forward its expansion plans.

### **Biggin Hill objection** (*from page 5*)

Overall, we see the airport management company taking all the gains from extra revenue etc while the residents take all the pain. We, the residents, own this airport and we demand that councillors, our representatives, listen to our arguments and reject the application.

**Thank you if you sent the council a personal objection letter.** Officers will now compile a report on the consultation for presentation in the next week or so to a committee or the full council.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It may be necessary at short notice to call upon BFoE members to fill the public gallery when the council debates the issue. A note will be sent by email or you will be contacted by phone.

## All Around my Patch – A local snapshot of Tubbenden

**Judy Palmer writes:** A couple of months ago Michael Payne put some suggestions forward on thoughts and articles for our **local** newsletter and I suggested members may like to write about the area in which they live. This could demonstrate how easy, or difficult, it can be to be socially sustainable. So here is a snapshot of the Tubbenden area of Orpington.

The disruption caused by the snow at the end of last year demonstrated how much we rely on travelling away from our local area for work, food and social enjoyment. Orpington did provide an integrated sustainable lifestyle and still does to a small degree.

Tubbenden Lane links Station Road, Orpington and the A21 roughly running north to south and in places is only narrow enough for two cars to pass quite closely, really living up to its name as a Lane. It is also part of a bus route which takes you either to Locks Bottom, and the Princess Royal hospital, or down to the High Street and onwards to Sidcup. And just around the corner is Orpington BR station, and the main bus routes, so we are accessible to public transport.

The Lane has numerous roads spiralling away from it on either side. Historically it has been a 'dene' (Tubbenden), where pigs roamed and where there were farmland and orchards.

The orchards live on in the many apple trees you can find in back gardens. There was a farm shop just over in Farnborough Village but that sadly

disappeared and the land built over. There is also a 'way marker' set back from the road showing the distance to London Bridge.

There are small pockets of shops to be found. There is a sub Post Office in a one-stop shop with a newsagent, baguette bar, hairdresser, alternative remedy centre and picture framer in one road.

Slightly away from the Lane is an even larger 'small village' called the Crescent which provides a much wider range of businesses. It even boasts a bakers which bakes proper bread on the premises, a rarity these days (and the bread is good!) and a greengrocer (that's good too!). There used to be a butcher, but sadly no more.

Public green spaces are catered for too, in just this area. There are two parks, one to the east and one to the west of the Lane. One of them is large enough to host Saturday morning football for the local junior sides and this is bordered by a hill used for sledging in snowy times which is topped by one side of Darrick Wood. This is quite a long circular walk, but does provide the contrast of scrub land and a wood in a built up area.

You can find schools, all three ages, the Maxwell Arms pub, two near-by churches, plus dentists and doctors in this one area of Orpington, without even venturing down to the High Street. All resulting in a nearly sustainable lifestyle!

## Friends of the Earth on the Localism Bill

The Government's Decentralisation and Localism Bill is set to radically change the planning framework for local communities. Under its Big Society agenda the Government plans to empower local people to make decisions in their local area. What it fails to mention is that local democracy and action to tackle climate change will be undermined by the Bill.

**Costs:** The new neighbourhood planning system will need to be paid for by communities out of their own pocket. Not all communities may be able to afford a neighbourhood plan.

**Climate change:** The Bill does not give clear guidelines for sustainable development - failing to promote a low-carbon future.

**Shifting power:** Neighbourhood plans will now be examined by an independent person and no longer involve the local council or Planning Inspectorate.

**Weaker voice:** People will no longer have the right to be heard in person at any inquiry on a neighbourhood plan.

*Friends of the Earth will be working hard to amend the Bill to ensure we have a fair and green planning system in England.*

**Communities to pay:** The Bill introduces the welcome concept of Neighbourhood and creates a new community planning system which would be paid for by communities.

*Comment:* The cost burden of these plans is proposed to fall on local

communities. Charging in this way potentially restricts Neighbourhood Planning to those communities most able to afford to plan. This raises concerns of creating a new planning system which is not equally accessible to all communities unless they can afford to pay for qualified, impartial and reliable advice.

