



Friends of the Earth

Bromley

Newsletter

May 2013
No. 305

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
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May Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Biodiversity in Bromley

Sue Holland, Bromley's Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Officer, speaks about her role.

Sue is also working with Bromley FoE to create our "Bee World" at Tugmutton Common.

Tuesday 7th May - 7.30pm

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 19TH MAY *****

Contact details inside front cover.

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Diary dates:

May 7 (Tue)

Bromley FoE's May Meeting

Sue Holland, Bromley's Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Officer, speaks about her role

June 4th (Tues)

Bromley FoE's June Meeting

Queen's Gardens Planning Appeal – May 1st to 3rd

The planning inquiry into the proposed scheme to develop the Queen's Gardens, behind The Glades shopping centre, is to run from May 1st to 3rd. It will be in the Council Chamber at Bromley Civic Centre and begin at 10am; Bromley FoE is among the objectors. Please attend to demonstrate to the Inspector the strength of opposition to the plan.

It's also worth noting this, from the Friends of Bromley Town Parks and Gardens - While Bromley council and the developers will be the main parties in this inquiry with legal teams etc. both our Friends group and Bromley Civic Society have together been granted Rule 6 status which means we will also be taking a full part in this process. Tony Banfield has done a lot of work on our submission prior to the inquiry and will be leading our team to put forward the opinions of the vast majority of local people, such as you, against this proposed development.

Bromley Town Twinning Association AGM

The Editor writes: As a recently-joined member, I went to the Bromley Town Twinning Association's AGM the other evening, in Bromley Civic Centre. I was surprised at how few members BTTA has; it's been twinned with Neuwied, in Germany, for 25 years. It has fewer than 100 members (a member can be either a family or an individual) so a turnout of over 40 for the AGM was pretty good.

The Mayor of Bromley, Cllr Michael Turner, took the chair for the meeting and ably steered us through the proceedings, aided I suspect by a well prepared script. We did learn that there won't be a Mayoral visit to Neuwied by this Mayor, because of the expense at a time of cost-cutting and job losses in the Council.

For technical reasons, it didn't prove possible to show the DVD of the recent visit to Neuwied, so those present had to either rely on their memories or imagine it as Peter Brown, BTTA Chair, reported on the year's activities.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** SUNDAY 19TH 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.

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

April meeting report – Anne Clark

Dr. Nikki Gammans, of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, took us at full pace in showing us the plight of the bees, which go back 100 million years – brought here from the east for their honey production.

Now the Trust seeks to re-introduce the short haired bumblebee. There are 18 species of social bees (with a Queen & workers), 24 species of solitary bee, with 25 species extinct, but one type has now returned. We need 80-90% for pollination, pollinating 84% of our high value crops.

Nikki explained identification to us with bees having different coloured bands - the yellow & black out first then the orange bottomed. Recognition by their anthers and books & pamphlets were on her table of goodies that included hand cream, seeds, cards, badges, mugs etc. monies supporting this good cause of awareness and re-introduction of a dying population.

Bumblebees are such good pollinators as they vibrate their whole bodies, dislodging the pollen, as well as carrying it in their anthers; they are particularly good for pollinating tomatoes, increasing the yield. They can release a scent from their feet to help other bees to avoid landing & wasting time, if that particular flower is low in nectar!

There is one native honeybee in Europe, with about 50,000 workers. The Queen finds a nest and once established, sends out 10-20 workers to forage for her. Males have to leave the colony and are just used for mating as, after about two weeks, they die.

The Queen lives for about a year and can overwinter. Their different tongue lengths specialise in different plants.

Hives can be affected by disease and if they only have a small area in which to forage, inbreeding can be a problem as males can become infertile. In the last sixty years we have lost 97% of wild flowers in meadows etc. due to intensive farming, pesticides, insecticides, and certain fertilizers.

Recent education by the Trust at Farm days and in schools has helped farmers to leave wild flower meadows, for which they are paid, and the hay being particularly special, and the field edges left uncut between the June/July hay cuts.

Re-introduction is taking place in southern Sweden where roadside verges are left uncut and there isn't so much urbanisation. Four species are being introduced in New Zealand and Dungeness has been a successful area, with the help of volunteers and the RSPB to release them where wild flowers abound such as Vipers Bugloss.

Pollen rich Teasels, Foxgloves, Yellow Rattle, Marjoram, Knapweed, and Clover (red for the long-tongue) are all good to grow in our allotments, gardens, patios & window boxes. Lavender is good but unfortunately the cultivated Rose isn't much help.

