



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**



*March 2017*

*No. 351*

# ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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## **March Meeting**

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

**Justin Cockett**

**Electric vehicles and their environmental benefit**

*Hear Justin's first-hand experience of driving a Tesla  
and a chance to inspect the vehicle*

**followed by**

**Oliver Brabner**

*Fairshare – Tackling Food Waste*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March – 7.30pm – *PROMPT START please***

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

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

Contact details inside front cover.

### Diary dates:

Feb 27 to Mar 12

Mar 4 (Sat)

Mar 7 (Tue)

April 4 (Tue)

April 29 (Sat)

June 2 to 4

### Fairtrade Fortnight

**Fairtrade Event Tonbridge** – Info in last month's newsletter

**Bromley FoE's March meeting:** Double bill: Environmental Benefit of Electric Cars + FairShare tackling food waste

**Bromley FoE's April meeting:** Thames 21

**Bill's 4<sup>th</sup> Open Garden Day**

**FoE BASECAMP 2017** at Castleton, Derbyshire

### March meeting – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March – 7.30pm PROMPT START please

We have a double bill this month. Justin will be bringing his Tesla car along for a close look as well as telling us all about the advantages of electric vehicles.

Oliver will give a short presentation on *The problem of food waste from farm to fork*. Food waste has become a huge talking point in relation to social problems and environmental impact. Will Supermarkets bow to public pressure in reducing waste and redistributing surplus food?

To do justice to both these subjects, please arrive in plenty of time for a prompt start.

### Visit to underground farm – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 4.30pm

This urban farm is underneath busy Clapham High Street!! The subterranean farm is 120 feet underground, 65,000 square feet in area and was used in WW2 as an air-raid shelter which could hold up to 8,000 people. The project is using low energy lights and can produce 2,000 packs daily of 30 grammes of herbs.

Contact Sue and John Bockock for more info: contact details on page 15

**Disclaimer:** *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

### Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by \*\*\* **SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> 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 – Sue and John Boccock

### Ruxley Gravel Pits Nature Reserve

Our speaker for February was Martin Watts, the Hon. Secretary of the Ruxley Nature Reserve. In his introduction he mentioned the river Cray which runs through the reserve. It is a chalk stream approximately 8 miles long.

The site comprises 4 gravel pits with the river Cray running through three of them and the fourth is fed by local springs. It is a source of fresh water that was known to the Romans and which eventually empties into the Crayford Marshes.

The river has had numerous uses; there used to be ten to twelve which were used for paper making, cloth and corn grinding. The four gravel pits were in use between 1929 and 1951; they are generally shallow, about 4 feet deep, half of this is thick mud! One of their present functions is flood prevention.

The area last flooded in 1961. The land is owned by Natural England, part of the Environment Agency. Access to the site is confined to the Orpington Angling Club and permit holders. In 1975 the site was designated an SSSI, having over 500 different species of flowering plants, 169 bird species including Great Crested Grebes, Song thrushes, Reed buntings, Kingfishers and Skylarks. Insects include 23 species of butterfly, 9 species of dragonfly and over 500 species of beetles.

The site also has its own graffiti artists who decorate the concrete columns

supporting the A20 motorway. Martin mentioned that there are three different groups from St Pauls Cray and St Mary Cray displaying their artwork. Mostly in their thirties, very tidy and law abiding.

This site is one of London's few wetland areas covering some 46 acres. Water levels are controlled by a series of weirs. Management of the site is mainly aimed at controlling excess vegetation. "It is not gardening or conservation but to keep the scrub down" - mostly willow, buddleia, alder and to encourage phragmites reed beds, cover for the breeding birds including grebes.

All kinds of work are done by volunteers of all ages and from different organisations. These include Kent Wildlife Trust, who come down twice yearly to do path maintenance, young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award and also those doing the International Baccalaureate.

To become a keyholder to the site will cost £10 annual membership, funding comes mostly from the volunteers themselves, with very little from other sources.

