



**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# Newsletter

**May 2011**  
**No. 281**

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## May Meeting

**Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

### **Human Rights are Everyone's Rights**

*Amnesty International's Dignity Campaign demands universal human dignity and respect for the full range of human rights*

**Neville White from Amnesty International**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - 7.30pm.**

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by **SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY**. Contact details inside front cover.

***Bluebell Walk – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May – more info at the May meeting***

### Diary dates:

<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tue)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's May meeting:</b> Neville White, Amnesty Intl
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Bluebell walk – Cudham</b> ( <i>see below</i> )
<b>June 7<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's June meeting:</b> Martin Bishop on Bullers Wood School's Ecosystem
<b>June 11<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's High Street stall</b> – Energy Bill
<b>June 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>FoE Greater South East Gathering:</b> Bonhill House, 1-3 Bonhill St, London EC2A 4BX
<b>June 26<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Keston Countryside Day</b>
<b>July 9<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Chesfield Village Fair:</b> Bromley FoE stall
<b>Sept 9-11</b>	<b>FoE local groups conference,</b> Nottingham University
<b>Oct 15 (Sat)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE campaign stall,</b> Bromley High Street

### Re-User Item (2<sup>nd</sup> month)

Children's books – complete set of 17 Ladybird Read with Me books – key words reading scheme  
Also many other books of things to do with children, list available from Peter Gandolfi ([famgando@hotmail.com](mailto:famgando@hotmail.com))  
All excellent condition and cheap

### Bluebell Walk

We shall be joining Harris HospisCare on Sunday May 8th. It's at Cudham Recreation Ground for their annual fundraising walk. Please meet at 11a.m. by the registration tent; registration fee £5. (See Harris HospisCare's website if you wish to register in advance.) This year we aim to do the 5 mile walk (last year we did a mere 3 miles!). This is their major fundraising event of the year, a chance to raise some of the £1.7 million it costs annually to provide free care and support to terminally ill people in the borough of Bromley.

See you there – John and Sue Bocock

### Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY:**

**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

## **April meeting report - Bob Francis from RSPB**

*Report by Sheila Brown*

Bob explained that he did not work for RSPB but was involved with the Bromley branch, which meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in Bromley Library, 7 pm for 7.45 pm.

The RSPB was founded in 1889. It currently has 206 reserves, 1300 staff and 14,900 volunteers. There is also an international organisation Bird Life International, established in recognition that birds do not respect national boundaries and which seeks to protect birds in countries where they are not treated as humanely as in this country.

RSPB was originally founded in response to contemporary fashions which used bird feathers, specifically from beautiful white egrets; a group of women got together to defend the rights of the birds. It started life under the name Fur, Fins and Feathers Society.

The first reserve, at Dungeness, was established in 1932. Minsmere, on the Suffolk coast, was established in 1947. The area had been flooded during the war to prevent a German invasion and this had led to a huge explosion in the bird population, and so the area was left as it was (it would in fact have been almost impossible to reclaim it for agriculture); it is now one of the best known reserves in the country. South Start in Anglesey is the home of puffins and near to London Rainham Marshes is readily accessible to city dwellers.

RSPB was constantly at loggerheads with farmers over intensive farming practices which discouraged and devastated birdlife. In 1999 it set up its own farm, Hope Farm in Cambridgeshire, to prove that profitable and eco-friendly farming methods can go hand in hand. It has seen a huge increase in bird numbers and farmers now come along to attend study days.

One illustration is the skylark, whose numbers had been decimated by modern farming practices. They nest at ground level but like a low crop height as they like to have good visibility. As they have two broods a year and the crop will grow higher, special areas are left unplanted to allow an area with shorter growth for the second brood. The Avocet, once nearly extinct, requires brackish pools with a particular level of salinity, and its numbers have increased given the right conditions.

Strictly speaking, the RSPB concentrates on habitats rather than birds. It has seen rare birds become common whilst once common birds have become rarer. Many rare species have experienced a resurgence in numbers.

The Corn Bunting now has 697 breeding pairs; its needs are hedgerows, winter cereal and stubble, and caterpillars in the summer. The White Tailed Sea Eagle became extinct but was re-introduced from Norway; there are currently 46 pairs in

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## April meeting report, *continued*

England. Another well-known success story is the Red Kite. It had become extinct but was re-introduced into the Chilterns in 1989 and there are currently 400 pairs in Wales, with similar numbers in England and Scotland.