Favourite nesting places are old nesting boxes, walls, or 'bee hotels' can be made or purchased, positioning south-facing.

/continued on next page

Bee World launch +++ Bee Buzzzzzz - Judy Palmer

Well the rain held off for our morning at Tugmutton! A very big thank-you to all who were involved in the setting up of our stall, and to everyone who came along in support. Our seeds have been well and truly sown.

The weekend before Annette, Patrick and I had gone up to the plot and sown the majority of the seeds, after raking the ground over, well Patrick mostly, thank you! While we were packing up our things, two male robins had a bit of a tussle over 'their' turf, fascinating to watch. Only hope they left enough seeds in the ground to germinate.

The three Councillors we invited to help us in our launch all attended which was pleasing. We had saved some seeds for them to sow. Sue Holland, our speaker this month, kindly provided two marquees and refreshments for all, but we brought a honey cake!

The press photographer came along eventually too, so we hope to get some press coverage. As Rob Clark came along with his two children, Jamie & Bethan, the photographer loved the idea of children and bees (we also saw some flying around while we were there) and clicked merrily away. We think that one of these photos will be chosen, but I think the Council reps will be gunning for theirs; I wonder who will win!

The FoE plaque is in place now and we will be making regular visits to check on it and see how the plot is progressing. Fingers crossed the sun shines.

Bee buzzzzzz

Here are some bee-friendly plants which bloom in May – June:

Aquilegia Cotoneaster Campanula
Foxglove Wallflower Everlasting pea
Laburnum Monkshood Geranium
Thyme Ceanothus Comfrey Chives
Bird's foot trefoil Honeysuckle Lupin
Catmint Viper's bugloss Sage
Lesser knapweed

An interesting point – apparently bees can steal nectar from bluebells by biting a hole in the bell enabling them to reach the nectar without pollinating the flower.

April meeting report, *cont'd from p3*

Bumblebees are placid & don't die if they have to sting like honeybees, and Nikki explained how they are held in quarantine for two weeks before release to avoid disease.

Good management helps bees, birds, bats, butterflies, moths and the whole ecosystem and with questions answered, it was a very inspiring evening for life on our planet. To find out more, visit www.bumblebeeconservation.org

STOP PRESS

Chelsfield farm visit

Sunday 12th May, 11am, approx 2 hrs
Dress code – sensible shoes, no smoking
More info at May meeting or from Sue and John Boccock

Bee World launch - photos

Here are a couple of photos taken at the launch of FoE's Bee World. More photos are available from Sheila Brown and Judy Palmer, contact details on page 15.



Bee Campaign Day - Judy Palmer

The Bee Campaign Day I went on last month was held at Roots and Shoots in Kennington, South London (www.rootsandshoots.org.uk). It provides vocational training for young people from inner city areas, mostly Lambeth & Southwark and is an important green space in an urban development. It covers an acre of space and was formerly a Civil Defence site.

The charity was set up in 1982 but the eco-building there now was completed in 2005, opened in 2007 by HRH Prince of Wales. On site there is an eco-training centre, plant nursery, a shop, wildlife study centre and a wildlife garden.

The building is clad in wood, has a large photo voltaic roof (for solar energy) which generates 50% of their needs, solar water heating, rain water collection for WC's and to water plants, built-in insect & bird boxes in the cladding.

And in keeping with our day there, it is the base for the London Beekeepers Association. Even in the depths of the cold snowy weather there was a lot to see in the tour we had of the gardens, a very impressive site.

The campaign day itself

As mentioned elsewhere the day was held at Roots and Shoots in Kennington, on one of the coldest snowy days in March, therefore walking slowly was not an option! It was an excellent venue however, and the food provided was tasty, and the information interesting and well

presented. There were, as well as the FoE staff, a couple of speakers from local groups who took part in last year's campaign which were well worth listening too, one on a Bee Walk and one on the development of their Bee World plot.

The morning was basically finding out about this year's campaign and we were divided into two groups to work on how to involve your local MP. During this process I realised that there were a lot of people attending who did not belong to a local group and I met up with a lady from Bromley and a man from Tunbridge Wells who has set up a local group there (a nice bit of networking). And on a bit of an aside on this, he brought along a honey cake made from local honey which was so tasty!

After a chatty lunch break, there were two bee walks to do ... and yes we were given the option of not doing them, but we all voted yes, and it was nice to do, in spite of the cold and wet.

