



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**

May 2021

No 400!

Our Next Meeting

Craig Bennett

CEO of the Wildlife Trust
and former CEO of
Friends of the Earth

***'Why the 2020s could and should be the decade
for nature's recovery'***

In this talk Craig will explore what might this look like in practice. How might it happen, at the local, UK and global scale? What might the benefits be for our economy, our health and wellbeing. And how does it fit with the story of human progress?

The next monthly meeting is on Tuesday 4th May at **7.30pm**. It will be a virtual meeting once again and the Zoom link for this meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89728614063?pwd=QVIPTjFqZTRrSS9HOUNpMjh6enlBZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 2861 4063 Passcode: 254775 Or dial 020 3901 7895

Our usual meetings are at 7.30pm The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley-
Everyone always welcome

In this issue:

May Meeting Participation	2	Miller's Mutterings	11
400th Edition!	2	Talk London	12
April Monthly Meeting Report	3	Greener & Cleaner Bromley Website	12
Can You Help?	7	Bladeless Wind Turbines	13
Tree Felling	9	Paper Wrapping	13
Walk	9	Campaigns	14
Trichomonosis in Garden Birds	10	Supplies	18

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NEWSLETTER

May Meeting Participation

If you would like to be involved in the next Monthly Meeting, then it will be a virtual Zoom meeting once more. Please let us know if you'd like to attend by either emailing bromleyfoe@gmail.com or leaving a message on 020 8289 1503, and we will then send you details of how to join in, nearer the time.

You can either join using your computer (with video or without) or on a smart phone. There is usually a phone number to dial in for any other phone available.

Specific meeting content details are below. The first half will be our speaker and the second half will be for BFoE business.

If you can't attend this meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'. Do your own bit of campaigning, perhaps inspired by something in our newsletters, and let us know what response you get.

Diary Dates

Please note that due to the Coronavirus, many events have had to be cancelled

1st May (Sat) 7.30pm to 11pm 'Play for the Planet' Please join us for a fun music and poetry night when we will be raising funds for BFoE, all from the comfort of our own homes. We will have musicians playing and singing live for your entertainment! The Zoom link will be sent out to you nearer the time if you are on our email list, or please email bromleyfoe@gmail.com to be sent the link.

4th May (Tues) BFoE Monthly Meeting **7.30pm**. Craig Bennett, CEO of the Wildlife Trust and former CEO of Friends of the Earth. '*Why the 2020s could and should be the decade for nature's recovery*'. It's no longer good enough just to talk about the *protection* and *conservation* of nature when, particularly in countries like the UK, so much of our nature has already been severely depleted. We need to stop and *reverse* the decline of nature and put nature in *recovery*. And we need to do this at pace and at scale if we're going to have any hope of tackling the climate and ecological emergency. In this talk Craig will explore what might this look like in practice. How might it happen, at the local, UK and global scale? What might the benefits be for our economy, our health and wellbeing. And how does it fit with the story of human progress? Follow Craig on Twitter: @craigbennett3

1st Jun (Tues) BFoE Monthly Meeting **7.30pm**. William Huntington-Thresher Executive Member for the Environment for Bromley Council. All questions to be submitted in advance. If you have a question you'd like to ask then please send them to our email address bromleyfoe@gmail.com before 15th May or post it to the address of the Editor at the top of the next page.

This diary is correct at the time of going to press but may be updated in the next monthly newsletter. If you need any further information on any events in the meantime, you can email us on bromleyfoe@gmail.com

If any of the items in this newsletter make you angry, delight you, enthuse you or cause you any emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it the newsletter.

400th Edition!

Welcome to our Friends of the Earth Bromley 400th newsletter. The group celebrates its 50th anniversary next year and the first newsletter was published in June 1972. You can find a few example cover pages from long past newsletters as a centre pull-out to this newsletter. It's interesting to see how many of the subjects are as relevant today as they were 50 years ago.

