



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**



March 2016

No. 339

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

March Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Davina Misroch

Davina will talk about the campaign to save
Bromley's Ethelbert Close
and the Site G Development Plans

Tuesday 1st March – 7.30pm

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 20th MARCH*****

Contact details inside front cover.

What's stirring down on the farm ?? See page 8

Diary dates:

Feb 29 onwards

Mar 1 (Tue)

Mar 9 (Wed)

Apr 5(Tue)

Apr 30 (Sat)

May 3 (Tue)

Jun 3/5

Jun 18 (Sat)

Fairtrade Fortnight - until March 13th

Bromley FoE's March Meeting: Davina Misroch (Ethelbert Road Action Group / Friends of Community G)

Friends of Jubilee Park AGM, 7.30pm – see below

Bromley FoE's April meeting: Ishpi Blatchley – Nature Conservator and Jan Wilson – Friends of Crofton Woods

Bill Priestley's Open Garden

Bromley FoE's May meeting: Asad Rehman, FoE's Senior International Campaigner on Climate Change

FoE's BASECAMP at Castleton, Derbyshire

Bromley FoE stall at Coolings, Knockholt, 10am-4pm

Friends of Jubilee Country Park AGM

Wednesday 9th March, 7.30pm

A short AGM followed by 'The First Twelve Months', a talk by Patrick Phillips, a senior executive of the Landscape Group (TLG).

By this time TLG will have been managing Jubilee Country Park on behalf of Bromley Council for nearly a year.

Councillor Colin Smith will also be present to give Bromley Council's view of the partnership.

Venue - The Scout Hut ,Homemead Road, BR2 8BB off Southborough Lane next to St. Augustines Church. Note change of usual venue for FoJCP.

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 20TH 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.

Fairtrade in Action — February meeting report - John and Sue Boccock

Our February meeting was a joint enterprise with Sevenoaks FOE whose coordinator John Bassendine introduced our two speakers. They were Laura Heinz from Divine Chocolate speaking about the cocoa farmers of Ghana, and Helen Long telling us about Liberation Foods and the Brazil nut Gatherers of the Amazon rain forest in Bolivia.

It is not every monthly FoE meeting which begins with goodies, in this case a chocolate bar and a packet of nuts, on every seat! But read on and all will be revealed.

Divine was the first Fair Trade food company, the public were becoming more aware of the ethics of the big companies and were beginning to ask more questions and wanting change. Previously the cocoa farmers of Ghana had been controlled by the government. In 1993 the farmers set up a cooperative.

It was to be democratic, transparent and fair, to be empowering and especially important, and to increase the participation of women. The farmers were having a say in how things were going to be done. They were now selling cocoa to the Body Shop, (for cocoa butter) and to other chocolate companies. In 1998 the first Divine Chocolate Bar came into being.

The co-operative currently has 85,000 members; this includes the farmers and their families who have achieved worldwide distribution. The mission of Divine Chocolate is "To delight and empower through chocolate."

It was at this point we were invited by our speaker to unwrap our individual chocolate samples and pop them in our mouths, savouring the quality and taste before eventually swallowing them. Laura then went on to explain how radio broadcasts had enabled farmers, especially those in more remote areas to keep in touch with one another and to compare notes.

In June 2015 literacy classes were provided for women; they were held three times weekly for two hours, thus giving six hours of tuition. This gave them a new confidence and representation. The children of the cocoa farmers were also involved, in a bamboo bike project; not only were they taught how to make the bikes but also how to maintain them. It was not only the producers that were empowered but also the consumers. Customer feedback was encouraged and acted on.

"Chocolate to cherish", a fine product. As Esther said, 'Chocolate is your pleasure, cocoa is my life'. Finally, Laura reminded us that no palm oil or soya had been used in the production of Divine Chocolate, only Fair Trade cocoa and that every cocoa bean had been handpicked.

Our second speaker was Helen Long from Liberation Foods. We were given a fascinating insight into the journey of a Brazil nut from rain forest to consumption.

