



March 2024

No 432

Our Next Meeting is at  
*The Friends Meeting House,*  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley on  
**Tuesday 5th March 2024**

## An Introduction to Retrofitting Your Home



***Ian Preston - Retrofit Coordinator***  
*will be speaking on ECOFURB - the low-carbon home  
renovation service for homeowners in the London area*

Ecofurb helps homeowners plan energy efficiency improvement and gives impartial advice. Ecofurb can also connect them with vetted installers from their not-for-profit co-operative network.

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[www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)



# NEWSLETTER



## Future Meetings

*If you can't attend the March meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'. Do your own bit of campaigning, maybe inspired by something in our newsletters, and let us know what response you get. Or if any item here makes you angry, delights you, enthuses you, or causes you any emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it to the newsletter editor (see contact details below).*



## Diary Dates

**5th March (Tuesday) Friends of the Earth Bromley Monthly Meeting 7.30pm.**

**An Introduction to Retrofitting Your Home, presented by Ian Preston**

The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley, on the corner of Ringer's Road.

**11th-17th March The Big Plastic Count.**

More details on page 9.

**15th-31st March The Great British Spring Clean.**

Carry out a litter pick in your local area and send us a photo.

**21st March (Thursday) International Day of Forests.**

**2nd April (Tuesday) Bromley FoE Monthly Meeting on ZOOM at 7.30pm.**

Our April speaker is Professor Frank Kelly, postponed from January  
**'From SMOG to ULEZ'.**

**8th-16th Jun Great Big Green Week.**

A week of Friends of the Earth community action. Details to follow.

**22nd June (Saturday) Friends of the Earth Bromley Garden Party.**

The Orpington Liberal Club Orpington. 1.30pm-5pm.



## Next Newsletter Copy Date

Please send all your news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **Friday 22nd March 2024**

**Post:** 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington. Kent. BR6 7RN

**Email:** stopkillingtheplanet@gmail.com (Please write **'Newsletter'** in the subject line)

**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.



## February AGM Report - *Sheila Brown*

The meeting was held on Tuesday 6th February with Dan Sloan in the chair.

Ann and Sheila welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked everyone for their contributions to the group during the past year. Ann ran through some of the highlights of the past year, which were also listed in the February Newsletter and included attendance at Bromley Council Environmental Committee meetings, opposing planning applications and COP28 Climate Justice vigil. Ann and Sheila were stepping down at this meeting, having been Joint Co-ordinators for 20 years, so Sheila had a bit of a nostalgic look back over things that had happened, highlighting among other things our two Bee Worlds, attendances at FoE conferences, Basecamp, Groundswell and regional meetings, our campaign stalls and fundraising stalls, garden parties, social events and outings.

### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS**

The Treasurer presented the accounts, which were approved with one small amendment. Proposed Ann Garrett. Seconded Bill Priestley. The finalised account plus commentary may be seen on page 9 of this March Newsletter. A donation of £50 to Friends of the plus the usual £50 donation to Marinet were proposed (Ann Garrett), seconded (Anne Clark) and agreed by the meeting.

We had achieved a very small surplus for the year but costs had risen a lot. There had been further negotiations with the Quakers about the amount of hall rental. The building is owned by Quakers centrally and they demand a commercial

rent. Any shortfall from us is paid by Bromley Quakers. We have agreed an amount of £62.50 per month which is half the full sum. It was agreed that if our income rose substantially, we would up our contribution. We shall also have some Zoom meetings with no rent payable that month. Newsletter costs had risen and postage even more so, there was a very real and urgent need to increase subscriptions. Also PayPal charge a fee for those subscriptions paid via PayPal and we had incurred a loss on these over the past few years. Therefore a surcharge for PayPal payments will be reflected in the new subscription rate.

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Membership has changed very little in 2023, we have gained and lost supporters in virtually equal numbers.

Members receiving the printed Newsletter each month total 43, with additional newsletters being sent to coordinators for further distribution to their contacts. Complimentary printed Newsletters are sent to Newspapers and FoE head office these total 7. Emailed newsletters total 70 (16 of which go to supporters who also received and emailed copy)

With the number of supporters remaining fairly static over recent years the thinking is that it will be worth having a bit of a recruitment drive in 2024 - so be prepared to receive some calls for support over the coming months!