The Stone Curlew is a nocturnal wading bird; it winters in Africa but needs spring plant crops. Numbers had declined and despite a significant increase since 1985 due to RSPB intervention, the UK population level is still critical. The Bittern was down to 11 males in 1997 but is now up to 55 males on 30 sites. Its decline was due to the demise of the thatching industry as it lives in reed beds, but planned reed bed maintenance has resulted in increased numbers.

The Corn Crane, which winters in Africa, was due to become extinct by 2000 but there are now 1000 male birds. The Hen Harrier is not a success story, as this bird only exists on RSPB reserves.

1961 saw the RSPB being put on a business footing by Barbara Young and the establishment of its Headquarters at Sandy.

Why are birds considered important? The rôle of the canary in mining is well known. Farm birds have suffered catastrophic decline, and all the time new birds come in and colonise. Destruction of habitat and hedgerows is the main underlying reason. There have been some disastrous cases of environmental degradation, for example in the Flow Country – an expanse of wetland and blanket bog in

Scotland which has been enormously damaged by tree planting but which is being rescued by an RSPB campaign to return it to peat bog. [I looked this up on the Internet and they are urgently appealing for funds]. More disastrous was the conversion of mud flats near Sittingbourne – Lappel Bank on the Medway which was went to court and to appeal and was turned down – but sadly by then the project was already underway and the wonderful wetland habitat lost for ever.

RSPB gets involved in planning enquiries, for example at Cliffe and Dungeness, and it now works closely with farmers to promote stewardship schemes, and fortunately the government now pays a premium for wildlife.

The marine environment does not present such a happy story with a catalogue of damaging tanker disasters, the most devastating being the one off Shetland.

It is important to involve young people and over the years there have been various schemes and campaigns, but nowadays it is proving harder to connect with young children and encourage them into the countryside.

RSPB engages with many campaigns worldwide, from defending the rainforest in Sumatra to protection of vultures in India where they die in huge numbers due drugs given to cattle which are poisonous to the vultures, and in Africa they are poisoned. There is a campaign to

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## FoE online petition – a path to a nuclear-free future

[http://www.foe.co.uk/what\\_we\\_do/nuclear\\_27386.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/nuclear_27386.html)

As the full extent of the earthquake and tsunami disaster unfolds, our thoughts are with the people affected by the catastrophe in Japan.

Our own Government has now launched a welcome review of the UK's nuclear safety. Now is the time to send them a clear message - nuclear is a gamble we don't need to take.

Friends of the Earth has created an online petition calling on the UK Government to set us on a path to a nuclear-free future, focussing on energy saving and renewable energy. We are looking to build as many signatures as we can, as fast as we can.

Groups can play a vital role in making this happen, by spreading it far through your networks and contacts as fast and wide as you can. Here's how you can support this urgent action:

- Sign the petition right now and then encourage everyone in your group to sign it too
- Pass this on to other groups, organisations, networks and lists in your area. Please have a think about who you can go to, to get the word out across your area and build momentum.
- If you can think of other creative ways to get the petition out there, go ahead. Your Network Developers are also on hand to try to help out.

Extra information (in next column):

We've created a paper version of the petition that you can download and use on stalls, although we'd urge you as a top priority to get the online petition out as far as possible.

We're aiming to get a briefing up as soon as we can, setting out our position in more depth. Keep an eye on the community page for that.

**Andy Atkins, Executive Director,  
Friends of the Earth**

### April meeting report, concluded

protect Albatross which become victims of long-line fishing, and a cunning solution has been found by developing nets with weights which drop very rapidly before the albatross can fly into them. The Marine Life Campaign has resulted in Lundy Island being designated a protected area.

Illegal hunting still goes on, most particularly in countries like France, Cyprus and Malta, and here at home gamekeepers can be ruthless in destroying some birds.

Most people have heard of the Garden Bird Survey undertaken by the RSPB each January and we learned that Bromley has the highest number of respondents! The local branch is active with meetings, field trips and coach trips further afield, and is always to be seen at Keston Countryside day – we'll see you there.

## Biggin Hill Airport campaign victory – Ray Watson

It was a magnificent win! Against heavyweight opposition, residents of Bromley created a formidable set of arguments that convinced Bromley councillors to reject Biggin Hill Airport Ltd (BHAL) using the Olympic Games as a cover to expand their operations.

