



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**



March 2015

No. 327

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

March Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Film – BLACK GOLD + Traidcraft stall

**To mark Fairtrade Fortnight,
we are showing the film Black Gold**

Tuesday 3rd March – 7.20pm for prompt 7.30 start

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

In this Issue:

Diary Dates	2	FoE Community News	8,9
March mtg	2	FoE Business Plan	10,11
Nature update	2	FoE – Road to Paris	12,13
Andy Atkins	3,7	ReUser Item	13
February mtg report	4,5	FoE – Run on Sun	14
Marinet news	6	Bromley Contacts	15
Climate and Energy	7	Non-members section	16

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 22ND MARCH*****

Contact details inside front cover.

March meeting – Please take your seats before 7.30pm

Diary dates:

Feb 23 – Mar 8
Mar 3rd (Tues)

Fairtrade Fortnight 2015

Bromley FoE's March meeting: Film Black Gold and Traidcraft Fairtrade stall. 7.20pm for prompt 7.30 start.

Mar 21st (Sat)
Apr 7th (Tues)

Campaign stall, The Mall, Bromley, 2.30-4.30pm

May 2nd (Sat)

Bromley FoE's April meeting

Bill Priestley's Open Garden: Come along to Bill's house in Petts Wood and enjoy homemade cakes and teas. Plenty of plants to buy. 2.30pm to 5pm.

June 12-14

FoE's BASECAMP at Castleton, Derbyshire

March meeting – 7.20pm for prompt 7.30 start

To mark Fairtrade Fortnight, we are showing the film Black Gold (74 minutes). As westerners revel in designer lattes and cappuccinos, impoverished Ethiopian coffee growers suffer the bitter taste of injustice. In this eye-opening expose of the multi-billion dollar industry, Black Gold traces one man's fight for a fair price.

Please note that we will be starting promptly at 7.30pm

NATURE UPDATE, Judy Palmer

We have had a good uptake to our request for a proposed site for our third Bee World, and will follow up on the suggestions as to the suitability of the sites.

We are exploring the possibility of a venue for the group's proposed Beach party this year and will hopefully have more news next month.

Our Bee World at Tugmutton is looking very dormant at the moment, as you would expect! It was great to see though, on a recent visit to the site, that the Friends group have had the long awaited pedestrian bridge erected across the brook which borders the meadow area. Pictures on our Facebook page should anyone wish to see.

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 22ND 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.

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

Friends of the Earth – News from Andy Atkins

I am writing to tell you that I will be stepping down as Executive Director of Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland this summer.

If you want to change the world, then leading a campaign organisation is hugely satisfying, a great privilege and often great fun. And so it has been to lead Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland since 2008. I decided when I took up this role that 6-8 years would probably be about right. In July I will have been at the helm for 7 years.

In that time we will have weathered the recession, won some great campaigns, and prepared for a major new push on the second half of our strategy. The country will have a new government. Put all that together and I have decided it is a good time to hand over to someone else to lead the organisation through the next phase of its development in a new political climate.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together in my years with Friends of the Earth, and I'll be taking away too many memories to list.

Some of my highlights will include:

Working with you, our network of local groups. Your dedication and power to create change is an inspiration.

The campaigns we've won together, including "The Bee Cause", which has persuaded the Government to introduce a rescue package for bees, and confirmed Friends of the Earth's commitment to nature; and a raft of

great campaigns on climate and energy, from winning the Climate Change Act, through feed-in-tariffs for renewables, and now the great Schools Run on Sun.

Overseeing the relocation of our London office to an award-winning new premises in Stockwell, helping to ensure we are equipped as an organisation to deliver what we know we need to.

My commitment to social justice and environment remains unchanged as does my commitment to Friends of the Earth, albeit in a different capacity as an individual supporter and activist, whose expanding ranks I will be proud to join. I am currently exploring various options for what I do next and will say more at an appropriate moment.

The Board will soon be starting the search for my replacement, to lead the implementation of the strategy into the next phase and will be encouraging applications from a broad and diverse range of backgrounds.