### **CAMPAIGN REPORTS**

Annette and Ann gave brief updates on their campaign activities throughout 2023

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Co-ordinators:** Rob Clark and Helen Loughlin. Proposed Ann Garrett; Seconded Annette Rose

**Treasurer:** No proposal. Vacant

**Admin Team:** Judy Palmer supported by Annette Rose, Rob Clark and Helen Loughlin. Proposed by Sheila Brown; Seconded Ann Garrett

All agreed.

### Volunteers

The following volunteers were confirmed.

**Newsletter Editor:** Dan Sloan. Thanks were expressed to Rob Clark for his editorship. Rob is now stepping down

**Programme Organiser:** Sheila Brown. Thanks were expressed to Sheila for continuing in this role.

**Membership Secretary:** Dan Sloan. Thanks were expressed to Dan for continuing in this role.

**Outings Organisers:** Sue and John Bock confirmed they are happy to continue and the meeting thanked them for this and for the outings they have organised.

**Refreshments:** It was decided to return to a volunteer rota basis. Ann suggested that the supplies could be kept at the Meeting House where the Film Co-op supplies are kept and also volunteered to bring milk each meeting. Sheila confirmed she was happy to replenish other supplies when needed.

### Campaign Teams

Campaign teams will be drawn up under the following headings:

**Climate and Energy**, which includes Energy Crisis (Solution for Warm Homes) and Recycling

**Nature and Environment** which includes Trees and Planet over Profit

**System Change** which includes Planning and Anti-racism.

Annette passed round a board showing these categories and several people signed up. This will be formalised at the February Planning Meeting.

Liaison with other organisations:

BEN - John Pavitt and Judy Palmer

Bromley Civic Society - Ann Garrett

Greener and Cleaner - Judy Palmer and Helen Loughlin

Bromley Climate Alliance - Diana Hurd and Ann Garrett

## THANKS

Thanks were recorded to past and future campaigners, and other volunteers;

- to those who administer our social media accounts (there is List of Roles at the end of the newsletter)
- those who have chaired meetings
- to our fantastic team of reporters who write up for the newsletter
- to all helpers in setting up the hall, making tea and washing up!
- and to all who have participated in our campaigns and other events.

## MOTION

In view of the increase in the cost of the Friends Meeting House, which is used for monthly meetings, and the fact that subscriptions have not been increased for a number of years, (and with numerous postal rises) it was proposed that the cost of single membership should be

increased to £10 a year (payments by PayPal to £11 a year due to the charges made by PayPal) and the cost of membership for a couple should be increased to £18 a year, with effect from the date the subscription is due for renewal on or after 1 March 2024.

Proposed: Sheila Brown

Seconded: Rob Clark

### ***Motion carried***

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Sheila reminded people of the alterna-

tive search engine Ecosia which plants trees for every click rather than making the super-rich even richer. To date Ecosia has planted over 200,000,000 trees.

Ann, in the context of System Change, drew the meeting's attention to planning applications for tower blocks in Bromley and in Penge.

The meeting was followed by a light buffet and plenty of time to circulate and chat. Thanks to those who brought delicious food contributions.



## **Climate Campaign - Ann Garrett**

Labour has very disappointingly dropped a pledge to spend £28 billion a year on green projects.

The party has said that this is due to the Tories 'crashing the economy', and the chancellor Jeremy Hunt's decision to 'max out' the country's credit card.

Sir Keir Starmer has said that Labour's Green Prosperity Plan for clean power by 2030 would still 'lead to more jobs and investments and cheaper energy bills'. Rachel Reeves, Shadow Chancellor has

emphasised the need for 'iron discipline' with public finances. Maybe this was in response to the Tories using the figure to claim that Labour would raise taxes to meet 'an unfunded spending spree'. Whatever the reason, one is left with a feeling of pessimism that Labour is not fully committed to environmental reform, and that should they be elected, they will be torn in many different directions in their efforts to build the economy.



## **Energy Campaign - Ann Garrett**

'Britain will need to roll out 100 km [ 62 miles] of cable'. Correction to typo error in February newsletter.

Caroline Lucas [ Green Party MP ] has criticised lobbying by fossil fuel companies. She has stated that lobbying rules need to be changed to counteract this. For years, governments have colluded with fossil fuel companies in criminal decisions that have led to more fossil fuel extraction despite warnings from scientists about climate change.

Fossil fuel companies should be banned from donating to MPs and political parties and from paying for their events or gifts.

Oil, gas and coal continues to be explored and exploited, and the fossil fuel industry is engrained in our politics.

There is no justification for the fossil lobby to buy favours with politicians.