**Removing the need for permission:** Community plans will become Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) removing the need for planning permission if the application is in line with the Orders. Developers would be required to carry out pre-application consultation.

*Comment:* This could remove people's opportunity to comment on planning applications, and democratic accountability for decision-making on these applications, other than through consultations run by developers themselves.

**Presumption in favour of 'sustainable' development:**

In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan, where a community decides not to draft one (or cannot afford to) the Bill creates a presumption in favour of 'sustainable' development.

*Comment:* 'Sustainable' development is not defined on the face of the Bill although there is an established definition in the UK SD Strategy. This could leave the door open for developers to bring forward inappropriate schemes inconsistent with efforts to develop in truly sustainable ways.

*/continued on page 11*

**Biggin Hill Airport –  
Submission from Jo Johnson, Member of Parliament for Orpington**

*Editor's note – This was received after the newsletter had been compiled and sent to Dan for printing. The only way to include it in the time available was to omit two of the sections and the introductory sentence.*

As the Member of Parliament for Orpington, I have no direct role in this matter, but on behalf of my constituents, many of whom have contacted me in relation to the consultation, I would like to make the following points:

- I am proud that Biggin Hill wants to contribute to the Olympic effort and to play its part in an important event in our nation's history. To the extent that it can take advantage of the commercial opportunities presented by the Olympics within the scope of the existing lease, I am highly supportive of it doing so. I am, however, strongly opposed to any temporary changes to the lease that could at a later date be construed to have set a precedent justifying wider variations to the lease.

- Under the terms of the Lease, which were determined by the Appeal Court in 2002 at considerable expense to Bromley taxpayers, the running of scheduled services and transportation of individual fare paying passengers requires the explicit permission of the landlord. I fear that if the prohibition on fare-paying passengers is lifted, even temporarily, Bromley Council will be running a grave risk of undermining a fundamentally important point of principle.

- This could potentially pave the way for further legal challenges by BHAL in favour of continued use by scheduled services and fare paying passengers, compounding residents' fears that the airport will develop into another Luton. The proposed quid pro quo - a passenger tax and reduction in the number of permitted movements from 125,000 to 80,000 - would not prevent a potential shift in the mix of flights away from hobbyists and small aircraft towards larger, and probably noisier, planes.

- Such a transformation would in my view be undesirable. I believe it is preferable for the airport to develop organically as a business and executive airport with major capabilities in service and maintenance facilities for this market, capitalizing on its existing reputation as a centre of excellence for aviation services. It is inappropriate, given the population density of areas under the flightpath and the limitations of local infrastructure, for BHAL to seek become a major passenger airport.

Biggin Hill airport has been around almost since the dawn of aviation, played a historic role in the Second World War and has an important part to play in the local economy in the years ahead. To fulfil its potential, it needs to co-exist in harmony with the large residential communities (not to mention local businesses and hospitals) that lie nearby. I therefore urge the Council to give the views of my constituents, particularly those under the flightpath in the Petts Wood and Farnborough & Crofton wards, the greatest possible weight in its deliberations.

## CYW - MARINET – Campaigning for a sea change

2011 is a key year for MARINET — the network of local groups working on marine issues. It is campaigning for fundamental reform on how our seas are managed, and they need your group to join in too.

A new MARINET publication, *The Ocean Planet*, explains the problems which face our seas. Over-fishing has severely damaged biodiversity throughout the whole marine ecosystem. And pollution in many different forms, such as oil, waste plastic and hazardous chemicals, remains a serious threat.

Contact MARINET to request a copy of *The Ocean Planet*, or download at [www.marinet.org.uk/mreserves.html](http://www.marinet.org.uk/mreserves.html)

### Fighting up stream

MARINET is running two national campaigns aimed at addressing over-

fishing and pollution. The first involves lobbying MEPs to secure reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. This aims to ensure that the size of our fish stocks is restored to historic levels.