I'm sure many of you will have questions about what will happen next and how and when my replacement will be found. I look forward to being able to speak to as many of you personally as possible over the coming months, and to seeing as many of you as possible at Basecamp this June.

In the meantime we have set up some space for you to share any questions you may have. The first is the dedicated Strategy space on

/continued on page 7

February meeting report - Sheila Brown

Pressure group Campaign for Better Transport provided a speaker for our February meeting, covering the width and breadth of London's transport problems and what to do about them. Andrew Bosi, CBT's London chair, spoke about the challenges facing road, rail, underground and also the growing amount of cycling in the capital.

CBT has the ear of Ministers and senior civil servants and is widely consulted on transport policy, offering sustainable solutions to policy-makers.

Apparently there is tension between London and the rest of the country where there is the perception that London gets a greater share of resources. Leading up to 1979, London had been facing the scenario of planned motorways on stilts.

In 1981 Ken Livingstone introduced the 'Fares Fair' policy, reducing London Transport fares by 32%. This did not go down well with our local Bromley Council who took the GLC to court saying that with no Underground stations in the Borough, why should Bromley taxpayers subsidise this?

They won, and the scheme was suspended. Ken Livingstone then introduced a modified version but this resulted in the length of some bus routes being curtailed so that it was no longer possible to travel vast distances from beyond one side of London to the other.

Andrew said that in the 1980s the road lobby ground to a halt. In 1989 Cecil Parkinson, then Conservative Minister

of Transport, secured go-ahead for the Crossrail route (this had been first mooted in 1901!). In 1983 London was experiencing a population trough, which has since been reversed. At that time a lot of jobs were being moved out of London with varying degrees of success (some people having to come back to London several times a week for meetings).

In the current era of London Mayors, their focus tends to be only on 'growth' as the way forward. CBT wants to see the actual *need* for travel minimised with jobs being located where people live. Nowadays people on the whole travel twice as far to get to work.

CBT feels emphasis on 'growth', which so often equates with growth in housing, should be replaced by emphasis on public transport. Houses are built further and further out, necessitating more and more journeys. Houses in the centre are often unoccupied, so any housing target should be for number of *occupied* houses being built per year. We really do not have *space* within London to build more roads. When houses are knocked down to make way for a road, then what happens to the people who are displaced? They often have to move further away giving rise to additional journeys to work.

London Transport has achieved an increase in Tube use, but the railway companies encourage people to commute longer and longer distances.

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February meeting report - *continued*

Ten years ago, London Transport Users' Committee listed 25 small scale schemes, one of which was a station and rail interchange at Brixton Overground. [*Overground = TfL's Overground network.*] The lack of this prevents changing from mainline rail to the Overground.

In 1985 there was a policy to increase the fares in Zone 1. At that time there were Zones 1-6 and passengers could purchase a Travelcard for travel within all Zones. Andrew told us that the Travelcard for Zones 2-6 has been withdrawn resulting in the Zone 1 increase becoming applicable to all Zones. He stressed that the issue of fares definitely needs to be sorted out.

In this exercise, 108 interchange possibilities were identified; one at West Ham, one at Black Horse Road on the Victoria line with an interchange to the Barking – Gospel Oak line. If more interchanges were created this could significantly reduce commuter travel time and distance travelled.

In South London (not far from us) there has been much talk of possible changes, for instance, the Hayes line becoming part of an extended Bakerloo line and there has been consultation about this (with Bromley Council not being in favour).

Andrew felt that having trains going into London termini and then standing idle was not good, but that lines which went right across London were much better. Thameslink (which runs north to south) has been a huge success, as has the Manchester Tram (also north

to south) and Crossrail should also prove equally successful.

Andrew then took questions which included talk of giving a higher profile to Buses (2014 was 'The Year of the Bus' but this seemed to have had little impact.) A better Map of the Bus System was suggested as the bus seemed to be the poor relation. With such an extensive network, it would be difficult to simplify this as was done for the Tube map.