Caroline has said that it is finally time 'to clean things up' and end this corruption in Parliament.



## Transport Campaign - Ann Garrett

Anti ULEZ campaigning has been rife in Bromley over recent weeks. Cameras and traffic lights have been cut down all over the borough causing not only a health and safety hazard, but also the expense of restoring and mending the equipment.

In Orpington cameras were cut down at the junction of Spur Road and Court Road. Pictures in the News Shopper show poles on the ground with cars on the road trying to navigate the junction without traffic lights. There have also been photos of the vandalism in Beckenham and Bromley town centre.

Many people have shared their views on Facebook, that while they understand the desire to protest, it becomes dangerous

when it starts to affect traffic lights and put lives in danger.

People are being asked to contact their local councillors and MPs about this serious situation.

The fact remains that Bromley Council have 'fuelled' things by its legal challenge to ULEZ and we are sadly living in borough where there is a lot of opposition and is likely to be in the months to come.

Although some charities and people on low incomes are understandably affected, more concessions have been made by the Mayor of London, and one wonders how much genuine concern there is about pollution and the impact of climate change.



## FoE London Groups Forum Report - Helen Loughlin

On 13 February, Rob Clark and I attended a webinar for representatives from Friends of the Earth Groups in London. This covered the following main points.

- Elections for the London mayor and members of the Greater London Assembly (GLA) will be held on 2 May. Friends of the Earth will be producing pledges for candidates to sign. Mayoral candidates will be asked to pledge that they will deliver action to tackle the climate and nature emergencies and to build a fairer society. Candidates for the GLA will be asked to pledge to hold the mayor to account to ensure he or she:

reduces greenhouse gas emissions to net zero; and brings air quality in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. Local groups have been asked to try and persuade local candidates to commit to the pledges.

- In response to Labour's decision to scale back green investment, London members were asked to redouble efforts to ask Labour MPs, in particular, to sign the warm homes pledge. (See page 10.) FoE policy makers hope we will also ask this of prospective parliamentary candidates in the run up to the general election.

Group updates were also shared.



## Helping our Hedgehogs & Toads - Judy Palmer

### Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Posters

Spring is on the way, and we have been asked to help monitor our toad and hedgehog populations in the borough as both species are in decline. To help us do this, two posters have been issued and they are on the following pages.

Sightings of hedgehogs in the borough are rare, so please watch out for them. And if you have garden-friendly neighbours, maybe you could all create a Hedgehog Street for these lovely creatures. Please see the posters for information and contact details.

*Thank you, Judy Palmer*

# HELP OUR HEDGEHOGS!

Since 2000 hedgehog populations in England have fallen by more than 50% in rural areas, 33% in urban areas. In Bromley they are now rarely recorded. Hedgehogs live in scrubby areas, hedgerows, gardens and rough grassland. They often range 1-2 kms every night feeding on soil invertebrates and hibernate in deep leaf litter beneath hedgerows and scrub. Please let us know if you see one!



E-mail the date, place (postcode or grid reference) and number seen to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership at [bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com). Your information will enable targeted habitat improvements.

**How You Can Help Hedgehogs:** have a wild area with some scrub in your garden or park, check for hedgehogs before strimming, mowing or having bonfires. Make sure there are holes in fence lines so hedgehogs can pass through. Don't use pesticides, especially slug pellets, make sure ponds have one side sloping so animals which fall in can climb out. Make sure wire or nylon netting is secure or 15cms above ground. For more information see [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk).



# TOADS ARE IN TROUBLE!

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. Adults usually emerge in March and return to their ponds to breed. Please let us know if you see one! We are particularly interested in finding ponds where they breed so please look out for **strings** of eggs wound around plants stems underwater or male and females together in March-April.

Note golden eye with pupil a horizontal slit. (Frogs eyes are more circular with rounded pupil).



Toadspawn



Dry, warty skin. Frogs have smooth skin.

Legs adapted for crawling, unlike frogs whose longer back legs are good for hopping & jumping.

E-mail the date, place (postcode or grid reference), number seen and a **photo** to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership at

[bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com)

Your information will enable habitat improvements to be put in place to try & 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 90cms deep, with at least one sloping side. For more information & to see how frogs look different from toads, see <https://www.arc-trust.org>

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership is a partnership of local groups, organisations and individuals with specific expertise committed to protecting, enhancing and celebrating biodiversity within the London Borough of Bromley.