The second campaign aims to amend the 2009 UK Marine Act so that it has the power to create marine reserves which protect the whole marine ecosystem within their boundaries, rather than just specific habitats and species.

Both campaigns, if successful, will be major catalysts for positive change to how we manage our seas. And both are designed for local group participation, regardless of prior experience.

Contact [stephen@marinet.org.uk](mailto:stephen@marinet.org.uk) to get you and your group involved, or to find out more information visit [www.marinet.org.uk](http://www.marinet.org.uk).

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### Campaigns info (continued)

the energy crisis for the next century as well as reduce emissions.

Campaigners have warned, however, that not enough is known about the potential adverse effects of the process in terms of public safety and the impact on the countryside. One of the sites is near Blackpool, and the Green Party there have called for an immediate moratorium on drilling and further work.

FoE are also challenging the safety of the excavation of shale gas, but along with Greenpeace say it could bridge the gap between coal and the development of renewable energy resources.

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### FoE on the Localism Bill (cont'd)

#### Larger than local matters:

The demise of the regional tier of planning makes it more important for the bill to set out how local action on planning will also ensure action on 'larger than local' commitments such as reducing carbon in line with science, restoring our natural environment and boosting renewable energy.

*Comment:* The Bill falls short on tackling those issues which rely on local action but which cannot be dealt solely locally.

## The Olympics and their effect on Greenwich

*This is an extract from a much longer letter sent by a local resident to Nick Raynsford recently.*

At a local meeting with Detective Chief Superintendent Alaric Bonthron, local residents and businesses heard some of the detailed thinking of the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police about the Greenwich Park Equestrian Olympics.

Most of the discussion related to the month of the Olympics itself, when Greenwich Park and parts of surrounding streets will be a total exclusion zone. We learned that security in Greenwich Park and parts of Greenwich Town Centre will be contracted out to private firms employed by LOCOG, and there will be airport-style body searches to get through various cordons and checkpoints, as well as daily security sweeps of local homes for explosive devices.

Besides CCTV, there will be long-distant helicopter surveillance, with evidence-gathering cameramen in the streets, since it is apparently easier to charge people with offences after the event, using photographic evidence. There will be fines of £200 for parking on the Olympic Network Routes (ONR) in Greenwich and Greenwich Town Centre, and all access to and from the streets adjoining the ONR will also be tightly controlled.

It was shocking to hear that Greenwich shops who try to benefit from the Olympics to the detriment of the corporate Olympic sponsors could be fined as much as £30,000. Section 19

of the Olympics Act prevents all outdoor trading on the various routes to Greenwich Park, and it is apparently likely that Greenwich Market and some pubs will have to be closed, as well as other shop windows being covered over if businesses are not to be sued for taking trade from the Olympic sponsors.

The Met anticipate that visitors will be stewarded directly to and from the venue when they arrive at the DLR and mainline stations, and they will be discouraged from straying into shops.

All budgets are being squeezed including the Olympics, and it emerged that LOCOG private contractors will be in charge of security and perimeter fence patrols for Greenwich Park, and that they will sign off the safety certificate.

They will not be supervised by the Metropolitan Police, who will only be in an advisory role, apart from certain specialist capabilities such as conducting security sweeps for explosive devices with the army and with dogs.

It is anticipated that 6 million extra visitors will be coming to London, and DCS Bonthron warned about severe traffic and transport disruption. Commuters are already being advised to allow an hour to get on the train and underground services, and this may prove an underestimate when proper computer modelling is finally carried out for the traffic and transport impact on Greenwich.

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## The Olympics and Greenwich (cont'd) +++ Help Save the Bees

Both directions of the Blackwall Tunnel are now classified as part of the Olympic Route Network, so that the Tunnel can be totally closed off to non-Olympic traffic. The Metropolitan Police has to work with the reality that a single hoax phone call can halt the 2,500 cars of the Olympic VIP fleet on the Olympic Network Route. There is a legally enforceable requirement that the police should give these Olympic cars priority use of the Alternative Olympic Route Network if the Core Route is blocked.