/continued on next page

February meeting report – *continued*

The wild Brazil nut trees found in the remote regions of the Bolivian rain forest can grow up to fifty metres tall and can live for a thousand years, bearing fruit from around twelve years old. Helen showed us two coconut-like shells each containing about twenty five Brazil nuts. She then went on to describe the gathering of the nuts.

The farmers use large machetes to hack their way through the undergrowth. There are well worn paths underfoot which can change from day to day. Some gatherers will now use motorbikes to ferry the nuts to the collecting points, carefully navigating their way through the trees. Harvesting is done mainly between November and January, outside of the rainy season. A large mound of 'coconuts' collects at the foot of the tree. The farmers then set about releasing the seeds, the Brazil nuts, by breaking each fruit open and then tipping the nuts into large sacks.

The farmers will spend days, weeks, even months gathering nuts because they are the main source of income for the region. The Brazil nuts form the basis of the economy for most of the local people: it is thought that twenty two thousand jobs have been treated and approximately six thousand households depend on Brazil nut gathering as their main source of income. The farmers have formed themselves into a cooperative called COINACAPA and have used their premium to offset the impact of climate change by improving storage and transportation.

Climate change has exacerbated problems. In Bolivia, when a flood occurs it can cause power cuts, block roads and divert river channels. Liberation, as a Fair Trade company is able to make long term partnerships with suppliers and appreciates the operational difficulties: Fair Trade producers are paid in advance, enabling them to collect nuts before the weather becomes too bad.

In the rainy season road transport can become impossible as huge areas are flooded and everything turns to mud. Moving heavy weights of nuts to transport down the river becomes impossible.

These two inspiring talks emphasised the importance of our support for Fairtrade, both the organisation and its products.

Bromley's consultation on Local Green Space

Judy has received this from Bromley council - We are writing to you/your organisation because you have been identified as having a potential interest in Bromley's current consultation on Local Green Space due to your relationship with the local community.

Local Green Space is a new planning designation which will be included in Bromley's Local Plan and will provide additional protection to the 'unique and special qualities' of local green and or open areas which have successfully demonstrated their importance and significance to the local community they serve. */cont'd on page 14*

Transport info – Ray Watson

Electric transport moves ahead

It is still difficult to get motorists to move over to electric cars because of the inconvenience of re-charging the battery, even though more top-up sites are appearing. Indeed, registrations of electric vehicles have doubled in recent years and there are now over 40,000 electric cars on the roads. And manufacturers are adding them to their sales range, including BMW, Nissan and Renault. However, there may be speedier progress by electrifying commercial vehicles.

Buses, for instance, travel over short routes and are often idle in the middle of the day so re-charging can take place then. Also, super fast batteries are soon to be available.

Electric drive systems are more efficient than petrol or diesel and are certainly less harmful to the environment, especially in reducing diesel noise and smell. They also offer a smoother ride for passengers and reduce the number of tankers on the road delivering fuel.

These are good reasons to get the motorist out of his car. Will electric commercial vehicles win the race to cut the road pollution we are all contributing to?

A thought for Bromley?

Would you like a gift for walking rather than driving? You can if you live in Hounslow or Hackney via their BetterPoints scheme which rewards residents who walk, run or cycle. Points are recorded by a smart phone that measures activity. Garner 2000

points and you earn a voucher to spend in certain shops.

Could this be a trend? A suggestion from the GLA is to pay pedestrians not to use a car and instead walk or cycle. Perhaps Bromley Council might give a lead on this.

Rail companies ‘must do better’

A national survey of 28,000 rail passengers by watchdog Passenger Voice shows our local train companies well down the list when it comes to passenger satisfaction. One of the lowest scores (73 per cent) was by Thameslink compared with 97 percent by Hull. Southern achieved only 78 per cent and Southeastern 75 per cent.

The average across the whole country was 83 per cent, a slight increase over the previous survey. The figure among commuters was a low 76 per cent.