One was in a near-by park, which had a wildlife site fenced apart from the main grass and trees. The trees were under-planted with crocus and single-bloom daffodils, well the ones which had already bloomed were anyway. The other walk was round the garden on-site, and it truly was a wonder, a definite green oasis in the city. All the plants were about two weeks behind in blooming, but there were signs of growth. And we had a quick introduction to the bee nesting sites, and the pond where the frogs were just starting to spawn.

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Campaigns, Energy and Climate – Ann Garrett

Campaigns

Many congratulations to Judy, Annette and all those who have helped with setting up the Bee World project campaign at Tugmutton. It was a great opening on April 13th with three councillors attending and a wonderful collaboration of Friends of Tugmutton, Bromley Council, Darrick Wood primary school and FoE.

Apart from the fine plaque, Judy and Annette have compiled a book tracing the progress of the project with useful information and photographs. It was pointed out at the ceremony that the Tugmutton wild flower haven is one of 60 set up by FoE in the UK, and that many new bee-friendly areas still need to be established.

Judy and Annette will circulate information about the next campaign stall which will be in Orpington.

Climate and Energy

Transition Free Press

This is a new paper which has just been launched and the first front page leading article is: 'Will extreme weather bring climate action?' It points out that the global crisis of climate change has been responsible for drawing many people into the transition movement, and goes on to state that global carbon emissions are now 58% higher than in 1990, the year the international community first started talking about reducing them.

The 2012 UN climate negotiations in Doha were attended by Teresa Anderson of Transition Totnes and the Gaia Foundation, and she reported

that 'Doha is essentially an agreement to do absolutely nothing'. The rest of the article is pretty pessimistic too with information about the fact that the Arctic sea ice reached a new annual minimum in September 2012.

The remainder of the paper reports on local transition town achievements in a positive manner: in education, local communities, reclaiming the fields, project sharing and local celebration which has always been a key ingredient of transition work.

Wetlands triple crisis

There are many contradictions in the area of Lydd in Kent. The battle over the Romney marshes offers a snapshot of the dilemma facing a government struggling to reconcile job-friendly projects with commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

Plans to extend the airport at Lydd threaten wild-life, especially colonies of birds and there is also the danger of the nuclear power plant there. On top of this there is opposition to onshore wind farms in the region.

A few miles from Lydd, the energy company Ecotricity is looking to build six 125-metre turbines near the village of Snave. This would provide clean green energy to power the equivalent of 9,800 homes in a year. Meanwhile the local Tory MP says that the answer to Britain's energy crisis is to build a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.

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Bees in America +++ Bromley FoE puts Energy Case to MP

The plight of bees in America

Rob Clark writes: I was interested to hear a programme on BBC Radio 4 about the plight of bees. Not UK or European bees though but American bees.

'On the Trail of the American Honeybee' described many of the difficulties that hives in this country are suffering with disease, parasites and the like but it also showed how this situation may have been exacerbated in the US by the commercial use of bees.

It seems that bees used for pollination is a massive commercial business there with tens of thousands of hives being transported up and down the country chasing the crops that need pollinating month on month. The worry is that bringing bees from all over the country together to pollinate the giant orange or almond harvests and then taking them back 'home' may be responsible for spreading diseases etc. much more widely than might otherwise be the case.

The programme was aired on Thursday March 28th and was still available on the BBC iplayer at the time of writing but presumably will not still be available by the time this is published. However, the page on the web site below has more information on the subject and should still be available to view.

bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21741651

Bromley FoE puts Energy case to Orpington MP

Ray Watson writes:

Bromley FoE have appealed to Orpington MP Jo Johnson to support changes to the Energy Bill now going through parliament. The amendments call for the Government to be committed to setting target dates to de-carbonise electrical power generation; the Bill currently merely says the Government may set targets.

Efforts to change the Bill were rejected by the Government at an early stage of the Bill's passage so a cross-party group of MPs – including the Commons' lone Green MP – proposed the amendments. Jo Johnson is a member of the committee considering the Bill and Bromley FoE organised a meeting with him to discuss the target dates question and other aspects of the Bill. They called on him to vote for the amendments

BFoE's delegates, Sheila Brown, Graham Hemington and Ray Watson, pointed out that having a firm date for de-carbonising the power industry would encourage investment in the industry and make pricing less volatile. They also said that the year 2016, the earliest that a target date could be proposed, was too distant.