Next Newsletter Copy

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale will all be considered for publication. Please send them to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **midnight Friday 14th May**

Post: 17 Everard Avenue, Hayes, Kent BR2 7LR

Email: Robert.clark9@btinternet.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.

April Monthly Meeting Report

Peter Gandolfi

This was an informal meeting on Climate Change with GLA candidates.

Anne Clark introduced the candidates to discuss issues related to Climate Change and the Environment. These were: Stefano Borella SB (Labour), Julie Ireland JI (in place of Liberal Democrat candidate Alan Tweddle who is unwell) and Mary Ion MI (Green Party). Each was to speak for 5 minutes with questions via the chat afterwards, for all candidates to have the opportunity to speak on each question.

First to speak was Mary Ion. She said that we needed a new way of doing things to protect the health of Londoners, achieve reduction in pollution, get to carbon zero by 2030 and provide more financial security, and would like to see a rapid move away from cars and air travel and more walking and cycling.

There is an excess of car use and we need smart and fair road pricing (tolls) to reduce our dependency on cars. Projects, such as the Silvertown Tunnel, are not consistent with the 2030 net zero target. We need to reallocate space used for cars, and work towards more localised economies, such as the idea of the 15 minute neighbourhood.

The time has come for a trial of Universal Basic Income in London to create a secure financial base for all as we transition away from fossil fuels towards automation, green jobs and cheap efficient housing.

Green assembly members have worked hard to deliver change and have a reputation for getting things done and I believe that green policies have the power to transform the lives of our population.

We need to focus on creating green jobs, investing in crucial public services, affordable energy efficient housing,

protecting mass transit, reducing waste and recovering public spaces for people and nature.

Julie Ireland said that the three campaign issues focused on are Clean air, Jobs and Housing.

The Silvertown tunnel needs to be scrapped, and there needs to be a commitment to green transport, including cycling, electric busses, extending tram links throughout the borough and an extension to the Bakerloo line, using practical down-to-earth policies that are not difficult to deliver.

A fairer road pricing system is proposed. The present larger congestion charge area being suggested would seriously impact on Bromley. A pay-as-you-go pricing system depending on the level of the cars emissions and distance travelled, would be fairer.

We want to green London's roofs, as seen in Amsterdam, rewilding areas and creating green jobs, and they would support systems that decrease car use on our residential streets.

Stefano Borella mentioned the proposal to build a rail freight terminal on Crayford marches, which would mean lots of warehouses and lorry movements, which SB campaigned against even though he was in favour of freight terminals. This was refused by the Mayor of London. Likewise there was a proposal to increase the capacity of Belvedere incinerator, which is not the way to deal with our waste, and was campaigned against along with the

mayor. Although this was allowed, it is heavily monitored and shows that our mayor does not support incineration.

We need more accommodation for those working in London, if people live near transport hubs, they will be less likely to want to own a car. Car clubs will help. SB is very keen on public transport, which needs to be affordable and safe to use. He supports linking the Bromley North line to the Sidcup line and linking up with Cross Rail. Likewise, he supports more bus routes, with a greater frequency. We should be looking more at walking and cycling including cycle hire, for short routes, perhaps showing how many steps these journeys consist of.

SB thought the mayor has done a lot, and has improved our air quality. We need to encourage people to change their cars for less polluting models. Both Bexley and Bromley Councils seem to be geared towards car ownership, and there are roads that are difficult to cross safely and we need safe routes to schools and town centres.

Question and answer session

Q. Your thoughts on a compulsory system of either mirrors or videos to avoid HGV blind spots entering London.

SB said that as a cyclist, he had been hit by a lorry, the driver apparently distracted by his phone. There is a need to protect cyclists, and this should be considered and would be campaigned for.

Jl We needed to protect cyclists, but these ideas needed to be joined up. A cycle track had appeared in Albemarle

Road that did not seem to go anywhere and that the locals did not know about.

MI Agreed and mentioned the need for better design of HGVs, and the need to use the expertise available.