A question was asked about pollution from the tip (Waste4Fuel). This was said to be "within acceptable limits" despite frequent visits from the fire brigade! Cost of clearing the site was estimated at £300,000 to Bromley Council and £3 million to the Environment Agency.

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## Clean Air Day of Action – Paul Enock and Sam Gee

Friends of the Earth held an event in Chapel Market, Islington on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January to raise awareness about air pollution. We were joined by 13 other volunteers from 10 local groups across London, including Hammersmith, Lambeth and Bromley.

We had a stall, which Chapel Market kindly provided for free because we are a charity, with dust masks that children could decorate, a map of the local area showing air pollution levels, and a collection of pictures of different people on different modes of transport where people guessed who was most affected by air pollution – it was in fact the car passenger.

Eye-catching posters had been prepared, advertising the fact that air pollution in Islington had been measured at almost 1.5 times the legal limit in 2016.

Volunteers were dispatched in pairs to gather signatures from concerned residents, which would be added to FoE's Ditch Diesel campaign and used to pressurise the UK government and London's mayor to act in the short term to reduce the amount of damage air pollution is causing to people's health. In total, 286 Ditch Diesel action cards were signed on that one day.

Although many people appear resigned to it, present levels of pollution in our towns and cities are not an inevitable consequence of modern life. Cleaner alternatives are available, but there is political inertia over enforcing change, especially to the use of diesel motors in urban areas.

Anyone interested in finding out about the level of pollution where they live locally was also invited to sign up for an air monitoring kit at the price of £15.00.

Ted Burke, a clean air campaigner at FoE, who organised the event, told us that FoE is preparing a 'schools package' for schools interested in researching air quality locally. The package is expected to come out in the spring and will contain suggested lesson plans related to air pollution, its causes, detection and effects on health – as well as a free monitoring tube.

Those gathering names on the streets were encouraged to target as wide variety as possible of backgrounds; it was important that we sent the message that we were there to talk to everyone. Sadly however it did seem that the younger generations gave their names more willingly, perhaps as well as the better educated, while others had to be sought out.

One couple with two young children told Paul they were moving out of central London precisely because of the air pollution – they had made the decision after their daughter was told she couldn't use the school playground because pollution levels were too high. An elderly lady said that when she sees a taxi parked with its engine running, she tells the driver to turn it off – and sometimes gets quite a rude reply.

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### **Campaign Stall**

Many thanks to all those people who have signed up to help with the stall in the Mall Precinct from 2.30 - 4.30 pm on March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be joined by Bromley Against Fracking, and I will leave the stall materials in Nick's cafe overnight. There will be FoE materials as well as BAF leaflets.

### **Climate and Energy**

#### **Nuclear Issues**

The chairman of Toshiba the Japanese industrial giant has resigned due to £2.75 billion losses. Despite reassurances from Toshiba, this has left the UK's nuclear future in limbo.

The losses could hit plans for a £10 billion power plant in Moorside, Cumbria. This comes at an uncertain time for UK energy with French giant EDF which operate the Hinckley Point C plant in Somerset recently seeing an explosion at a site in Northern France. The latter was at the Flamanville facility, less than 100 miles from the British coast. The blast in an engine room left five staff members needing treatment for smoke inhalation.

Hinckley Point is set to begin generating electricity in 2025.

**Meanwhile India** is building a 'secret nuclear city' to produce weapons, stockpile materials and develop ballistic missiles. This illustrates how nuclear power plants are needed to facilitate the nuclear weapons industry.

As a matter of interest Leicester CND joined with Friends of the Earth in

February to leaflet the public and to say 'Leicester for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons - Because They Cost the Earth'.

**The latest news from Fukushima** reported in the Japanese paper Asahi Shimbun is that a remote -controlled video camera inside the destroyed Fukushima reactor has shown serious damage at the bottom of its pressure vessel. Water used to cool the nuclear fuel is seen dripping, and possible melted fuel is seen strewn on a grating used for maintenance work.

#### **Fuel from Beans**

Caffe Nero has become the first major high street coffee brand to convert used beans into fuel for homes and cars.