# Final Account for Bromley FoE 2023 - Sheila Brown

	2023	2022	2021	
Balance at January 1st	1,176.31	1,089.05	1,709.28	
Income				
Subscriptions	410.00	391.00	428.00	Subscription income picking up
Subs via PayPal	64.00	72.00	96.00	Reduces by PayPal charges (below), 2021 boosted by Play for the Planet
Donations	354.00	425.03	410.00	
Collection for Bill Priestley	0.00	0.00	135.00	
Hall collection	484.66	147.20	0.00	Eleven meetings. Starting 2023 'Tea' profits to be included with Hall Collection.
Tea profits	Inc in above	32.80	0.00	
Stall income/goods sold	5.75	52.00	5.00	Foal Farm (seen as information stall rather than fundraiser)
Fundraising event	302.05	379.95	206.50	2021 = Play for the Planet, 2022 and 2023 Garden Party
Miscellaneous, adjustments	50.00	100.00	0.00	
	1,670.46	1,599.98	1,280.50	
Expenditure				
Hall hire/meeting expenses	550.00	293.88	103.28	
Newsletter	590.65	544.60	553.05	12 Newsletters.
Stall rentals & other expenses	64.00	299.86	0.00	2023 = printing BfoE leaflets
Campaign expenses	0.00	0.00	46.00	
Speaker expenses/gifts	80.00	37.80	75.00	G & C, Mavis Righini
Payments to other organisations	100.00	200.00	800.00	BEN and Marinet
Donations to National FoE	100.00	100.00	120.00	
Other (including gifts)	50.00	30.00	185.00	Includes donation re Paul Rainey to Action Aid
PayPal charges	6.58	6.58	18.40	
Website	100.00			Website consultant fees
	1,641.23	1,512.72	1,900.73	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	29.23	87.26	(620.23)	In the black – but there might be some expenses to come
Balance at December 31st	1,205.54	1,176.31	1,089.05	



## Helen Responds to Labour U-Turn - Helen Loughlin

As FoE members will be aware, Labour recently announced a U-turn on its previous commitment to spend £28 billion a year on green investment. It will now spend just over £4.7bn a year on top of the £10bn of green schemes to which it says the government has already committed. The biggest cuts have been to the party's home insulation scheme, from a previous promise to spend £6bn a year (in line with the figure proposed by the United for Warm Homes campaign), to a new commitment to spend just £6.6 billion over the parliament, an average of £1.3 billion a year. The reasoning given for the change was the dire state of the economy and the need for 'fiscal responsibility'. The timing of the climbdown appears to have been prompted by the deadline on 8 February by which shadow Ministers needed to submit manifesto pledges. Labour's maintains that its priority is clean energy by 2030, which it claims can be achieved by setting up a national energy company, GB energy (funding of £8bn) to invest in green energy generation schemes, and a sovereign wealth fund (funding of £7bn) to provide funding for clean technology. The response of Friends of the Earth UK, perhaps rather optimistically, is to ask members to write to Labour MPs asking them to sign the pledge to support the United for Warm Homes campaign. I wrote to Ellie Reeves, current Labour MP for Lewisham West and Penge, who has previously been supportive of the campaign.

*Dear Ellie*

*I am writing to let you know how very disappointed I and other members of Bromley Friends of the Earth are to hear*

*of the Labour Party's decision to scale back its green prosperity plan from £28 billion a year to under £15 billion a year, of which I understand only £4.7 billion a year will be new money. In particular, we are extremely disappointed to hear that Labour's home insulation scheme will be slashed from £6 billion a year to just £6.6 billion over the Parliament, which is an average of £1.3 billion a year and will mean reducing targets for the number of properties it can insulate. This will mean more suffering for the many millions of low-income households who are in urgent need of upgrades to poorly insulated homes.*

*We understand that Labour is concerned not to breach its fiscal rules, but if action is not taken to mitigate the effects of climate change, the costs of dealing with the resulting catastrophes we are already seeing, such as floods and drought, could far exceed any green investment to improve the situation now. Moreover, any private investment that the £28 billion might have attracted to the UK is now likely to go to other countries investing in green energy.*

*I note that environmental experts have also expressed concerns that the revised green prosperity plan ignores other extremely important investment needs, such as adapting to climate change impacts, reversing biodiversity loss and stopping environmental degradation, including air and water pollution.*

*Within the next year there will be a general election, and it is essential that the next Parliament does what is needed to end the cold homes epidemic and guarantee people a warm home that*

*doesn't cost the Earth. As you know, Friends of the Earth's United for Warm Homes is calling for a national street-by-street insulation programme, with funding of at least £6 billion a year, starting in the neighbourhoods that need it most. Labour MPs' commitment to warm homes is key. Notwithstanding the Labour Party's decision, we are asking you to support this campaign, stay strong on warm homes and insulation, and commit to taking action.*

*That's why we are asking all MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates to sign our pledge and commit to introducing these policies in parliament if they are elected.*

Will you [sign the pledge](#) today?