Passenger Voice chief executive Anthony Smith said: ‘Punctuality and crowding are the two factors that drive views of the railway. Improvements and investment mean that replacing and modernising is proving very painful. Add to this spiralling numbers of passengers means there is greater pressure on the network.’

He called on the Government, Network Rail and the train companies to rebuild trust in the South East by sticking to credible promises backed by sustainable performance. In a reference to deep-seated problems cause by the current rebuilding of London Bridge station, he added: ‘A freeze on fares for that area would be welcome.’

Campaigns, Climate and Energy – Ann Garrett

Campaigns

Many thanks to the people who have signed up for the Bromley Mall Precinct stall from 2.30 - 4.30 pm on March 19th. We will be joined by Bromley Against Fracking and will be promoting alternative 'Green' energies.

Climate and Energy

Nuclear Safety

The final decision on whether to build Britain's first nuclear power station for decades at Hinkley Point in Somerset is imminent. Serious flaws have been found in the pressure vessel of a similar EPR (European Pressurised Reactor) being built in Flamanville in France. The same fault - which could lead to a nuclear accident - has been detected in the vessels for Hinkley Point. Government ministers are torn in their opinions about whether to proceed.

Financing of the project is also being questioned by EDF Energy, the French energy giant, despite China's offer, and interestingly Austria is taking Britain to the European Court, alleging that it is subsidising the plant illegally. Some British experts believe that faced with these difficulties, the decision could well be deferred. The final cost would be £18 billion.

Cost of the Carbon Switch

Finance is again under question over the fact that the climate change agreement in Paris will have a dramatic effect on pension funds.

Britain's carbon polluters stand to lose billions of pounds from tough new climate targets and must come clean

with their shareholders about the financial crisis that lies ahead.

The legally-binding Paris agreement has large implications for pensioners who have billions invested in 'carbon intensive' companies. Again the Government is under pressure since Client Earth (the environmental law firm) forced it to take action to tackle air pollution, after taking it to the Supreme Court and winning.

The Legacy of the Nineties Eco - Protests

A 2006 study by the campaign to Protect Rural England said that the Newbury by-pass barely reduced traffic and caused more fatal accidents, and today some residents say traffic is no better than 20 years ago. The old road is apparently choked with nose-to-tail traffic. A 1999 government report said it had taken traffic away from the town centre.

Rebecca Lush, a protester who now runs the charitable arm of the Lush cosmetics company, has said that Newbury had changed public thinking on road building for a generation. Phil Goodwin, former head of transport at Oxford University, has stated that research has shown that road- building always generates extra traffic.

Many of the former Newbury protesters are still active on climate, fracking, and nuclear and social justice, and some came from Bromley FoE!

Shopping with Friends of the Earth

Some of us like to support Friends of the Earth by purchasing items from them directly and it is quite amazing the different ways in which you can do this. When you follow the 'shop, save & recycle' link on the website, a host of different options appear, all giving a percentage to Friends of the Earth.

So you could bank with Triodos Bank, switch to a cleaner energy supplier, recycle old jewellery, recycle old mobile phones ethically, buy a Fairphone – an ethical smartphone from The Phone Co-op, install solar PV panels, shop with the Give as You Live scheme, subscribe to the Ethical Consumer, buy from the Book Depository, buy local produce from Big Barn Offers, get discounts on organic wine and beer, travel with Eurostar, profit from recycling on eBay, and last but not least, buy items from the FoE shop! Almost one-stop electronic shopping.....

Bee news updates

We recently heard about a new initiative from Grow Wild called Grow For It! which is an award for young people aged 12-25 who can apply to transform a space with UK native wild flowers and plants. There is also an exciting new art competition to raise awareness about the importance of native wild flowers and their diverse habitats using visual art, music, spoken word or dance.

For more information about the 'Transform a Space' and 'Get Creative' awards see the website:
www.growwilduk.com/content/grow-it
or email: growforit@growwilduk.com.