All 122 Caffe Nero stores in London are involved in the scheme which will see 218 tonnes of used coffee grounds recycled into 98 tonnes of biomass pellets in its first year. One tonne of waste coffee grounds can create 245 litres of biodiesel - enough to fill four cars. The amount of waste coffee made by Caffe Nero each year would get a car around the M25 3,689 times, bio-bean's research shows.

Caffe Nero is working with the London based recycling firm First Mile to deliver the scheme launched in July 2016.

#### **Fracking/ Oil Excavation**

At Leith Hill in Surrey where drilling for oil is taking place (and which potentially could become a fracking

*/continued on page 13*

## Buses under scrutiny – Ray Watson

With the absence of a tube system, Bromley and the surrounding area is heavily reliant on buses, so the London Assembly has begun a consultation exercise involving passengers and other interested parties to gauge the quality of the service and demonstrate where expansion may be necessary, especially in view of London's ever-growing population. One submission came from the London group of the Campaign for Better Transport, of which Bromley FoE is a member. Below is an extract from the CBT's paper sent to the London Assembly.

### **1. Is London's bus network fit for purpose?**

It is far and away the best in the country but improvements could be made to facilitate interchange with other public transport modes or other buses. In some areas there are insufficient bus stops and being stuck in traffic for several minutes, yards from a stop while two trains go by, is frustrating. More generally, there has been a gradual movement of bus stops away from junctions to facilitate journeys in private vehicles to the detriment of bus users with poor mobility.

Many Opportunity Areas are not well connected and TfL is often slow to catch up with changing requirements.

### **2. How does the bus system compare in inner and outer London?**

Inner London: There is generally a choice of routes so that if information is provided on Countdown delays can be avoided. In outer London, we are

dependent on there being no cancellations but reliability is better than it was 30 years ago. Outer London's bus services do not connect well enough areas of living, entertainment, sport, leisure, health facilities, retail, libraries, etc.

### **3. What different challenges do the inner and outer networks face?**

There are countless irregular visitors to central and inner London who rely on past knowledge of routes for whom major changes are a problem. New developments require changes which are slow to be implemented – local authorities should be more proactive in securing funding. Planning frameworks for Opportunity Areas should reflect the changes to the bus network needed. Connections with rail and tube stations are critical to travel in outer London.

### **4. How well do TfL currently plan bus routes?**

There is no published document setting out the criteria by which routes are planned and how a balance is drawn between conflicting desires. We think the GLA should insist on this being provided and kept up to date.

As noted above we feel TfL is slow to respond to new developments, but it needs to focus more on dealing with disruption to services and less on changing routes. The impact of Night Tube on buses must be reviewed and changes made where necessary.

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## Buses under scrutiny - *continued*

### **5. Does TfL take account of the London Plan and housing developments when planning bus routes? Could they improve the way they make these decisions?**

Yes, but local authorities need to be more proactive.

### **6. What bus priority measures has TfL already introduced and how successful are they?**

There has been a dearth of new measures in recent years and some have been undermined by schemes to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians. Contra flow bus lanes are highly effective,. Other bus lanes require enforcement, too often they are negated by parked cars or drivers who cannot quite keep to their own lane. Bus priority signals are also highly effective, and self enforcing.

### **7. What impact could the introduction and development of the hopper ticket have on the design of London's bus network?**

It should have no effect on the route, but facilities for interchange should be reviewed.. Paying twice is not the only drawback to changing buses. Older people and those with disabilities do not pay but are seriously inconvenienced by having to change and wheelchair users add to dwell times which affects all users. *(Editor's note – An initial look at the effect of the hopper ticket by TfL reveals that there is a greater tendency for bus passengers to catch the first bus going in the direction they want, knowing that they can change buses at no extra cost to get to their destination.)*

### **8. Does TfL plan new bus services to stimulate demand or just to respond to existing demand?**

Just to respond. There is nothing wrong with this. As London grows demand should be stimulated and it is necessary and sufficient to discourage car use. However, regular disruption from construction work suppresses demand, and more needs to be done to counter this.