Indeed, it was no mean achievement because the council's leaders added to the burden by being sympathetic to the airport's scheme, by initially giving little time for consultation – later overturned after protests – and doing little to ensure residents were aware of what was going on, even to the extent of directing inquirers to the BHAL website.

The airport itself mounted an advertising campaign and used a professional public relations firm to get their story across which was that they needed longer hours in order to accommodate Olympics flights. Opponents argued that this would create a precedent for the future.

To combat this, four residents associations (out of 40 in the borough) plus Bromley FoE got together to form a new group called Bromley Residents Against Airport Expansion (BRAAD). It had two main objectives: first, to encourage other residents associations to warn their members of the danger; second, to ensure councillors were aware of the arguments against the plan.

Over a six-week period this meant many, many hours being put into analysing the legal technicalities in the airport's lease with the aim of proving that the council had the power to reject the application, that there was no need

for longer operating hours to accommodate extra Olympics flights and that money 'sweeteners' offered by the airport to the council for every fare-paying Olympics flight landed there amounted to little and would create another precedent.

The investigations paid off as was demonstrated when councillors used these points in speaking against acceptance of the plan. In fact, some said they were downright suspicious that BHAL was using the application as a backdoor means of securing its long-stated aim of winning permission to have fare-paying passenger flights land there.

Other councillors said that to give way to the demands would be selling out for a few pieces of silver and that while the airport gained the profits, the people got the misery.

While BRAAD was putting the pressure on councillors, especially those representing wards not greatly affected by the noise and dangers created by the airport's existence, BRAAD was operating a campaign to inform as many residents as possible of the situation and calling on them to send objections to the council. This entailed producing and distributing leaflets and posters, making phone calls, sending dozens of emails and getting stories into the local press.

The result was that 2100 objections plus letters from 30 groups were received by the council – 95% of those who took part in the consultation process.

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## Biggin Hill Airport campaign victory – *continued*

A further weapon was to ensure the public gallery of the council chamber was filled for the crucial debate; in fact about 300 people arrived and it was necessary to use overflow rooms.

The arguments against the airport are well-known – they would be, given that the dispute has been going on for 11 years. They range from noise and air pollution to road congestion and safety worries, plus the disturbance from early morning to late at night for the tens of thousands living under the flight path. New this time was the threat of terrorist activities, this being a possible Olympic site.

Also new was information found by BRAAD by calling on the Freedom of Information Act. This revealed that the council and the airport had already begun talks on a further application under which the airport would ask for fare-paying passenger flights and longer hours. This gave greater urgency for residents to win the battle.

BHAL put forward its usual case (which several councillors criticised as badly argued, with little supporting evidence). It said jobs would be created, it would bring new business to the airport and to companies based there.

The night of the full council meeting was extraordinary. To the surprise of the people in the gallery, one by one, councillors rose to oppose the application. We knew that we could count on about 15 votes but in the end 37 voted against the application and 8 in favour.

The meeting was followed by another meeting – that of the seven-man cabinet which has the power to approve or disapprove the full council's decision. This was of great interest to the residents because some claim that the cabinet is generally too supportive of the airport. However, given the size of the majority, one by one the cabinet members, rather shamefacedly gave their lukewarm endorsement to the council vote.

But, as outlined in last month's Newsletter (published before the vote) this story does not end here. BHAL has publicly announced that they will be back for wider variations to the lease. This was revealed by the airport's managing director in a post-debate radio broadcast which also featured a councillor and your reporter, representing BRAAD.

The formation of BRAAD by a few dedicated residents – and Bromley FoE – meant a huge amount of work and also indicated that more hands will be needed next time round when the stakes are higher.

But it also proved that residents can win if they demonstrate to their elected representatives that they care.

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(almost) blank.*

## Campaigns info – Ann Garrett

### **Recycling Action Day Stall Report**

A big thank you to all 12 people who turned up on March 19th to help with the recycling campaign.

We were able to send about 50 cards to FoE to pass on to local MPs, and there was some good publicity in the News Shopper with a photo and report. See photo on page 9 of this newsletter.

Our next Bromley High Street stall will be on June 11th from 2.00 - 4.00 pm outside Caffe Nero and it is possible that this will be targeting the Localism Bill. I am waiting for confirmation re this from National FoE.

### **Energy and Climate**

#### **Fukushima Disaster**

This has now been upgraded to 7 as a major disaster equivalent to Chernobyl, and has raised serious questions about the safety of nuclear power throughout the world. Three million gallons of radioactive water have been pumped into the sea, and the 12 mile exclusion zone around Fukushima has been increased. The radioactive water dumped is up to 500 times the legal radiation limit, although officials say that it will easily disperse in the Pacific Ocean.