When you look at the map of all these different routes, it is hard to see how road closures on this scale to normal traffic do not have the potential to be intolerably disruptive to Greenwich Town Centre and the surrounding area. For instance, how can there be any workable contingency plans for the 2-way closure of the Blackwall Tunnel to normal traffic for prolonged periods?

From this three-hour meeting, it has become quite apparent that the residents and small businesses around Greenwich Park are facing an unwelcome high risk security threat, combined with a severe reduction of freedom of movement, and a loss of income for businesses, unless the Olympic equestrian event is now moved to Windsor or elsewhere.

Does any good reason remain why Greenwich Town Centre really has to undergo intrusive security, loss of personal freedoms, and the probable business failure of small shops, quite apart from all the other serious damage to Greenwich Park and loss of amenity for those who use it?



### Help save the bees please!

*Judy Palmer*

The plight of the British bee has been well documented over the past three years and Rowse Honey is investing money to help save them.

They have created some TV adverts from now until the end of March and are asking viewers to vote for their favourite and for every vote registered they will donate 50p to the British Beekeepers' Association up to £100,000. You can do this on [www.facebook.com/rowsehoney](http://www.facebook.com/rowsehoney).

A couple of points worth remembering about our humble bee:

- Most fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds, crops used as cattle and pig feed and the cotton plant all depend on bee pollination
- A honeybee flaps its wings about 230 times a second.

In the average back garden bees like fruit trees, crocuses, poppies, comfrey, pea crops, thyme, geranium, buddleia, lavender, rosemary and salvia for pollination, and piles of sticks or leaves for a home, or possibly a teapot filled with dry moss or grass buried in the soil with the spout visible. Just a couple of points we could do to aid their survival this year.

## FoE Europe - No bright ideas at EU energy summit

European Heads of State met recently in Brussels for a special energy summit. Priority subjects on the agenda were energy efficiency, security of imports and an integrated internal energy market.

Friends of the Earth Europe is calling for a binding target to drive down Europe's energy consumption. Without stronger action the environmental group is concerned that energy savings will remain a voluntary policy that European countries have largely ignored.

Brook Riley, climate justice and energy campaigner with Friends of the Earth Europe stated: "Heads of State today faced up to the fact that Europe is not on track to meet its target for reducing energy use by 20% by 2020 but they stopped short of recommending binding legislation - this is a mistake. The cheapest, cleanest and most secure energy is that which a country doesn't need and the first priority should be to make the EU's 2020 energy savings target mandatory.

"A binding target for energy savings would contribute to solving the climate crisis, reduce household bills by up to 1000 Euros every year, and create millions of green jobs."

During the last revision of the summit conclusions, a reference was added to controversial shale gas exploration within the Europe.

Darek Urbaniak, extractive industries campaigner with Friends of the Earth Europe said: "The European Union's decision to assess the potential of

unconventional fossil fuel sources within Europe, notably shale gas, is the wrong way to address import dependency. Shale gas poses unacceptable risks to the local environment and will lock us in to the continued use of fossil fuels. A binding energy savings target is the best way of ensuring energy security."

Meeting the EU's current 20% energy efficiency target for 2020 would cut CO2 emissions by 800 million tonnes, create up to a million new jobs, slash dependence on energy imports, save over €1000 per year per household, and avoid the construction of about 1000 coal power plants.

Friends of the Earth Europe staged an action outside the meeting to call on EU leaders to adopt a binding energy savings target. Campaigners representing Herman van Rompuy, Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy re-created the Archimedes' 'Eureka moment'. Herman Van Rompuy, naked in a bath, had the bright idea of energy savings.

Friends of the Earth groups around Europe have launched a campaign to call for a binding European energy saving target, and strong and social policies at the local and national level to ensure that every country contributes to saving energy.



## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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### Secretary:

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vacant

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### Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

### Campaigns –

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### Bromley FoE web site:

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Peter Gandolfi  
*famgando@hotmail.com*

### 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.

### Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

**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!

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**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.

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**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](mailto: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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