### **9. What tools does TfL have to monitor and forecast demand?**

Alternative models and approaches. There is plenty of data about absolute numbers but it is only by experiencing a particular journey that the causes of delay/frustration that lead people away from bus use become apparent. There should be more use made of user experience, e.g. passenger surveys.

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### **Clean Air Day of Action – *cont'd***

Many people were keen to point out that they had bought diesel cars having been told they were helping the environment, and it was stressed to them that the Ditch Diesel campaign aims get diesel off UK roads by 2025 by securing financial assistance for those swapping to cleaner motors, via a diesel scrappage scheme, funded at least in part by big car manufacturers such as BMW and Volkswagen.

The UK has been given a final warning on air pollution by the European Commission; if it doesn't show Brussels that it can comply with EU pollution limits for nitrogen dioxide, then it will face a case at the European court of justice.

## Transport comment – Ray Watson

### **Dirty diesel: restrictions are on the way**

Arguments for the Government acting to ban intense pollution caused by road users, are building nicely – and not before time.

Figures showing how it causes premature deaths speak for themselves while there age moves by Highways England to restrict traffic that are the worst offenders when it comes to air pollution. Other moves include a 60mph speed limit on parts of the M1 and an extra 'tax' on parking to discourage motorists from driving in busy city centres.

Imposing a 60 mph limit on the M1, according to a recent survey, would be the best way to decrease emissions, largely because it would reduce drivers accelerating and decelerating. However, there is a snag: the report reveals that such a law would attract thousands more vehicles. A trial of the scheme is due to take place this Spring.

Another idea set up to cut diesel emissions is happening nearer home. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> Westminster Council will introduce higher parking fees in part of its territory that will double the cost for all diesel cars.

This will mean that diesel-fuelled vehicles will pay £2.45 per hour on top of the normal £ 4.90 charge. How will a parking attendant know if a vehicle is diesel-powered? By using a hand-held computer linked to vehicle registration computers.

Such schemes have brought protests from motoring organisations but hitting the motorist where it hurts most – in his pocket – is a sure way to increase a change to public transport and other environmentally 'green' means of transport. Bolder ideas will be necessary to reduce emissions and banning diesel is only a start.

Another brick in the wall is the growth of electric car sales. Many economic forecasters argue that greater efficiency by manufacturers will mean that the amount of oil used will decline, but this will not necessarily be the case because new markets such as China and India will demand more cars as their middle class grows-- and here we are talking millions. Let us hope that by then diesel vehicles are part of the past!

### **Trains show the way**

Dutch railways have just demonstrated how to use wind power in a fashion that makes one wonder why our railways are not following the same route: 100 per cent of their trains (they carry 600,000 passengers daily) are now running on wind power. Are we missing a trick here?

### **Electric cars pick up speed**

Sobering news: in January a record number of new cars were registered in the UK – 174,564, a 12-year high and 2.9 per cent up on the previous January. More cheerful news: registrations of electric vehicles in the same month were up a record 4.2 per cent share of the market.



### **Pollution and the sea**

Have you seen the new Sky TV campaign yet? Apologies to you if you have, but I make no apologies for advertising it! You can also find it in Sky News on-line.

The campaign is called Ocean Rescue and it is about raising awareness on how much damage humans are doing to our worldwide marine environment.

The launch documentary ('*A Plastic Tide*') covered a reporter's visit to places in the UK, Europe and India, talking to scientists, fishermen and ordinary people who have become environmental campaigners to help combat their own local plastic tide – the rubbish which ends up on their beach.

There were interviews from Plymouth, the Thames river bank, European scientists and fishermen from India and one eloquent quote came from one of the fishermen – '...being part of an eco system does not give us a licence to destroy it.....'

Remember, plastic never goes away, a piece just gets smaller and smaller, until it becomes micro pieces of plastic. Then it can be ingested by fish and birds, which can then starve to death as their stomachs are full - of micro plastic, not food. And we eat the fish.

If you eat lots of seafood, you are eating plastic too; you won't know it but it is there all the same. Scientists have been analysing fishes and have calculated that Europeans will soon eat three quarters of a million micro pieces of plastic a year.