More than one in 10 nuclear power plants are at risk from tsunamis or earthquakes apparently. Many of the at-risk plants are in countries less able to cope with a disaster than Japan, experts have warned. Seventy-six operating power stations in Japan, Taiwan, China, South Korea, India,

Pakistan and the US are located in areas close to coastlines deemed vulnerable to tsunamis.

There are 442 operating nuclear power plants world-wide. It is heartening to learn that Germany, Switzerland and Italy have made a decision not to proceed with new nuclear power stations and to gradually phase out existing ones.

#### **Molton Salt Reactors**

According to scientists the molton salt reactor is inherently safer than the conventional nuclear reactor, as it does not produce long-life radioactive waste products. It can utilise those waste products that have accumulated as well as that from scrapped nuclear weapons. It can also use thorium as a fuel which is relatively abundant. However, there is a drawback as far as defence is concerned - molton salt reactors are not capable of producing fuel for nuclear weapons, which is why they are not being developed!

#### **Record decline in Arctic ozone layer**

The UN weather agency has reported that the so-called 'hole' in the ozone layer over the Arctic has reached unprecedented levels. It suffered a loss of about 40 per cent from the start of last winter until late March. This has exceeded the previous seasonal decline of some 30 per cent, the World Meteorological Organisation has stated. Global warming experts focus on the region because it where the effects are expected to be seen first, and are concerned that the depletion of the ozone layer is mainly due to human pollution.

## Recycling Action Day – press release and photo

Members of Bromley Friends of the Earth held a stall in Bromley High Street on Saturday March 19th, and had a large David Cameron mask, recycling bin and saw cut-outs to attract attention for their recycling campaign, which was part of a national day of action.

The David Cameron figure sawed the bin in half as a symbolic message to the Prime Minister to use his influence to compel companies to cut down on packaging and build products to last,

so that the nation's rubbish can be halved.

Members of the public signed cards for Friends of the Earth to send to David Cameron asking him to set a goal by 2020 as part of the Government's waste review, especially as he has stated that he wants to run the greenest government ever. This would also help cash-strapped councils in their recycling and re-use services, and make things easier for both businesses and householders.



## Farewell to Traidcraft + Greenpeace Fundraising Lunch

Over the years we have had occasional Traidcraft fair trade stalls at our monthly meeting. For the past 25 years Sheila and Malcolm Barker have been local Traidcraft organisers. Based at St Nicholas Church in Farnborough, they have facilitated the sale of Traidcraft food, stationery, jewellery and gift items, organising supplies to a number of local churches on a regular basis, held regular coffee mornings and provided an ordering service.

A rough estimate of between £5,000 to £8,000 has been traded annually, providing £500 - £1000 worth of profits annually which has been passed on to charities including Water Aid, Christian Aid and Traidcraft Exchange. They have also been able to respond financially to a number of international disaster funds, such as the Boxing Day Tsunami.

All good things come to an end and Sheila and Malcolm are now giving up this rôle. They want to thank all those who have supported them over the years. Fair Trade items are now readily available in shops and supermarkets. Traidcraft goods may still be purchased from their catalogue, by telephone on 0845 330 8900 or online at [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).

Thanks to Bromley FoE members who have supported our occasional Traidcraft stalls.

NB: Bromley Parish Church, Church Road, Bromley has a Traidcraft Stall every Saturday morning in the Parish Rooms.

### Dear Bromley Friends of the Earth,

Bromley Greenpeace Active Network would like to invite you and your members to a fund-raising Lunch at the award-winning Croft Tea Rooms, St Mary Cray, BR5 4AR on Sunday 22nd May, from 12.30.

Greenpeace Bromley has been running for the last 20 years and with a new era dawning across the world, would like to welcome you to a short talk about our values, ethics and actions and why we support Greenpeace aims.

Greenpeace is building a new Rainbow Warrior ship, to specification, so we are aiming to raise funds for this with a suggested donation of £5.00 for a place at the Tea Rooms, which will be most welcome. Please have a look here: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/about/ships/the-rainbow-warrior/> a website with all the details and action videos.

Please RSVP by email [roisinrobertson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roisinrobertson@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to book, or phone 020 8249 8937. Donation payment by cash on the day. Croft Tea Rooms bills directly to the Tea Rooms themselves.