On the Mayor's plan for Cycle Superhighways Andrew said that there has already been an experimental scheme in Bow Road but extending this London-wide would throw up many problems. Since 2001 there had been a significant reduction in car usage; there was a massive and growing interest in cycling so everything needed to be done to make this safe.

Friends of the Earth was opposed to HS2. What was CBT's view? There was no agreed view but Andrew felt it would be better if it could go right through to Ebbsfleet or Southampton. He saw HS3 across the Pennines as being much more of a need to reduce journey times.

Friends of the Earth supports a Stratford to Leeds link for freight. Andrew agreed there were lines available that could be used.

Marinet - Governments take very cautious steps towards a UN Treaty News governing the High Seas

The Environmental News Service reports: Government representatives from around the world have agreed to develop the first legally-binding agreement to conserve marine life in the high seas and international seabed, an area covering roughly half the planet. Delegates reached consensus to begin negotiating a UN treaty that addresses the protection of marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction — the global ocean commons.

Marinet observes: Progress in the UN on a new implementing agreement relating to the High Seas and The UN Law of the Sea is good news. However, a reading of the discussions and what was actually agreed, see Earth Negotiations Bulletin report, puts a more sobering complexion on matters. The reality is that world governments are still a very long way from seeing protection of the world's marine resources as the default position, and are still focused first and foremost on their exploitation to their own national and commercial advantage.

Marinet takes a different, some would argue more radical, and we would argue a more common sense view of these matters. These are stated, and set out clearly and simply in Conserving The Great Blue which argues that the rapid deterioration of the world's seas calls for a breakthrough in our reasoning and a fundamental change in our behaviour.

Deborah Wright, author of Conserving The Great Blue, says: "The way in

which humankind despoils our watery world is depressing indeed. And even more depressing is the failure of governments to react. Those who we elect, who we empower and we pay for, are failing us and they are failing the natural world. They are allowing the cruel and unnecessary slaughter of millions of sea creatures and the ruin of undersea habitats.

Some governments are making the problem even worse by subsidizing unviable and damaging commercial fishing.

"Now let's imagine a different scenario. Let's imagine that we take the dominant paradigm of over-exploitation and turn it completely around. We reshape our thinking and begin with a very different perception of the natural world. Our respect for the sea and its wildlife becomes the norm, not the exception.

"The concept is simple. It is logical. It is achievable. The legal framework for it is already largely in place. And as with many of society's steps forward, it is essentially about ending what is wrong and replacing it with what is right.

"We invite you to help bring this proposal to fruition. The first step is to create a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) specifically for oceans. Take The TerraMar Project's Ocean Pledge to send a message to the UN urging them to properly protect the seas and oceans."

Climate and Energy – by a Special Correspondent

Bromley Campaign Stall

Just a reminder that the FoE Mall precinct stall is on March 21st from 2.30 - 4.00pm.near Argos. We will be joined by Bromley Against Fracking members. Many thanks to those of you who have agreed to support the stall. Tea in Nick's Cafe nearby afterwards !

Climate Change March

This is on March 7th. Assemble Lincolns Inn Fields near Temple at 12.00 midday and march to Parliament Green area for the rally of speeches and music. We will taking our banner to the rally, so hope to see some of the group there.

The demonstration is expected to attract up to 20,000 people, but The Campaign Against Climate Change says that it is effectively being made to 'pay to protest' as it will carry a bill of thousands of pounds to cover policing costs. The new ruling will apply to all demonstrations in future.

The Green, Green Gas of Global Warming

Climate change emissions from urban lawns and gardens is something US environmentalists say is something that is often neglected by scientists. The problem is that turf gardens are very refined and often use fertiliser, as opposed to lawns which have flowers and mosses.

The urban - type lawn doesn't absorb as much carbon dioxide as a more mixed lawn, and grass clippings it is advised should be used as the main form of nutrient. Manufactured fertiliser produces nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas about 300 times more

potent than carbon dioxide and uses a lot of energy to produce. Mowing less often is also a good idea.