Does that put you off your oysters? If this is happening to us now, how much worse will it be for our children?

I remember walking through tidelines of seaweed regularly in Cornwall way back when and hated it; think how much worse that could be though, walking through a tideline of plastic waste. Is this our new reality for our seas?

Our legacy has taken another pounding recently – do you remember PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)? These chemicals were banned in the 1970's, but scientists have published in *Nature Ecology and Evolution* that traces of high levels of the pollutants were found in scavenging shrimp-like amphipods living more than 10km (6 miles) below the surface in two trenches 7,000km (4,300 miles) apart. The study team will now investigate if microbeads have been swallowed by the deep sea creatures.

### **Please help our toads!**

*(The information comes from the Bromley Biodiversity group.)*

Toad populations in SE England have fallen by more than 50% since 1985. Toads live most of their lives on land in scrubby areas, hibernating in log piles, deep leaf litter and burrows. In February they emerge and return to their ponds to breed. Please let us know if you see one!

Email the date, place (postcode or grid reference) and number to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership:  
[bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com).

*/continued on pages 10 & 11*

## Nature News - *continued*

Your information will enable habitat improvements to be put in place to try and increase toad numbers.

*How you can help toads:* have a wild area in your garden with some scrub, a log pile and maybe a pond with at least one sloping side. For more information and to see how frogs look different from toads, visit <https://www.arc-trust.org>

### **Bees and nightingales**

Lots of prepping going on we are told at Friends of the Earth HQ for upcoming Bee events this year! We are all waiting on reports to do with the effects pesticides may have on bees and other pollinators, and for the State of Nature report which is due out soon for a 3 month public consultation. We will let you know when we hear of anything we can do on these important issues.

We have the Great British Bee Count coming up in May and June again, which we will be promoting and to have a Summer of Bees fest – let's hope for some sun! We hope to get some new resources to help promote the Bee Cause soon, but if you wish to read an interview Friends of the Earth had with the scientist Dave Goulson last year on the effects pesticides have on bees, you can access it here: <https://www.foe.co.uk/living/articles/are-bee-friendly-plants-poisoning-our-bees>

There is another on-line action we are urging people to take which is on the RSPB website, to help save nightingales in a habitat in Kent. The deadline for submission is 6 March.

Medway Council are trying to build 5000 homes at Lodge Hill in Kent, and

are trying to work it into their Local Plan by using Biodiversity Offsetting as an incentive. This area is, supposedly, protected by SSSI status (Sites of Special Scientific Interest); is an area of ancient woodland and rare grasslands and supports one of the largest populations of nightingales in the UK.

The Secretary of State called in the application last year and a public inquiry will be held in 2018. You don't have to be a local resident to object to this, you can object on the basis that this decision could set a dangerous precedent for other (precious) nature sites. Here is the link to follow to do so: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/lodge-hill/>

### **Freshwater Habitats Trust News**

*(This is taken from a recently received email)*

### **PondNet Spawn Survey 2017**

Help us collect data on the whereabouts of breeding ponds for frog and toad by taking part in our PondNet Spawn Survey 2017!



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## Nature News - *concluded*



*(With apologies to those looking at the printed version of these photos.) First photo: Strings of toad spawn. Photo credit: Mike Kruger – Photo above: Clumps of frog spawn. Photo credit: Christian Fischer*

From now until the end of May this year we will be running a new survey to collect important data on the location of breeding ponds for frog and toad across the country. We'll be asking our PondNet volunteers, Clean Water for Wildlife volunteers and Flagship volunteers to get involved. Whether this is your first time recording wildlife, or you want to get warmed up for the survey season, it's a great way to welcome in the Spring.

We have launched our PondNet Spawn Survey webpage [freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/spawnsurvey2017](http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/spawnsurvey2017) where you can find all the relevant information you need to take part including:

- the spawn survey recording form
- a powerpoint on how to identify amphibians

- a PDF on how to identify amphibians from ARG UK,
- a PDF on how to find a grid reference.