Another blog on the FoE website is by Buglife's Paul Hetherington on "What happens to bees in winter" which is an interesting read on how this winter's changeable climate has been affecting bees and where they hibernate. One of the scarcer bumblebees, the moss carder bee which you find more in northern areas, may have been badly affected by the recent flooding.

Some bumblebees have been seen out and about in the milder weather in the south of the country, and if you grow winter flowers such as mahonia, you will be helping them to survive. Lesser celandines are also a good source of pollen and nectar.

The 3rd Great British Bee Count will be taking place in the week of 21-29 May this year and we hope to participate in this in some way – watch this space for more info please!

10 winter birds to spot

David Lindo, The Urban Birder, has written a blog on the Friends of the Earth website listing 10 winter birds to spot, which I thought would be of interest, so here they are:

Tufted duck / woodcock / sparrowhawk / waxwing / fieldfare / redwing / chiffchaff / blackcap / robin / long-tailed tit.

He even saw a lesser redpoll in Soho once apparently! There are photos and bird watching tips too. So remember to take your binoculars with you on your winter walks!

Mutterings from the Miller's farm – Chris Miller

Some of you may remember a Bromley FoE visit to the Millers Farm, Chelsfield, a couple of years ago. Chris Miller has kindly allowed us to use her notes below, which hopefully will become a regular column.

Have you ever wondered what is growing in some of the fields around Chelsfield? As more contributions have been requested, we thought we would inform you about life on the farm here at Court Lodge Farm each month.

As you are aware it has been a very wet January with 82mls of rain from 1st January to date, 16.1.16 and we need some cold, dry weather to firm up the soil, but are keeping busy with delivering hay and straw to stables locally.

As you can see from the map (**), when Court Road was built the farm was split and obviously has shrunk in size over the years. Great Grandfather came here in 1899. We now farm 66 hectares. For the first time in many years, we are not growing oil seed rape, hurrah, say those of you who suffer from hay fever. There are many reasons for not growing this:-

1. The new crop has to be planted by 1st September, so if we are late cutting the previous crop, it is a mad rush to plough the field and then drill it with oil seed rape. (Drill means planting the seed).
2. We cannot trim hedgerows before the crop is planted, as under EU law hedges cannot be cut before the 1st September and after 1st March.

3. Pigeons and slugs love the stuff!
4. Because of the ban on seed dressing containing neonicotinoids, we have a serious problem with flea beetle.

The beetle eats the emerging plants. So this year, in fields 1, 2, 3 and 4 we are growing winter wheat. This will be harvested in August and we send it to a co operative, Weald Granary, in Mereworth to be sold to make bread. Fields 5, 6, 7 and 8 are empty at the moment but all being well we will start ploughing them as soon as the ground dries out. Some parts will be planted with spring barley to make malt and one of the fields will be planted with peas. These peas will be harvested with the combine harvester dry for either human or animal consumption depending on the quality.

On other parts of the farm, we grow grass to make hay for animals. The grass and the peas are used as part of the crop rotation on the farm and to comply with the new EU law that all farms over 50 hectares must grow 3 or more different crops. More mutterings from the Millers later, hopefully we will have aired our tractors and will be busy ploughing.

(**) Here's the link to the map; it's on page 5 of the Chelsfield Village newsletter, where this article has already appeared - <http://www.greenstreetgreen.co.uk/villagevoice/VillageVoiceFeb16.pdf>

Climate Rising event - report from Sheila Brown

I attended this event on 30th January. It followed the Paris Climate Summit and was organised jointly by Friends of the Earth in partnership with an organisation called This Changes Everything UK (Climate and Social Justice) and PCSU (Public and Commercial Service Union).

It began with a keynote address from Craig Bennett, looking back on the Paris agreement. He said that not nearly enough was achieved. Here in UK our Environment Secretary Amber Rudd described the 1.5° as "aspirational".