Fracking Dangers from Radon

The process of fracking could bring radon gas into people's kitchens and provide a dangerous chemical hazard. Radon inhalation is the second biggest cause of lung cancer after smoking. James King a professor from Hamilton College in the USA has explained that "the radon and natural gas coming from the shale mix travel together as the gas is piped to customers".

Researchers have found higher levels of endocrine hormone- disrupting activity in water located near fracking wells than in areas without drilling.

Nuclear Waste Transportation

Activists have warned that trains carrying deadly nuclear waste are being driven over a badly maintained and ramshackle railway line in Cumbria to the re-processing plant at Sellafield. Residents who live near the line say the track has a history of accidents, including landslides onto the line. The section of single track runs through the community of Braystones close to people's homes.

News from Andy Atkins – cont'd

Campaign Hubs. This area is a private space (you will need to request access if you are not already a member) where you can post any questions you may have, and a member of Senior Management will respond. You'll also find an FAQ on the Hub that might answer some of the more common questions.

Friends of the Earth's Community News

Jenny Bates, FoE's Regional Campaigner for London, writes:

There's a possibility that things could get a lot brighter in London if plans for a Solar PV Delivery Unit get Mayoral backing. This is the idea of Green Party Assembly Member Jenny Jones, and it's supported by a London Assembly motion. This is greatly needed as figures from Friends of the Earth have helped Jenny Jones to show that 93% of London's schools are missing out on solar.

Rather worrying, however, is that London's new Economic strategy to 2036, prepared by McKinsey & Co for the London Local Enterprise Panel, is not what Friends of the Earth, or the Just Space Network, would have wanted.

On London's filthy air pollution front, the Mayor has finally launched his Breathe Better Together public awareness initiative. However, overall the Mayor is not doing nearly enough to tackle this killer issue. His Ultra Low-Emission Zone/ULEZ should help make London's vehicles cleaner but he's missing several tricks: the ULEZ must come in sooner and be stronger as well as bigger. 4 Boroughs (Camden, Hackney, Lambeth and Southwark) want to be included in it but are not!

Traffic levels also need to be cut, but Boris seems hell-bent on adding to it and so to air pollution with his plans for new road river crossings in East London, and the consideration of an expansion of City Airport (more on both those issues below).

East London road-building

Outdated and damaging plans for new roads across the Thames in East London are being considered. The House of Commons Transport Select Committee inquiry on strategic river crossings has received written evidence submitted by an expert who was part of the team working for objectors on the previously defeated Thames Gateway road bridge. Evidence has also been submitted by NoSilvertownTunnel campaigners.

City Airport and Heathrow

Newham has approved a planning application to expand East London's City Airport strongly opposed by local campaign group HacanEast. The West London campaign group Hacan is fighting 2 options for expanding Heathrow which, as well as one option at Gatwick, have been subject to consultation by the Airports Commission.

Friends of the Earth's presence at the Time to Act March

Following on from the tremendous success of the People's Climate March in September, on March 7 2015, the Time to Act on Climate Change march will bring people together again on the streets of London to demand real change and to tell politicians seeking election that there is no mandate for climate-wrecking business as usual.

To find out more about Friends of the Earth's presence at the march (meeting up in advance etc), keep an eye on our climate campaign facebook page.

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FoE Community News - *continued*

Youth and Education Network: an update from Carol and Bill

We would like to send out a big welcome from the coordination team to Laura Mason and Michelle Atkinson; we are really looking forward to working with you both.

Laura will be releasing a survey soon about the Network, asking how we can best help local groups approach schools / to work with children.

Michelle is going to be updating resources for local groups to take into schools and other under 18's groups. Both will be working on updating the Youth and Education Network website. Local groups - watch out for news on updated resources on Climate Change.

In other news, twenty schools within North Tyneside have signed up to receive the Bee Cause Assembly in the spring. Partnering with Friends of the Earth North Tyneside, the Network will also be assisting in the creation of a Bee World with children from Rockcliffe First School.?