Jo Johnson said he would seriously consider the points made and would study a paper listing the arguments presented to him by the delegation.

Joint FoE / Greenpeace / RSPB press release on the Energy Bill

Making bioenergy sustainable

Summary

As drafted, the Energy Bill will continue to allow long-term role for high carbon, unsustainable electricity generation from biomass.

Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace UK, and the RSPB are calling for the bill to be amended to:

1. Limit the allocation of support for biomass electricity.
2. Ensure that the actual emissions to the atmosphere from bioenergy are counted in the Emission Performance Standard (EPS).
3. Create a requirement that larger biomass stations will be CHP.

Background

Biomass electricity from wastes and certain sustainably managed feedstocks can deliver significant and genuine greenhouse gas emission reductions, particularly when used for heat or combined heat and power generation. The CCC estimate that by 2050 the domestic available resource will be sufficient to supply 8% of the UK's energy needs. They are best used in small-scale heat and combined heat and power applications.

Government's current plans are, however, largely dependent on large-scale electricity generation from imported wood, both in new dedicated plant, and, increasingly, in converted coal-fired plant. These sources are expected to provide 1/3 of all renewable electricity by 2020, which would need approximately 30mn tonnes of biomass each year – equivalent to six times the total annual

UK wood harvest. There is particular concern around the harvesting and burning of whole trees.

Recommendations

1. Proper accounting for greenhouse emissions from bioenergy

The use of non-waste biomass for electricity generation in dedicated plant and co-fired in coal plant results in significant greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. As proposed, the Emissions Performance Standard (EPS) in the Energy Bill ignores these emissions. The EPS should be amended to count lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions for biomass, as calculated in order to comply with the DECC sustainability standard.

Furthermore the EPS only applies to new combustion plant. Enhanced co-firing and conversion involves major investment to retrofit coal-fired boilers that results in prolonging the operating lifetime of plant. We therefore believe that plant that co-fires at greater than 15% biomass by energy output should be considered as new plant and subject to the EPS.

2. A sustainable cap on the role of biomass power

Clause 13 of the Energy Bill gives the Secretary of State (SoS) the power to set a financial cap to limit the allocation of Contracts for Difference (CfD) to ensure that expenditure remains within the Levy Control Framework.

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The folly of focusing green policy on "renewables", Ann Garrett

Europe's wood subsidies show the folly of focusing green policy on "renewables" – from the *Economist* via *Biofuelwatch* and Ann Garrett

Today Drax is home to one of the most impressive pieces of engineering in Britain, a power station with a value to its owners of £2.5 billion. But it does not have much woodland. And, given the way Europe's renewable-energy subsidies work, the appetites of that facility, and others around Europe, may mean that wood is in short supply in many places before long.

In 2009 the European Union set itself the target of getting 20% of its energy from renewable sources. For all the fields and roofs covered with solar panels and the once-empty uplands enlivened by wind turbines, by far the biggest power source in the plans is biomass: wood, crop residues and other burnable recently living stuff.

The EU's planners want to get 1,210 terawatt hours of energy from biomass in 2020, compared with 494TWh from wind. About 80% of that biomass energy would be used to heat things—wood-burning stoves and boilers are widely used in many European countries. But the 20% used to generate electricity would still equal all the energy expected from solar panels and offshore wind. With wind power not growing at the rate that planners want, biomass may be called on to do even more.

The dash for biomass, though, has many problems. As with wind and solar power, investment in biomass

does not happen without subsidy; current plans to convert half of Drax's 4,000 megawatt capacity from coal to biomass depend on getting an extra £45 per megawatt hour from the government on top of what the electricity sells for. It also takes a lot of land to produce power with biomass. Generating 2,000MW of electricity from wood in a sustainable way requires a forest of some 6,600 square kilometres—which is more or less, as it happens, the area of the whole West Riding.

Unlike wind and solar generators, biomass burners must buy fuel. This is already putting pressure on prices for other wood users, such as builders, cabinet-makers and, we should admit, magazines that are still printed on paper. It also increases reliance on imports—one of the things that renewables are often claimed to reduce. Worse, biomass-burning is nothing like as good a climate hedge as people tend to think.

Biomass claims to be a "carbon neutral" way of generating power: although burning wood puts carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, growing replacement wood sucks that carbon dioxide back out. But the ideal of a biomass plantation that is harvested only at the rate at which it grows back is not always met. Even when it is, such plantations displace other ecosystems that would themselves have sucked down carbon.