Then on the following Wednesday she cut subsidies on solar energy, followed by announcement allowing more fracking, and on the Friday announced that the decision on Heathrow was being delayed. What was agreed to adds up to a 3.5° temperature rise rather than the agreed 1.5°. FoE continues to say NO to Fracking and NO to fossil fuels.

John Vidal, Environment Editor of the Guardian, led a panel discussion "Tales from the Climate Talks." After 20 years of climate talks what was agreed was half as much as what was needed - prevarication and power politics. After twenty years of nothing, now at least there was something. People of colour on the front line will be the ones to die first. Governments and corporations are just not listening.

The indigenous people at Paris felt they were cut out of the agreement and called it as a "genocidal agreement", fighting just to keep indigenous rights in it.

Shehroze Khan of Muslim Action for Development and Environment, the only Muslim delegation in Paris, reminded us of the Paris attacks and emphasised that his group is very pro-environment.

Clive Lewis MP said that Amber Rudd was not in charge.; George Osborne is, and the Government has coasted on the previous Government's success. Government emphasis continues to be growth versus environment. He'd like to see more green policies from the grass roots. We need to work with Parliament and hold politicians to account.

Chris Baugh of PCSU spoke of a 'democratic deficit' and called for investment in wind power and green jobs. He called for solidarity against racism, saying that solidarity is the most powerful weapon.

John Vidal said that at one time the Guardian had a "Green-ometer" monitoring Government performance, but now things were so far off the scale that they had discontinued it.

Sheila Menon of Reclaim the Power advocated direct action.

Caroline Lucas then spoke: "What next for the Climate movement?" Caroline said the Government had taken a wrecking ball to green policies but wanted to give us some reasons to be cheerful. The 1.5° target gave us a target; she saw some movement in businesses; with regard to the EU, she firmly advocated that we would be greener in.

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FoE – More on Fracking

Last week Mark Ruffalo called out Cameron. Now he's calling on you to take action.

As the second week of the appeal began in Lancashire, Mark showed his solidarity with all those fighting fracking in the UK by wearing a Frack Free Lancashire badge to the BAFTAs last night. He wanted the world to see he knows we can win. "It's possible. Even though all the signs tell you it's not, it is. You're fighting the biggest industry in the world, and you can win."

We are already winning. Wherever fracking is proposed, it's opposed by local people. With dirty fracking company iGas pulling out of the Upton site [1] this month the movement is getting bigger and stronger every day. Fracking goes against everything we need to do to keep global warming targets that were agreed at the Paris Climate Talks.

With the Lancashire appeal in progress and the North Yorkshire decision set to happen in the next couple of months, now is the time for us to rally together and keep fighting against fracking in the UK. Please watch and share this video (available from the FoE website at <http://bit.ly/1SQyYlw>) from Mark to show that we don't want fracking anywhere.

[1] 'No commercial drilling' at Upton anti-fracking protest site, iGas says: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-35504810>

TfL's London Travel Demand Survey

Sheila Brown writes: We were contacted by Transport for London asking us if we would be willing to complete a survey looking at people's travel in and around the London area. An interviewer came to our house and spent about 20-30 minutes with us.

Questions were about our travel habits, what modes of transport we used and how frequently, and included trains, all public transport as well as travel by car, taxi, bike or on foot. There was focus on a particular day when the two of us had to give a detailed account of all journeys (or parts of journey) we had made.

As it was the day when I travelled into and across London to attend Climate Rising at Euston, there was quite a lot to record (and not representative of my normal travel pattern).

We understood that this is an ongoing survey, rather like painting the Forth Bridge. All adults and children over 5 in the household are invited to take part.

The survey results are used by transport planners to forecast future demand for transport services and plan accordingly to meet the travel needs of all Londoners.

FoE - Fracking plans revealed in leaked letter

What colour do you want the gates to your local shale gas site?

That could be the limit of local people's input to decisions about fracking, according to a leaked letter written by Government Ministers. [1]

Say no to fracking.