*I would also like to invite you to a parliamentary launch of "Left out in the cold: the hidden health costs of Britain's cold homes". This is a report written by the Institute of Health Equity on the health impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty. The event will be held on Monday 26 February, 6-8pm, in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House. You will hear the latest research into health inequality and the need for insulation in the context of the cost-of-living and energy crises. If you are interested in joining this event, please RSVP to [rsvp@foe.co.uk](mailto:rsvp@foe.co.uk)*

*Helen Loughlin, Joint Coordinator,  
Bromley Friends of the Earth*



## Bromley FoE Objects to Blenheim Redevelopment

On Thursday 15 February, Bromley Friends of the Earth submitted an objection to Bromley Council, on environmental grounds, to a proposal from Hadley Property Group and Clarion Housing Group to build a set of four tower blocks between three and sixteen storeys high on Penge High Street. There has been strong local opposition. Our objection is set out below. Many thanks to Kevin Dykes for reading through the relevant papers at short notice and drafting the first three points and to Ann Garrett for adding the fourth point after returning from a long day out.



1. The developers have stated that they can lower carbon emissions from their proposals by reducing the number of floors to be built, see their Whole Life Carbon report; therefore they should do more and reduce the number of floors further and the council should welcome such contributions to reducing carbon emissions. The Whole Life Carbon report also discusses how recycling the existing concrete frame will help reduce carbon emissions. We therefore request that the fullest possible exploration of both of these opportunities are taken before planning permission is granted.

2. The council has an excellent Biodiversity Partnership and plan. However because, understandably, much of the work so far in Bromley on biodiversity has been about protecting more greener and rural spaces from loss, less time and effort has so far gone into how new developments can enhance more urban and degraded (in biodiversity terms) sites, such as the Blenheim Centre site. The claim that the



new development will increase biodiversity value by 61% is very welcome, but it is very unclear how this will happen. No planning permission should be granted until such important details are the subject of a report provided by an urban ecologist with

experience of such sites.

3. The sustainable transport hub, and the aim of supporting more walking and cycling, are welcome ambitions; however it is not at all clear if the potential of these ambitions will be realised (see para 4.69 of the Transport Assessment supporting document). Therefore no planning permission should be granted until full and firm details of the sustainable transport hub are provided.

4. The design of the complex is of a dominating overpowering nature and aesthetically unpleasing both in shape and use of materials. The effect of the infrastructure in an area where there are already high demands would be unsustainable.



## The BIG Plastic Count

This is a massive opportunity, but we have to act fast...and we need your help!

Taking part in The Big Plastic Count is really easy. Here's a reminder of what you need to do:

1. **Register:** Get your free counting pack (digital or via post) which includes everything you need to take part

2. **Get Counting:** Count all your plastic waste from 11-17 March

3. **Submit Results:** Submit your data via our website by 31 March

**Get Your Footprint:** Discover your plastic footprint and use the results to make a difference!

The more people we have onboard, the more powerful our collective voice will become. Together, let's turn the tide on plastic pollution and show the world that our actions count!

[https://thebigplasticcount.com/signup/households/video?source=EM&subsource=OCPOPSOAE03GP&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=BPC+Household+sign-up+video++OA&utm\\_term=](https://thebigplasticcount.com/signup/households/video?source=EM&subsource=OCPOPSOAE03GP&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=BPC+Household+sign-up+video++OA&utm_term=)



# FREE WELL-BEING ON YOUR DOORSTEP



## REDUCE STRESS



Enjoy a FREE 1 hr slow, mindful stroll in a local green space using sensory tools to relax & boost immune health.



## CONNECTION

Groups are guided and small so you meet people, but as we walk in silence, you don't have to talk.



## BOOST MOOD

Feel CALM. Our study saw: 50% reduction in over-thinking, 40% reduction in anxiety after a stroll.