Q. Have you considered single car household incentives? There are too many homes with 2 or more cars.

JI We could be approaching this from the wrong end. We could enforce by road pricing etc, but ideally we just want people to have fewer cars. We need better and more frequent local transport links that make it easy for residents to do without their cars.

SB The government needs to do more with scrappage schemes, and there needs to be more use of car sharing, car clubs etc. Bromley and Bexley are the lowest boroughs in London for car clubs. There is too much use of cars for very short journeys.

MI Had read recently that the real cost of keeping cars on the streets was around £2.8k a year for a parking space. People shouldn't feel the need to own their car. Car clubs would help, and road pricing could be a financial incentive to avoid car use for short journeys. We need to work towards a system that will support these ideas.

Q. How can we increase recycling rates across the London boroughs? And how can we reduce plastic use?

JI A great fan of thinking out of the box. Working with Bromley Council appear to have the best recycling rate, but it now seems that 85% of paper and card that was left out by residents in

January, was sent to an incinerator as it was too wet! A similar thing is happening with plastics.

Supplying bins with lids would increase true recycling rates.

MI There's a lack of coordinating between boroughs as to which items can be recycled, which should be easy for residents to work out. Throughout London, recycling rates are low - and a lot of this is food waste. We have a long way to go yet for plastics.

SB Recycling rates are quite poor, though Bexley is generally quite good. Recycled materials need to be well separated to get the best prices. What can happen is that although residents may separate well, the collection vehicles can collect together and separate later - to a lower standard, and the waste gets contaminated. Standards of collection recycling can be haphazard. It is possible to sweep streets for recycling the metal particles! If there was an incineration tax, there would be more incentive for better recycling, in Bexley, up to 40% of residents waste can be food waste; and the food waste containers could be better, to ensure that people use them.

Q. Will you support 20 mph speed zones to encourage safer walking and cycling?

MI This is a good idea as in London, cars are often moving slower than this. Roads could be designed to make speeding more difficult.

JI They have committed to 20 mph in residential areas. This lowers emissions as cars are moving rather than stop-

starting. This question regularly comes up at council meetings.

SB His residential streets are 20MPH zones now. There are innovative ways to design roads to slow down cars naturally (parked cars can help!) Parking around schools is a disgrace. Closing the road at the start and end of the school day may be possible. More speed cameras could also be an incentive to comply.

Q. Ken Livingstone successfully introduced the "Fares Fair" scheme to dramatically move private vehicle use to public transport use - would the candidates encourage a repeat of such a scheme?

MI A Green policy is to flatten fares across London and not penalise those living on the edges. Fair car pricing is also needed. Shifting some of TfL funding to be obtained from the use of cars would be fairer.

Jl There's a need to rethink a fairer structure, considering that now many people won't be working 5 days a week 9 to 5 as before. People should be able to switch journeys without penalty (hopper ticket) and ensure that transport is available over a longer working day, to avoid unnecessary car usage.

SB Ken was innovative with his fare pricing, which led to BR having to increase fares to deal with the increased demand and to stop people using trains! There is a need for more substantial funding from government, for more transport around the perimeter and more flexible ticketing. Railways have in

the past had a bailout from the government - but not TfL.

Q Can there be a cross party agreement on Diesel?

Jl Diesel is history. If people have to drive, it should be electric, although this does come with a large financial penalty. There needs to be a structure to allow people to buy electric cars.

At this point there was a minor discussion involving the Silvertown tunnel, that SB supported as he was aware of the major traffic problems and pollution around the A2 corridor, which would be helped by this project. He would also like to see multiple crossings over the Thames.

The other candidates did not agree, thinking that £2.6b could be better spent elsewhere on green initiatives and that if you increase traffic you increase pollution. MI thought that the new tunnel would just shift pollution into one of the poorest parts of London that has some of the highest pollution levels in the country already. The tunnel is not compatible with a net zero 2030 target.