/continued on next page

(from page 9)... It also gives the SoS the power to have particular CfDs withheld to effectively allow technology specific targets to be set consistent with wider Government targets.

This means that the SoS will have the power to limit the role of biomass electricity if excessive biomass CfDs threaten our wider sustainability and carbon objectives. We believe that this clause should explicitly require the SoS to set a cap on the role of biomass electricity based on the availability of sustainable, low carbon feedstock. This is required in addition to the sustainability standards as established by DECC as these standards fail to ensure overall levels of demand are sustainable.

3. Limit the eligibility of dedicated biomass power plant to 10MW & promote CHP

Large scale biomass power plant represents very poor value to the UK consumer. Smaller scale combined heat and power plant are considerably more efficient and generally rely on domestic feedstocks, which are usually more sustainable, lower carbon, and they offer greater economic benefit to the UK than subsidies that support the use of imported feedstocks.

The Scottish Executive have sought to address this by proposing an installed capacity ceiling of 10MW for dedicated biomass, and a requirement for any plant larger than this threshold to be accredited as a good quality Combined Heat and Power (CHP) station. We believe that this requirement should be enshrined in the Energy Bill.

(from page 10)... Processing and transporting the wood to the place where it is burned requires energy that may well come from non-renewable sources.

According to the European Environment Agency, an EU body not involved in setting subsidies, some biomass programmes could end up emitting more carbon than the fossil fuels they are being subsidised to replace.

The wood for the trees

The underlying problem is the reverence accorded to renewable energy itself. Greens like it for various reasons: independence from fluctuating fuel prices, rural employment, sustainability, as well as low carbon emissions.

But as the sorry state of biomass shows, not all renewable-energy technologies are good at achieving all those aims. Nor are all those aims worth spending scarce public money on. And those that are will often be amenable to more efficient support than is provided by broad, market-distorting subsidies.

Moving to an ever-lower-carbon economy at a deliberate pace is a good idea. The best way to do it is to set a carbon tax and let the market decide the cheapest, cleanest answer while researching future alternatives. Some renewable technologies would play a big role in that. But those who pursue renewable energy as an end in itself fail to see the wood for the trees.

Eden – the story of the Eden project – a review – Peter Gandolfi

After a visit to the Eden Project in Cornwall late last year, I wanted to know more about how anyone could not only have the vision for turning a disused china clay pit into the world's largest rainforest in captivity, stunning gardens and many eco related displays featuring a vast complex of soap bubble-shaped greenhouses - the largest in the world, but also have the drive and determination to inspire others to his vision and to raise the millions of pounds needed, during a difficult time period in which to raise large sums of money.

With this in mind I thought I should read Tim Smit's account of "Eden" and borrowed it from Bromley libraries.

This is an extraordinary story of how a 160-year-old disused china clay pit near St Austell could go on to be called by the New York Times "the eighth wonder of the world". It is the story of how the energy of many men and women transformed a vision into breathtaking reality of one of the world's great gardens.

But Eden is more than just a garden, it has mutated into an organization with projects and partnerships all over the world concerned with rehabilitation, community education, biodiversity, town planning, sustainable construction and green employment. Smit and his colleagues faced daunting challenges, and larger-than-life characters pepper the book which is more about people than plants.

The ethos of the project is characterised well by these words on the wall of Eden's entrance:

*Work like you don't need the money
Love like you've never been hurt
Dance like nobody's watching
Sing like nobody's listening
Live like it's heaven on earth*

Costing £141m to build, and opening in 2001, it has had around 15 million visitors, employs around 500 local staff, and is reckoned to have generated £1.1bn for the West Country in extra tourist spending.

Conclusion

The Eden Project is an exciting attraction where you can explore your relationship with nature, learn new things and get inspiration about the world around you.

I thoroughly recommend a visit to any of you that have not ventured down to St Austell recently, and to read this book on how an impossible dream became reality. A copy is available in Bromley Central Library, or at least will be when I take it back.

I gather Smit's latest venture is the creation of a geothermal power plant on site, for which planning permission has just been granted. Two boreholes will go 5 km deep underground; at the bottom of the two wells, water will be heated by hot rocks and returned to the surface at approximately 180C. At the top, the heat will be extracted to drive a turbine to create electricity and to provide hot water to heat the biomes.

"It could be that 10% of Britain's energy needs could be met by the spine of Cornwall."