Various dates  
and parks.  
Book via link

[linktr.ee/Parkbathe](https://linktr.ee/Parkbathe)  
[parkbathe@gmail.com](mailto:parkbathe@gmail.com)

**parkbathe**  
www.parkbathe.co.uk



# THE HUB



*Greener & Cleaner*

**The Hub - your local community-powered space in The Glades where you can come and find out more about how to lead a greener and cleaner lifestyle (and save money in the process!).**

## VOLUNTEERS

We're staffed by a group of friendly volunteers, who are always willing to answer any question, big or small, about things you can do to lead a more eco-friendly lifestyle

## WORKSHOPS, TALKS & EVENTS

[www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/events](http://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/events)

We run free or low-cost weekly workshops, talks and events for adults and children. Including, but not limited to:

- crafting, upcycling and mending skills;
- wildlife friendly gardening;
- insulating homes against excess temperatures;
- energy production and storage (renewables);
- guilt-free fashion;
- recycling and impactful local donation;
- cleaner transport and air quality;
- cycle maintenance and safe routes;
- growing your own fruit and veg;
- planting to protect against flooding and heat;
- repair workshops to reduce our carbon footprints and cost of living.

Plus we provide sustainability support for schools, charities and businesses, and much more!

Check out what's happening each week on our website or Facebook page:

[www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/events](http://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/events)

[www.facebook.com/TheHubGreenerCleaner](https://www.facebook.com/TheHubGreenerCleaner)

**BOOSTING LOCAL SUSTAINABLE LIVING,  
WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT, WHILE REDUCING BILLS,  
CONFUSION AND LONELINESS.  
#BETHECHANGE**

### LOCATION:

Unit 268, Upper Mall, The Glades (beside HMV & Waterstones), The Glades shopping centre (BR1 1DN), Bromley High Street.

### OPENING HOURS:

10am-6pm: Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat  
11am-5pm: Sunday  
Closed: Tues, Weds



@greenerandcleaneruk



@greenercleanerB



/GreenerCleanerBromley  
/TheHubGreenerCleaner



# LIBRARY OF THINGS

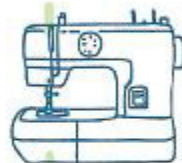
The Hub from Greener and Cleaner hosts Bromley's 'Library of Things', allowing you to borrow top quality household items for a very small fee rather than buying them (saving you money and space - win win!).

Register here and start borrowing:  
[www.libraryofthings.co.uk/bromley](http://www.libraryofthings.co.uk/bromley)



**CARPET CLEANERS  
HAND SANDER  
WALLPAPER STRIPPER  
TELESCOPIC LADDER  
PRESSURE WASHER  
STEAM CLEANER  
DRILL  
TILE CUTTER  
CIRCULAR SAW  
RECIPROCATING SAW  
ANGLE GRINDER  
PLANER  
JIGSAW**

**SDS DRILL  
SHEARS  
STRIMMER  
LAWNMOWER  
HEDGE TRIMMER  
PROJECTOR  
STEREO SYSTEM  
WAFFLE MAKER  
ICECREAM MAKER  
SEWING MACHINE  
SHREDDER  
DEHUMIDIFIER**



**& MORE!**

**VOLUNTEER FOR  
GREENER & CLEANER**



Let's use our voices and choices to help clean up air quality and halve the carbon emissions of our borough!  
**#initttogether #beyourownlocalhero**

If you're happy to help at the Hub or more generally with Greener & Cleaner charity, please contact us on:  
[hubagreenerandcleaner.co.uk](http://hubagreenerandcleaner.co.uk)



**LEAVE VISITOR FEEDBACK**



## Supplies That Don't Cost the Earth

### No/Low Waste or Refill Shops

*The Green Room* Online shop only now is delivering household product bottle refills: <https://www.javaandchai.com>

*SWOP Shop WithOut Packaging* A wide range of the usual refills in Lee Green opposite Sainsbury's: <https://www.swop.market/>

*Beldi Maison* 11 Sundridge Parade, Plaistow Lane BR1 4DT (Sundridge Park Station): <https://beldimaisoninteriors.com/>

*Laura's Larder*, 3 Fairway, Petts Wood BR5 1EF: <https://www.lauraslarder.co.uk/>

*Herbivore*, Southborough Lane, Bromley: <http://www.carnivorefoods.com>  
herbivorebromley@gmail.com 020 8460 9647

*Art of Zero Living* 7a Greenwich Market SE10 9HZ: <https://artofzeroliving.uk/>

### Repairs

*Orpington IT Centre*, 92 High St, Orpington BR6 0JY  
(Opposite Aynscombe Angle) [www.orpingtonitcentre.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonitcentre.co.uk)