The letter, leaked to Friends of the Earth, exposes potential plans to take decisions on fracking away from local councils and hand it to the Secretary of State by declaring fracking sites nationally significant projects.

This isn't a surprise: the Government has already said Westminster will now make the final decision on whether fracking happens in Lancashire. But if the plans in this letter were put in place, it wouldn't just be Lancashire that could have fracking forced on it, but anywhere in the country.

The Government knows this is not a popular idea: the letter says it might not want to make this change straight away, because it could be "undermining public support" for fracking. And it goes against David Cameron's promise to listen to the voices of local people on fracking.

So now it's even more important that we don't let even one decision on fracking be taken away from local people. Ask David Cameron not to force fracking on Lancashire, or any community that doesn't want it.

The leak comes just days before the start of the public hearing into Cuadrilla's appeal against Lancashire

County Council's double-rejection of their fracking applications. The hearing will recommend whether the decisions are upheld, but the Government has already decided it will make the ultimate decision on this.

Tens of thousands of people have already signed our petition to David Cameron, asking him to stand by his promise that local people will have a voice in fracking applications and respect Lancashire's democratic decision. But we need your support too if we are going to show David Cameron that this issue isn't going to go away.

Sign the petition today. It's on the FoE website at <http://bit.ly/20BgY45>

Fracking goes against everything we need to do to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees as agreed at the Paris Climate Talks. Let's keep up the pressure and tell Cameron that he cannot force fracking on us. Sign the petition and stand up for local democracy.

Thank you for your support,

Anna and the fracking team

NOTES:

[1] The leaked letter was written last July and is from Amber Rudd, Greg Clark and Liz Truss to George Osborne

FoE Campaign and Community news

Activism Assistant Em is leaving FoE

Em wrote: Sadly this will be my last newsletter to you as I'm leaving Friends of the Earth to take on an exciting new role with the Marine Conservation Society. It's been fantastic working with you all! Please do keep in touch.

Unfortunately, my departure means that the Activism teams at Friends of the Earth will be under capacity for a few months. We ask that you kindly bear with us during this period.

The team will continue to send a newsletter but due to the capacity shortage this shall be a combined bumper edition of both Campaign and Community News - sent once a month.

And this is your first one! Watch out for the next one in mid-March. If there's anything you'd like to include in the newsletters please send a few lines over to localgroups@foe.co.uk.

A week of action on bees: are you interested?

To celebrate the third year of the Great British Bee Count we're planning a Week of Action for the Bee Cause campaign - from 21-29 May. Before we design any new resources we'd like to know how many groups would like to take part. Please take 2 minutes to let us know. If enough groups express an interest then we'll get cracking and send more detailed plans in March.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1QiOVHh> to find out more.

Camden Friends of the Earth

Camden Friends of the Earth teamed up with Transition Kentish town in January and co-hosted an environmentally conscious film night in Kentish Town, London. The film chosen, "Toxic Soup", is a hard-hitting documentary which tackles the politics of pollution, as giant corporations manipulate the system to delay environmental reform, endangering lives for increased profits.

The event was organised to promote the #Pesticidebuster and #PesticideFreeCamden campaigns which Camden Friends of the Earth and Pesticide Action Network are jointly supporting. Special guest Nick Mole from Pesticide Action Network initiated discussions and answered questions after the film. Camden Friends of the Earth were delighted to see a high number of people turning up and interacting throughout the night and are already working on their next event.

You can join their mail list <http://www.camdenfoe.org.uk/> to stay tuned, upcoming events include a Renewable Energy film night with special guests in March and a Vegan Banquet in May (using food waste!).

Dialogue Forum

Have an idea? A concern? Something you would like share? Something you need help with? Then the Dialogue Forum is the place to go! You can share your idea with others and start a discussion. At the moment, we have ongoing discussion about the importance of fracking, check it out.

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Please note - This info is taken from the Bromley Civic Society's website.