I do hope to see you all there,

Kindest regards,

Roisin and the Greenpeace Bromley Active Network

## CYW - Andy Atkins and Joe Jenkins

### **Let's Get Going, Andy Atkins, FoE's Executive Director**

"As we ready ourselves for the challenges ahead and get to grips with the scale of those challenges, I feel confident we can tackle them together," writes Executive Director, Andy Atkins.

In this issue, I've asked our Director of Policy and Campaigns Craig Bennett and our Director of Fundraising, Communications and Activism Joe Jenkins to set out to you, our committed grassroots campaigners, what Friends of the Earth is doing to get ready to face the challenges we know we need to confront.

We have had some important campaign victories in the past year, but we've also had a chance to refresh our overall strategy through our Mid-Term Review (MTR). Many of you will have contributed to this - thank you.

We plan to largely conclude the MTR in early May, with final details clarified in the summer. We'll be a reinvigorated organisation with a clear focus and direction as a result. And with no time to lose.

As Craig sets out in his article, the scale and breadth of the environmental challenges we are now facing are greater than ever before. We are reaching a critical point, pushing up to or beyond the planet's environmental limits. We need nothing less than truly transformational action to confront this.

Friends of the Earth has a vital role to play, both to help raise awareness of

the solutions and to deliver them. This is why our work refreshing how we look and sound, which Joe explains in his article, is so important.

There are big challenges and big opportunities ahead, and we aim to deliver campaigns and communications that live up to them. As Head of Activism Neil Kingsnorth sets out, our grassroots network will play a fundamental role in making this happen.

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### **Personality test - Joe Jenkins, FoE's Director of Fundraising, Communications and Activism**

"With Communications in my job title, I'm used to people wanting to speak to me about brand. And I'm equally familiar with the many different interpretations people give to the word — for some, it simply means our logo and colour scheme; to others, it's our mind, body and soul." Joe Jenkins, Director of Fundraising, Communications and Activism, shares the plans to refresh our look and feel.

### **Our brand is more than the logo; it's who we are**

For me, the brand represents the personality of the organisation, our fundamental essence. It is the way in which we are perceived by the outside world, and shapes the expectations people will have of us. It's more than a logo. Given the challenges we face in 2011 (as Craig has outlined), it has never been more crucial that Friends of the Earth is seen as important, relevant and appealing.

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## CYW – Joe Jenkins (*continued*) and Craig Bennett

### **Sharing our vision**

We have an incredibly proud heritage: as you know, this year is our 40th anniversary. And we also have an ambitious vision for sustainable development: a world where people live equitably within environmental limits. Now we need more people with us, doing more things - locally, nationally, globally - to help us deliver this vision through transformational change.

In this context, I believe a strong brand isn't a nice-to-have. If we're to achieve our goals, we need our supporters to be motivated and engaged, for our cause to be elevated in the minds of the public, and our messages to resonate with decision makers.

### **Wearing our hearts on our sleeves**

We must express our personality powerfully through fresh, exciting communications, rooted in our vision and inspiring people to join us and take action. So this year, as well as celebrating our anniversary, we'll also be looking to the future by refreshing the look and feel of the organisation - making sure we deliver communications that match the ambition of our campaigns.

Once produced, we'll get any new materials out across the network so we can all start using them as soon as possible to generate support and influence key decision makers. We'll be involving groups and other supporters in developing some creative ideas and we'll keep you updated through video updates and group events in the coming months.

### **The perfect storm – Craig Bennett, FoE's Director of Policy and Campaigns**

"Humanity is on course to make greater demands on the planet over the next 40 years than at any other point in history." Craig Bennett, Director of Policy and Campaigns, reflects on how we've got into this state — and why he believes Friends of the Earth is well placed to meet this perfect storm head on.

The term "perfect storm" is used by the UK Government's Chief Scientific Advisor Professor John Beddington to describe the global environmental shocks that result from changes within individual planetary systems — such as food, energy, water and climate:

"It is predicted that by 2030 the world will need to produce 50 per cent more food and energy, together with 30 per cent more available fresh water, whilst mitigating and adapting to climate change. This threatens to create a perfect storm of global events."

Although we will put the greatest demands ever on the Earth's resources over the next 40 years, our continued failure to live within environmental limits means the planet's capability to meet these demands is steadily decreasing.