You will be able to upload your results to the website by using the results form on the PondNet Spawn Survey webpage. We are also keen to see your sightings so if you do take any photos or videos of amorous frogs and toads (or the evidence left behind!) then please do post your photos on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/PeoplePondsWater/](http://www.facebook.com/PeoplePondsWater/)

### **Permaculture and bike rides!**

For all you hard-core cyclists out there.....Would you like to join in a bike ride with a twist? We recently received the information below -

The permaculture inspired Land's End to John O'Groats bike ride visits eco-housing co-ops, transition town initiatives, permaculture projects and organic farms where our riders learn about permaculture and personal development whilst living as a community on the road.

The fourth End to End take place Thursday 13th April - 1st May 2017 (over three bank holidays!) and to find out more & to sign up: [www.brakethecycle.xyz/lands-end-to-john-ogroats](http://www.brakethecycle.xyz/lands-end-to-john-ogroats).

## Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

What wonderful sunshine we have had over the festive celebrations and despite the chilly nights, it was glorious to be outside and we did see the sun through our apple tree!

The electric cables have now all been laid and Pete has learnt very quickly how to fix the cables inside the properties. All has been checked with an electrician and signed off.

Just in the throes of finishing one of the old offices. We thought it only needed a bit of decoration but on further investigation, it had to be stripped right back to the old walls, treated, plaster boarded and top coat of plaster. New ceiling, door and electric laid, so practically a brand new office.

This particular room was built as the farm office back in the 1800s and Steve remembers his Grandfather using it for that purpose. It is on the end of the old stable block. All this DIY, together with straw and hay deliveries have kept the boys busy over the past month.

A benefit of the new drilling system is that we can now start to concentrate on getting the soil a better structure. One of the ways to do this is to grow a cover crop after we have harvested a cereal crop. This will mop up any nutrients that are still remaining in the soil so will not be washed away during the winter.

Steve and Pete visited a farm in Horsmonden to see trial cover crops growing. There were five different mixtures growing and they soon realised the one that would suit us and would like to try. The mixture is a

combination of two types of radish, one long and one short rooted variety, and a plant called Phecelia.

This will be planted as soon as the previous crop has been cleared from the field and grow until the middle of January, then will be desiccated ready for the drilling to commence a little later.

The benefits from this is that the radish roots help to break soil up deeper down and the Phecelia extracts moisture from the ground into the plant which then slowly releases it as the plant breaks down in the spring. There are many more benefits that I am sure we will discover but the worms will definitely have loads of decaying matter to use.

Thankfully we only have a few chickens now so moving them into the greenhouse for protection from Avian Flu was quite easy. Not sure what we would have done if we still had our 500!

I don't think they are that happy, as soon as I open the door they try to escape outside. Hopefully I will only have to keep them in for another week or so.

I have seen quite large flocks of Fieldfare and Redwings over the past month or so. Difficult to identify when in flight but have been delighted to see a dozen or so Redwings in the garden and then when a Fieldfare flies down you can see how they differ.

*/continued on page 14*

## The Greenpeace Story – Ann Garrett

### **The Greenpeace story - Ann Garrett writes:**

On February 4th, Progressive Bromley Film Co-op showed the first film ever made about the early days of Greenpeace.

The film followed the activities of a small group of committed activists led by their founder Bob Hunter, exposing environmental abuse. This included sailing into the forbidden zone near a nuclear weapons test site, confronting Japanese whaling ships, and filming the atrocities of seal culling in the Arctic.

It was moving to see the courage of these early environmental pioneers. Later in the film Bob Hunter's daughter spoke of how proud she was of her father and how she was involved in carrying on his legacy - an example to those of us in present campaigning that we too can be an example to and influence on our family and friends.

The final discussion after the film was led by Roisin Robertson, Secretary of Bromley Greenpeace. She highlighted many of Greenpeace's campaigns, including the arrest by the Russians of 30 activists and the capture of their boat the Rainbow Warrior, while exposing the destruction of the Arctic through drilling for oil.