Picture perfect

Critical Information Collective's new environmental and social justice photography competition is now open for entries!

CIC is a new campaign communications facility set up to support environmental and social justice campaigns and movements. This includes encouraging better use of powerful campaign images. As a result, they've launched an environmental and social justice image

library as well as the new photo competition.

Many organisations and activists already have great campaign photos, but they are often hidden away on computers; perhaps having been used once or twice for campaign materials. The image library and photo comp are your chance to share these images with the rest of the world.

Wellbeing workshops

Liverpool Friends of the Earth recently held a very successful wellbeing workshop, the first run by a local group. A diverse range of over 20 attendees, from a wide net of community projects and organisations, discussed how to improve the wellbeing of people in the city.

The results of this stimulating event include ideas for future actions, deeper connections and more joined up working within grass roots networks and sustainability groups. Liverpool FoE also recruited new members. Read more about the event in this inspiring blog.

There is widespread cynicism that the consumption based, growth focussed economic model is good for the planet or our wellbeing. Our economy needs different priorities. Our wellbeing workshops are an exciting and collaborative way of involving your community in creating a better future.

For more info, see our wellbeing webpage and position paper. If you're interested in running a workshop, contact becky.slater@foe.co.uk.

Friends of the Earth Business Plan 2015

The following summary outlines the key planned activities for 2014/15, within the context of the organisational strategy and priorities for 2014-2017.

Organisational Strategy, Goals & Priorities

In 2011, we launched our Strategy, "Sustainable Development in a time of Planetary Emergency". We clarified our vision to bring about **a new and positive relationship between people and the environment.**

We established 5 strategic goals which guide all our programmes and campaigns: By 2021, we will have achieved the following, primarily through focussing on the global leadership role for the UK and EU:

- We are winning the battle to stop dangerous climate change
- Nature is thriving again - in our world and in our lives
- New ways of living consume much less of our natural resources
- Taking action to improve our lives and protect our planet is a way of life for millions
- People's action in the UK is connected up to action all around the world

We have laid some strong foundations in the past three years. These include establishing long-term programmes behind our goals; launching major public facing campaigns around climate, nature and resource use with key political wins; rebranding; turning around the decline in our supporter numbers; building broader and unexpected alliances including businesses, NGOs and community

groups; refreshing our annual conference to become a much more inclusive annual activist event for the wider movement; creating a Campaign Organisers empowerment and training programme, launching a trial of community group affiliation, and moving our head office to specially and creatively refurbished premises to enhance both the speed at which we can work and our collaboration with the external world.

Over the next three years we will prioritise the following to advance us further towards our longer term goals:

- Maximising the impact of our programmes and campaigns
- Growing activism in communities - working with local groups while encouraging more people to take action with us in their communities
- Increasing the opportunities for people to get involved with our work
- Growing our resources and capacity (income, skills, networks), focussed on our goals

We have updated our assessment of strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats. We have a great advantage in our local to global reach, community of groups and networks, and the breadth of issues we cover. We also recognise the need to build public clarity about what we do, and improve our ability to deploy modern digital technology to best use in mobilising the public.

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FoE's Business Plan - *continued*

In 2014/15, we will be prioritising:

- preparing to launch a hugely ambitious new organisational goal to focus our impact and build our movement
- scaling up the impact of our community energy campaign, Run on Sun
- the next phase of the Bee Cause campaign
- testing new digital approaches to our work

Summary of 2014/15 Activities

This is a high-level overview of the key activities planned for 2014/15. Some have been omitted due to lack of space.