### **Breaking boundaries**

More than 40 of the world's top scientists recently attempted to quantify the planetary boundaries for nine environmental pressures on the global system. They concluded that  
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## CYW - Craig Bennett *(continued)*

three boundaries have already been exceeded — climate change, biodiversity loss, and changes to the global nitrogen cycle. Two others are fast approaching critical thresholds — the annual inflow of phosphorous to oceans, and ocean acidification.

The real problem, however, is that all these pressures are interdependent. For example, climate change will increase water scarcity in many areas which, in turn, may reduce the amount of land available for agriculture. People respond by clearing more land for crops, and this deforestation alters the water cycle.

So even if governments concentrate all their efforts on trying to address one issue in isolation, such as climate change, humanity would still be faced with a future of abrupt global environmental change and a reduced ability to meet the growing needs of 9 billion people predicted to live on our planet by 2050.

### **Waking up to a changing context**

What does this mean for Friends of the Earth? For an organisation whose name implies protecting the planet, this is surely a wake-up call. But the nature of the wake-up call is not that the emergency exists — we were aware of the crisis long before many others — instead, it's that our time has come.

I believe this planetary emergency will be the dominant context for our work over the coming decades. It is arguably a very different context from the one we've been used to.

For most of the past 40 years we have seen it as our job to make a noise and convince people that the planet is heading for crisis. We've achieved huge success in raising the profile of the issues, and have won important victories. But our agenda has been seen by most as peripheral — until now.

### **Time for transformational change**

If we are clear about the type of systemic, transformational change we want to see, if we choose the right mix of campaigns, if we get our communications right, if we chose the right tools and tactics, and if we do this in a way that engages people, we will have more influence than ever before.

We must build on our long history of campaigning to protect the environment and achieving real change. I believe we need to be radical about the scale of transformation we want to see, but reasonable and realistic about how to get there.

### **Radical, reasonable, realistic**

The issues we work on will become increasingly crowded with other commentators and organisations seeking to influence the agenda. With our track record, we already have a place reserved at the table and people will want to hear our ideas. But to make sure we are heard, we need to present inspiring ideas that are relevant to solving the crisis and work constructively to develop transformational solutions.

## CYW – Neil Kingsnorth

### **Campaign updates - Let's make more of local to global – Neil Kingsnorth, FoE's Head of Activism**

"As Craig has highlighted, the scale of the environmental challenges we now face are substantial and the solutions we must drive through need to be truly transformational. More than ever, our ability to act at a local level and tie it in to the bigger picture is vital," explains Neil Kingsnorth, Head of Activism. "It's now that the sparks which come from local group creativity are needed more than ever."

The local campaigns and projects you run are all a fundamental part of our response to the big-picture, global challenges we face.

There are groups campaigning locally to prevent destructive developments, championing progressive solutions, and kick-starting practical projects. Each campaign or project is a link in the local-to-global chain. By demonstrating what's going on and how it stacks up, we can strengthen our ability to achieve the change needed on the scale necessary.

### **Getting creative**

Across the country there's a vibrant buzz of environmental activity occurring throughout the Friends of the Earth network. We want and need to make more of this and this year we'll start to do it better. We've started by refreshing the "Act Local" section of the website and will now use it to showcase group activity across the network. Take a look.

To make that really work we need to hear your news. If you are running a local campaign or project in your area or are planning actions or activities, we want to know. Remember too that we might be able to provide further help — such as resources, guidance, money or training to help make the most of your plans.

If you aren't currently doing anything locally beyond our main campaigns, please think seriously as a group about getting your teeth into a local campaign, practical project or awareness-raising work. We'd like to help. To tell us what you're doing or to chat through your ideas, contact your Network Developer.

### **National impact**

Getting active and creative on the national campaigns remains a great way to strengthen the local-to-global impact of the groups network. Our campaigns often depend on group involvement to achieve maximum effect. From now until summer, we're challenging the Government on the Energy Bill, Localism Bill and waste policy amongst others.

### **FoE's Greater South East Regional Gathering**

Bonhill House, Bonhill St, London  
EC2A 4BX

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June,

Book online at  
<http://gserg.eventbrite.com/> or  
020 7566 1673

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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### Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

### Campaigns –

### Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details below

### Planning and development:

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

### Waste and Recycling

Annette Rose  
*annette.rose1@ntlworld.com*

### Bromley FoE web site:

**[www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)**  
Peter Gandolfi  
*famgando@hotmail.com*

### Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

### Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson or Sheila Brown on the numbers shown above.

### Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

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**Non-members' Section**

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

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

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

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com).

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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