Roisin concluded by mentioning the present Greenpeace campaign which is putting pressure on the HSBC bank to stop funding palm oil companies who are involved in the destruction of the rain forests.

There was a good FoE presence at this event and many people wrote messages on the Greenpeace leaflets to be given to the HSBC branch in Bromley.

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### **February meeting report – continued**

In conclusion, Martin felt he would like to see greater public accessibility, although this might not be welcomed by the anglers.

We would like to thank Martin for a very interesting and informative talk. We wish him and his volunteers all the best in their efforts to maintain this interesting site.

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### **Climate and Energy - continued**

(site), local people offering showers and drinks to anti-drilling campers could be issued with a court order. BBC Surrey have discovered that the energy company Europa Oil and Gas are responsible for this.

Local residents feel their democratic rights have been threatened and are now very apprehensive. The atmosphere is full of tension, as campers are also expected to be evicted at any time.

They are making a great sacrifice for their environmental ideals, as are anti fracking campaigners in Yorkshire who have set up a permanent camp after the failure of their court appeal.

## FoE say - INEOS plan to put drilling rig in Sherwood Forest

### **A recent FoE press release says:**

Chemicals giant INEOS has identified a potential shale gas drilling site in the heart of Sherwood Forest, Friends of the Earth can reveal. The revelation comes weeks after INEOS told local people that it had no intention of drilling inside the forest.

A fresh set of correspondence between INEOS's land surveyors and the Forestry Commission, obtained by Friends of the Earth using Freedom of Information requests, reveals that they plan to put at least one drilling rig in The Lings, on the western edge of Sherwood Forest.

In an email dated 22 November 2016, INEOS' land surveyors Fisher German Priestner wrote to the Forestry Commission concerning a "Proposed Well Site – The Lings at Clipstone". The correspondence also contains maps showing a proposed well site in The Lings – at a spot just 500m from the Thynghowe, an ancient Viking assembly site deemed to be of international significance.

These woods lie within the boundary of the proposed Sherwood Forest Regional Park in an area identified as 'The Heart of the Forest'; are well within the historic extent of Sherwood Forest; and are labelled as being part of Sherwood Forest on Ordnance Survey maps.

INEOS have claimed that they have no plans to drill in Sherwood Forest. In a 2-page colour advert that they recently paid for in local papers, they state: "Despite what people may have read

or heard, we have no intention of placing drilling rigs for shale wells inside the forest now or in the future".

INEOS have accused Friends of the Earth of "scaremongering" for revealing the company's planned seismic surveys in Sherwood Wood.

**Friends of the Earth campaigner, Guy Shrubsole, said:** "We already knew INEOS wanted to explore for shale gas in Sherwood Forest by carrying out seismic surveys – now, despite their assurances, we see they want to drill there, too.

"The public don't want fracking and we don't need it. INEOS should abandon its plans to frack in Nottinghamshire and invest in clean renewables instead."

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### **Miller's Mutterings - continued**

This month's old weather saying:-

*St. Agnes Day, ah bitter chill it was,  
The owl for all his feathers was so cold,  
The hare limped trembling through the frozen grass,  
And silent stood the sheep in dusky fold.*

The famous lines of John Keats reflect the fact that St. Agnes Eve, 20<sup>th</sup> January, is reputedly the coldest day of the year in southern Britain. St. Hilary's Day, 12<sup>th</sup> January, has the same reputation in the north.

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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

### Secretary:

vacant

### Treasurer:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Press Officer:

Ann Garrett

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Outings organisers:

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

### Newsletter Editor:

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

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

### Bromley FoE web site:

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

Peter Gandolfi  
*petergandolfi@hotmail.com*

### Admin team:

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

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

Annette Rose  
*annette.rose1@ntlworld.com*

### Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689-820469

### Campaigns –

#### Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Transport:

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

#### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

#### Planning and development:

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

#### Campaigner:

Annette Rose  
*annette.rose1@ntlworld.com*

#### Fracking / Clean British Energy

Ann Garrett details above

#### 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!

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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, 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.

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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, and Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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

Name..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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