Climate & Energy Programme

- Major Campaign: Roll out Schools Run on Sun campaign
- Fracking, focus in Lancashire.
- Flood: A pre-planned "Rapid Response" to a major flood, if necessary
- Political work on UNFCCC: Ban Ki Moon Summit, Peru Cop, Big 7, Climate Coalition
- Beginning of Road to Paris COP 21 and beyond with a movement building strategy
- Cymru: Running a major strategic campaign: Achieving a moratorium on fracking in Wales and increasing our activity on community energy (including Run on Sun)
- Northern Ireland: Campaign against mining and fracking

Land Use, Food & Water Programme

- Sustainable Diets: Meat Free May, *Get Gobby* competition
- Corporate AGM actions on key land grabbing targets
- Research on UK land use

Nature & Ecosystems Programme

- Continuation of the Major Campaign: The Bee Cause
- Develop nature work with focus on increasing public engagement/connection
- Northern Ireland: Protecting important nature sites from exploitation

Environmental Justice

- Complete our Paraguay project, review it and learn from it
- Promotion of success/learning on Paraguay within political/development circles

Engagement Programme

- Continue to diversify and innovate within our fundraising, securing a major new sustainable income stream being a particular priority
- Continue efforts to treat our supporters in the round (i.e. to break down the separation of financial and activist supporters) through developing supporter journeys, increasing recruitment of supporters to our movement, while investing in better ways of keeping them
- Continuing to support the local groups' network and building further different ways for people to deliver activism in their own communities.

FoE on Climate change: The Road to Paris - and beyond

Dear Local Group Coordinators,

Hi, I'm Guy, climate campaigner at Friends of the Earth. I wanted to get in touch with you all to talk about our work this year towards the Paris climate talks in December, and beyond. Spoiler alert: if you want to cut to the chase, follow this link [here!](#)

But first, if I may, a bit about me – and about us. It was ten years ago this month that I went on my first climate change demonstration. It was a freezing cold February, like now, not a particularly auspicious time to be protesting about global warming. But whether it was the speakers or the discussions in the pub afterwards, something about the demo made me want to keep being involved.

That summer I went to the Make Poverty History march in Edinburgh, got radicalised in protests against the G8, and listened to George Monbiot give an electrifying speech about climate change. I was hooked. I was now part of the movement. I've been a part of it ever since.

So much has happened to our climate movement since then. We marched against new coal power stations and shut down Kingsnorth. We set up camp to stop the Third Runway at Heathrow. We wrote to our MPs in our thousands to demand a Climate Change Act, and won. We got depressed by the failure of the Copenhagen climate talks, raged against the rise of climate denial in the media, and wondered whether the world had left things too late to fix the problem.

And then, over the last couple of years, we've seen the rebirth of a vibrant climate movement: from the hundreds of anti-fracking groups that have become active around the country, to the Reclaim the Power camps, to the People's Climate March last September.

And we've seen that, despite a government that has singularly failed to be the "greenest ever", people are building the future we need already: from the 600,000 households who've installed solar in the past 5 years, to the tens of thousands of people taking up green jobs in the emerging renewable energy industries.

And that brings us to this year, and what the greatest movement-builder of the twentieth century called "the fierce urgency of now." 2014 was the hottest year in recorded history. In the UK, we suffered the wettest winter on record, and thousands of people were driven out of their homes by devastating floods. Sensible politicians would be moved by the science and the suffering, but we are not blessed with sensible politicians.

No, we need to force our political leaders to act – force them through demonstrating our collective power and the scale of the public mandate for action. The mercury is rising fast – so we have to make the movement to cool the planet rise up faster.

I joined Friends of the Earth because we have the greatest network of local groups and organisers in the country.

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FoE – The Road to Paris - *continued*

Over the past two years I've met many of you (though still not enough!), as we've talked together about flooding and fracking, solar and clean energy. Together, this year, we need to have a conversation with our communities. We need to turn everyone who is quietly concerned about climate change into an advocate for action. We need to turn out in our thousands at marches, sign petitions in our millions, and organise, organise, organise.

Why now? Yes, there are a set of climate talks at the end of this year in Paris, at which our political leaders are meant to agree a new global climate deal. They may. Or they may not. Even if they do, going on current form, it will fall far, far short of what's needed to keep global temperatures below safe levels.