Bromley Civic Society (BCS) was formed to provide awareness and protection for the built and green environment of Bromley, in particular for the town centre. The Society was formed in 2007 in place of the Heart of Bromley Residents Association (HOBRA) out of concern for the content of the emerging Town Centre Area Action Plan, to which the Society made detailed response through the various consultation stages as well as at the AAP public hearing in 2010.

BCS are grateful to the past work of HOBRA, in particular for their successful campaign for the designation of the Town Centre Conservation Area which, as a result, gives protection to over 500 historic buildings. This protection, however, is subject to constant attack from developers and so there is a need for consistent vigilance, education and dissemination of information.

BCS have continued to campaign for better protection of the historic built and green environment of the Town Centre and its environs and the wellbeing of its residents.

The Society is a founder member both of **Civic Voice**, the UK national body for amenity societies, and of **The London Forum**, both of which inform government policy on planning matters. BCS are also members of the **Bromley Federation of Residents Associations** and regularly contribute to meetings with an exchange of information.

BCS say - We love Bromley in Kent and we think there is much in Bromley town to celebrate and cherish. As a local amenity society we seek to:

- Encourage people to take greater interest in central Bromley.
- Provide an opportunity for informed discussion and increasing awareness of the principles and objectives of development and conservation within the area.
- Ensure that officials and members of government at all levels are aware of the importance of Bromley town centre as a historic place and a living place.
- Promote high standards of planning and design in the area.
- Secure the preservation or enhancement of those features that contribute to the special character of the area.
- Press for improvements to the public realm.

The day to day work of the Society is managed by four officers: Chair, vice Chair; Treasurer; and Secretary. They are supported by a committee of society members covering matters such as planning, membership and publicity.

If you visit the website you can find a link to the latest BCS newsletter - it contains a range of fascinating heritage stories, including about David Bowie, as well as updates on the Council's Local Plan and good news about the Orpington Priory Community Hub.

/BCS contact details on next page

The continuation page

Local Green Space Consultation

This Local Green Space Consultation now provides you with the opportunity to:

- Provide comments on Bromley's Revised Draft Local Green Space Policy
- Provide comments on Bromley's Draft Local Criteria for the Designation of Local Green Space
- Nominate a site to be considered by the Council for the Local Green Space designation

The consultation runs until March 21st. Please select the following link to view this event:

http://bromley-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/lgs_consultation/lgs_consult

Climate Rising Event

The day included a choice of workshops. I attended one on Deregulating the Planet – about TTIP which would represent the biggest handover of power from people to corporations. Then I went to one about the UK's role in fossil fuel extraction abroad and what the big corporations are doing to people – taking their land and their way of life

The day ended with a video message from Benjamin Zephaniah and a skype link with Naomi Klein – both very affirming - and the day was rounded off by Asad Rehman, FoE's international climate spokesman (our May speaker) who spoke of being a movement of Justice, not just Environment, and this was very much a theme throughout the day.

FoE Campaign and Community News

We have been experiencing some technical difficulties, but we are doing everything we can to work through it. Please don't let this discourage you from getting involved though. If you do have any issues, let us know and we will work to get them fixed!

Visit - <http://bit.ly/1KnjVUito> find out more.

Basecamp: Be nimble, Be quick, Better run for a Basecamp ticket!

In case you didn't know, Basecamp ticket sales are now open... and they are already flying off the shelves. So if you want to make sure you have a space reserved for this year's Basecamp running from 3-5 June, be sure to book soon. This year is going to be even better than last! Visit – <http://bit.ly/216pR81> to find out more.

Bromley Civic Society

For further details please contact Bromley Civic Society's Chair, Tony Banfield by email at chair@bromleycivicsociety.org or by phone on 020-8464-3181.

Re-User item (2)

Can anyone re-use pretty biscuit tins, sweet tins etc rather than putting in the recycling?

Contact Sheila 01689 851605.

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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

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

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

Non-members' Section

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

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

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

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

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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