*Repair Café* St. Mary's Church hall, Worlds End Lane, Green Street Green BR6 6AG

### Donate Your Tech

Clearcommunityweb: <https://clearcommunityweb.co.uk/donate-your-tech/>

### Internet

*Greener & Cleaner* Consumer action! <https://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk>

*Peep Eyewear* revitalise vintage frames or recycle those that can't be reused: <https://www.peepeyewear.co.uk/peep-donation-address>

*If You Care* products including recycled

tin foil and sandwich bags: <https://buyifyoucare.com>

*Peace With the Wild* - Household products: <https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk>

*My Green Pod* - Wide range of biodegradable and natural products: <https://www.mygreenpod.com>

*Ethical Superstore* - 'Ethical' products news and advice: <https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com>

*Green Finder* - a useful directory of environmental companies for all kinds of things: <http://www.greenfinder.co.uk>

*Naturallythinking*, Unit 2 Mill Lane Trading Estate, Mill Lane, Croydon, CR0 4AA, 020 3856 3588: <https://naturallythinking.com>

*Crowdfarming*, wide selection of directly supplied products from farmers around the world, many organic: <https://www.crowdfarming.com/en>

*Zero Waste Path*. Soaps and other toiletries made in Scotland. Handmade, vegan, palm oil free, natural, plastic free, circular, cruelty free and renewable energy: <https://www.zerowastepath.co.uk>

*Just Think Eco*. All sorts of eco household products: <https://www.justthinkeco.com>

*Olio* sharing app. Share anything you have in excess with nearby people. Includes free food and other items.

### Bike recycling

Refurbished bikes sent to Africa: <https://www.re-cycle.org>

### Wood

South London Wood Recycling Project. Wood saved from the tip at low cost: <https://solowoodrecycling.co.uk/>



## The Jackdaw - Steve Fuller

This month I'm going to be writing about the Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula* – *Western or Eurasian Jackdaw*). This bird is the smallest of the corvids and are somewhat dove like in body shape. Although similar to crows and rooks in having black plumage it is different in having a grey hood around the back of the head and small creamy serpent-like eyes which are distinctly unlike other corvids. Older jackdaws have been known to develop grey plumage across their entire bodies. Like other corvids these birds are gregarious and have a range of calls but the most distinctive is an almost dog-like 'Jack' yap. The jackdaw has a number of regional names including: Jackie – midlands, Caddow/Caddy – East Anglia and Chaw – Cornwall. There is some historic confusion with the jackdaw's name. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century it appears to have been called by various corruptions of the name 'chough' which nowadays refers to the 'red billed chough'. Yet Shakespeare used the name in both *King Lear* and *Midsummer nights dream* and it is unclear which species he intended. And talking of species, there is some argument that this bird should be a member of the corvid subgroup Coloeus. Only two species sit in this group: the Western jackdaw (the one we know here in Britain) and the Daurian, which lives in China and Japan. Although different in plumage they are similar in shape, call and behaviour but cannot interbreed.



Historically the jackdaw has been included in statutes (Henry VIII's anti-vermin 1532 statute) designed to reduce the amount of grain lost to corvids including jackdaws. Parishes of more than 10 families would be fined if they did not maintain baited nets. Yet jackdaws take relatively little grain and have historically not been such highly prized targets as rooks, crows and magpies. Indeed, not so long ago jackdaws would on occasion be used as pets, as were also magpies. This in part is due to their intelligence and the ability, unlike most animals, to be able to identify different humans. They have, like blue tits, been known to remove milk bottle tops on doorsteps which on occasion has led to cases of gastroenteritis amongst humans.

Jackdaws have a healthy, thriving population of around 600,000 in Britain and Ireland and seem to thrive in the modern environment from rubbish tips to motorway service stations. They are also less fearful of danger while other corvids hesitate. Despite the numbers and their inclination towards the modern world jackdaws do not seem to be that common in London although there are nineteenth century records of these birds inhabiting famous landmarks. When nesting, these birds make heavy work of the structural side of things and will relentlessly continue piling twigs trying to form a foundation. There is one record from Oxenton church in Gloucestershire where a likely nesting location opened up into a larger volume. It must have been created over many years but the eventual 'nest' was 8 feet high and not much narrower at the base! Once the foundation has been established the jackdaw likes to furnish the nest with softer material like feathers, fur and wool. They will often take these materials from live animals and the victims seem more than happy to indulge the jackdaw as these birds do a service of ridding them of parasites.