But one thing's certain: we will not change this by going to the politicians with a begging bowl. We will change this by mobilising an unstoppable movement that presses, cajoles, forces them to act.

But for me, the real reason for the fierce urgency of now is not a set of rather obscure diplomatic talks. It is because mobilising movements unleashes changes we can never entirely predict. Until I went on that climate march ten years ago, I thought I might become an illustrator, or work in a university.

But joining the movement changed me. Instead, I've ended up dedicating my life to trying to protect our environment and the people who

depend on it. How many of us have been switched on to activism by these moments? Lots, I'll bet.

Imagine how many more will be changed if we organise this year. Let's inspire thousands, millions more to turn their silent support into political and community action. Some may march with us; others may make their first ever contact with their MP; still others may invest in a community energy project, hold a conversation with their neighbour, write to their local paper.

Right. I've gone on long enough – and thank you if you've read this far! I'd really love to have conversations with you all, throughout this year, as we organise, build momentum, and take action. For a first taster of the things already planned this year, follow this link

<https://www.foe.co.uk/page/connect-with-growing-climate-movement-10-dates-your-diary> . And if you'd like to speak more, please just get in touch (guy.shrubssole@foe.co.uk).

It's going to be an amazing year.

Re-User Item

Worried about the carbon footprint of your wine? Why not make your own local hedgerow wines.

Bill (now teetotal) has quite a lot of wine making equipment to distribute. Phone Bill on 01689 820469 if you or someone you know is interested.

FoE's Run on Sun campaign won by a Walthamstow school

Stoneydown Park Primary School, Walthamstow, is walking on sunshine after winning a national competition organised by environment charity Friends of the Earth to win free solar panels worth up to £15,000.

The London school came out top in a national poll, receiving over 7,500 votes, after being shortlisted along with five other schools as part of Friends of the Earth's Run on Sun campaign.

Schools which entered the competition were asked to submit creative entries made by pupils on the theme of 'the Sun'. The judges were particularly impressed with Stoneydown Park Primary School's video montage of solar powered inventions designed by children in years 3 and 6.

Their designs were produced in science lessons where children learned how solar power is generated. The accompanying song 'Beautiful flowers' was sung by their pupils and the pebble art was made by their eco art club.

Run on Sun was launched by Friends of the Earth last year to make it easier for schools to run on solar power. The campaign has been backed by a number of organisations and individuals, including players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Jayne Cominetti, Head Teacher of Stoneydown Park Primary School said: "I am absolutely thrilled that Stoneydown has won this fantastic competition to have solar panels at our school. We have had amazing support from children, staff, parents & many

people in the wider community which has been massively appreciated. This means a great deal for us as we are really committed to educating children about the environment so this will be a wonderful legacy for generations of Stoneydown children to come.

"Our entry truly reflects the work that goes on in our school, and the tremendous community spirit that surrounds us. So an enormous thanks to Friends of the Earth – this is a very exciting day, one of great joy and celebration, and we can't wait to get our solar panels installed."

Friends of the Earth's Executive Director Andy Atkins said: "Congratulations to Stoneydown Park Primary School, who are worthy winners of Friends of the Earth's Run on Sun competition and will be receiving free solar panels that will help them cut energy bills and tackle climate change.

"Friends of the Earth were overwhelmed by interest in this competition, with parents, teachers and children getting involved right across the nation. It just goes to confirm the very high level of public support there is to embrace the clean, green energy and say goodbye to dirty fossil fuels. It's high time for the Government and councils to acknowledge this passion, and make it much easier for all schools to finance and fit solar".

You can see the school's entry to the competition at:
<https://www.foe.co.uk/page/run-sun-competition-gallery>.

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vacant

Transport:

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

Climate and Energy:

vacant

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

Planning and development:

Mary Stirling
maryellenstirling@hotmail.co.uk

Campaigner:

Annette Rose
annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

Fracking / Clean British Energy

vacant

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 our co-ordinator Sheila Brown (01689-851605); Sheila's email address is on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

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

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group: 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.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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