Hume: Hidden Histories and the Hedge, from Richard Comaish

The higher you build your barriers The taller I become.'

Today I attended a celebration of the life and works of Allan Octavian Hume, civil servant, naturalist and co-founder of the Indian Congress Party. Hume had Scottish roots, but this was not a major concern in the day's proceedings. Not on the surface, anyway.

It emerged that Hume's main function in the Raj was to administrate a key but little-known imperial fundraiser called the Great Hedge of India - a sort of thorny, latter day Hadrian's Wall to facilitate the taxation of salt, a substance vital to human and much agricultural life, by the British Empire. And it was the parallel with Hadrian's Wall which first triggered the feeling of Celtic relevance.

I was first introduced to Hadrian's Wall as a lad, and have always felt obliged to accept the obvious explanation of the Wall as a barrier against aggressive Scots (albeit with some Celtic misgivings) - up until today. Clearly the Wall was also an economic barrier, in a circumstance where Roman military dominance was not an easy, obvious or sensible target to the British minority excluded by it. And economic barriers are well known imperialist 'tools of the trade' for advancing borders and subjecting native peoples.

London-born Hume was not a Celt in any recognised or demonstrable sense, apart from a Celtic ancestry

shared by most English people. But his story has, for me, much Celtic appeal and relevance, resonating with the whole Celtic experience. He was a 'man in the middle,' he 'sat on the fence' (or in his case, the Hedge) between Empire and native resurgence, finally coming down decisively in favour of the latter, but not without attracting much native recrimination and hostility along the way (ring any bells?).

There is also the spiritual, mystical dimension: Hume was an early active member of the Theosophical Society, an early vehicle for native sensibilities, ostensibly introducing Western culture to notions of karma, prana and dharma. There is also much coincidence/synchronicity in this story - and it's not just about the alliteration in my header. Celts are, by definition, hidden and subjected.

Although Hume appears, at first glance, a one-time denizen of the British Raj, he was always, in fact, party to a liberal, non-aristocratic, relatively progressive strand. Like the Celt, his seminally radical nature is obscured by a primarily English (or Norman?) empire, making him to this day a hidden giant, his contribution obscured by an undeserved ignominy familiar to everyone from South London, the site of his final project - South London Botanical Institute, the venue for today's workshop.

This article was first published in the Spring 2013 edition of Carn, newsletter of the Celtic League.

From the World Rainforest Movement, via Judy Palmer

Tree plantations in the South to generate energy in the North - A new threat to communities and forests

Apparently out of concern over climate change and the urgent need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels, the governments of the North are increasingly promoting the use of a certain type of raw material, considered “renewable”, for large-scale energy generation: wood.

To meet the growing demand for wood in the countries of the North, vast areas of land in the South face the threat of being occupied by monoculture tree plantations. There are already close to 60 million hectares of land occupied by industrial tree plantations in the South.

According to a report from the EU, one of the main promoters of the use of woody biomass, “the rising demand for woody biomass energy is likely to push the global price for wood, thus adding pressure on forests and other ecosystems and increasing conflicts between different land uses. More specific risks are deforestation corresponding with the replacement of natural forests by monoculture plantations. Rural communities are potentially harmed in their access to land and water, their food and energy security for decades given the long-term nature of most investments and projects.”

Nevertheless, there is no indication that this concern over the risks posed has been translated into concrete

measures to effectively confront the root causes of the climate crisis.

This WRM publication, “Tree plantations in the South to generate energy in the North”, is primarily aimed at raising awareness of the current and potential impacts of the rapid expansion of these plantations to meet the growing demand in the North on rural communities in countries of the South that depend on access to the land and the local availability of biomass to meet their own energy needs, as well the impacts on the conservation of forests and other ecosystems.

The World Rainforest Movement's website is at <http://www.wrm.org.uy/> and it is based in Uruguay.

Bee campaign day, cont'd from p6

I had to leave a bit early unfortunately, so missed the ‘plan your next steps’ section, but as we as a group are well under way with ours, I hope I didn’t miss too much! Thanks to Tom and the rest of the team there for a good day.

Campaigns, Climate and Energy, cont'd from page 7

Airport expansion, nuclear power, wind farms and conservation are all in conflict. What would you opt for? I would favour wind farms, since global warming is now too serious to be choosy and the safe burial of nuclear waste presents a large challenge, but you might not agree with me!

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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!

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.

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.

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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