Steve Fuller Feb 2024

Here is the next card in the series produced by the Bromley Climate Alliance of which Bromley FoE is a member. Each cardt highlights a common trope about our various causes and debunks them. Very useful if you are debating with a sceptic.

## APPEAL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

"Climate actions will generate large costs. Vulnerable members of our society will be burdened; hard-working people cannot enjoy their holidays"

Growth has not been able to systematically reduce poverty (relative or absolute) in the UK, despite the link between energy consumption and GDP growth. The solution is not growth at all costs.

The objective is to ensure a transition towards a sustainable society, an ecological economy. It is easy to confuse the notion of decline with economic recession or depression. This alarmist discourse tends to frighten and blocks any initiative.

Argument heard during the Covid-19 crisis: "and there you go, you wanted it to decrease, see the result!". To equate a pandemic with degrowth just because it causes a drop in GDP is as absurd as describing an amputation as a diet just because it causes weight loss.

Remember that restrictive measures will affect the rich most, because they are the biggest polluters. Degrowth implies a reduction in production and consumption in order to limit social and environmental damage. It does not imply a reduction in well-being, health or happiness.

**BROMLEY CLIMATE  
ACTION ALLIANCE**

email: [BCAAlliance@protonmail.com](mailto:BCAAlliance@protonmail.com)

"What's stopping you?"  
A series of 12 cards on  
'Discourses of Climate  
Delay'. References  
follow the QR code.



## APPEAL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

(Inspired from Lamb WF et al. 2020)



Fig. 8.  
Appeal to  
social justice

**#8 IN A SERIES OF 12 CARDS: COLLECT THEM ALL.**



## List of Roles and Contacts

Everyone can be contacted via the group's email address: **bromleyfoe@gmail.com**

### Co-ordinators/Mentors:

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503  
Helen Loughlin 07951 062016

### Treasurer (temporary):

Sheila Brown

### Press Team:

Ann Garrett, Annette Rose

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown

### Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 0208 290 0485

### Merchandising:

Anne Clark

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 07414 920920

### Social Media Admins:

Emmanuelle Coetzee - Twitter  
Bethan Clark - Instagram  
Judy Palmer, Robert Clark - Facebook

### Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

### Bromley Environmental Network Reps:

John Pavitt, Judy Palmer

### Bromley Civic Society Rep:

Ann Garrett

### Cleaner & Greener Reps:

Helen Loughlin, Judy Palmer

### Bromley Climate Alliance Reps:

Ann Garrett, Diana Hurd

### Website & Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi

### Meeting Reporters:

John & Sue Bocock, Anne Clark, Annette

Rose, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown, Tom Coling, Ruth Fabricant, Michael Hall, Liam Redmond - further volunteers for this team, always welcome.

### Refreshments

Vacant.

### Newsletter Production:

Dan Sloan

### Newsletter Editor:

Dan Sloan 07414 920920  
stopkillingtheplanet@gmail.com

**Campaigns:** You can join one of the campaign teams at any point if you are interested. Just contact us via our main email address or speak to one of us at a meeting.

*Campaign leads in bold - specialisms bracketed*

### Campaigns Administrator:

Judy Palmer

### Climate:

**Ann Garrett**  
Sheila Brown  
Ruth Fabricant  
Paul Garratt

### Transport:

**Ann Garrett**

### Nature:

**Diana Hurd** (trees)  
Paul Garratt  
Judy Palmer

### System Change:

**Tamara Galloway** (Planning)  
Ruth Fabricant (Anti racism)  
Ann Garratt (Planning)  
John Pavitt

### Consumption:

**Annette Rose**  
John Pavitt (Food)  
Emmanuelle Coetzee (Food)  
Sheila Brown (Plastics)





## Non-Members Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth (BFoE) then hello to you. 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 acting co-ordinators Rob Clark or Helen Loughlin (their details are inside the back page of this newsletter). Alternatively you can come along to one of our 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, on the right going down. If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.



## Membership Application/Renewal Form

I would like to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my annual subscription (£10 single/£18 couple/family, or £11 single/£19 couple/family if paying by PayPal) I also enclose a donation (optional) of £..... to help towards the work of our local group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Phone No: .....

Email address: .....

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

.....

Please return this form to: Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent BR6 7RN. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.

**Bank Details:** Name - **Bromley Friends of the Earth A/C: 06342260 S/C: 77-91-48**