Q. What are your views on HS2?

Jl Was in favour of it, supporting investment in public transport, although not perhaps in the way that it was being undertaken. This decision is still hotly debated within the LD party. All large infrastructure projects tend to cause a lot of upheaval going back to the original Victorian rail infrastructure. It can be 30 years or so before these projects come to fruition. If we are to get people away from using air travel, we need infrastructure such as this.

SB Silvertown Tunnel should only cost £1b, and that the HS2 budget should be cut. He is in favour of HS2, but thinks it has not been sold well to the public. It should be about capacity rather than getting to Birmingham a little quicker and should have been started in the north first, linking the northern towns. This belief was that without HS2 you would encourage more air travel. We need to make it easier and cheaper for people to use HS2.

MI The Green Party policy is against HS2, but it is supported by some members. Its enormous cost is the reason it will take so long before it becomes carbon neutral. We do need more rail travel and the GP aims to invest in other rail options.

Q. People with mobility problems are often sidelined in these conversations. We have a large population of older people with mobility issues.

Jl There is legislation in place that should make transport accessible to all, and the recent death at Eden Park station was mentioned, where a blind person stepped off the platform because there was no tactile paving to tell them how close the edge was. It is too easy for some of these solutions to get overlooked or ignored. These issues should be spoken about a lot more than we do.

SB Was in agreement with Jl. Trains and stations need to be better designed.

MI Public transport needs to be inclusive. These groups are often not considered, and we need to listen more to what they want.

Q With regards to Climate Change, how important are cross party initiatives and what would you do locally and London wide to encourage this?

Jl Cross-party collaboration is essential, and there has been a shift on the council due to pressure from other parties. There are many things that people disagree with, but not many can disagree with the emergency that we are facing.

MI Within the London assembly there are good examples of effective cross-party working. Collaboration is possible and there is a need to find allies.

SB You only need to look at our changing world to realise the problem and that we need to deal with this issue.

There are things that we agree on, and we need to find the common ground.

Our recovery from the Pandemic needs to be green led, and we need to look at different solutions with public transport etc. An immediate problem is stopping people going back to using their cars.

Ann thanked all the candidates for taking part and for giving up their time, and this was supported by the clapping from those back at home.

Second Half

Climate Campaign

Ann said that the FoE ten point climate action plan pledge will now be sent to the local candidates with any unanswered questions from tonight's meeting.

We will campaign locally to lobby Bromley Council to set up a climate

action plan, beginning with our meeting with Cllr Huntington -Thresher and possibly through asking a question at a full Bromley Council meeting in the future.

System Change Campaign

Ann had made a response to the Swanscombe marshes development, representing Bromley FoE. The development on the Bromley Maplin site has been rejected - by one vote. If people are now so used to online shopping, are large shopping areas the way forward? Renovations are still taking place on the Bell Hotel, and it is thought that it will become a community space in the future.

Consumption Campaign

The government open consultation for a deposit return scheme (DRS) has a closing date of 4th June. Annette has contacted FoE for their view if it is a good scheme. Individuals can comment as well. There is also a consultation on EPRS packaging (making the producer responsible for the environmental impact of a product).

Nature Campaign

Diana has compiled a list of questions for the council, but will pursue these through B.E.N. if necessary.

Walks

Areas of interest that were discussed were: Honeysuckle Cottage near Scotts Ave, a recent discovery Spring Park woodland at the end of Manor Park Road, and Hollydale Open Space off the A21 towards Locks Bottom. Please send any thoughts or ideas for walks to John and Sue.

Future Speakers

Next month: Craig Bennett CEO of The Wildlife Trust and former CEO of FoE.
June: Cllr William Huntingdon–Thresher, Executive Councillor for Environment and Community Services

Website / Social media

A car anti-idling campaign was recently posting on twitter. Other organisations have shown these to have a positive result. The MumsforLungs campaign (www.mumsforlungs.org) was mentioned. Bromley Council is supposedly enforcing stationary engine idling.

AOB

An FoE fundraising music event over Zoom was mentioned. A dozen or so people want to perform and this is planned for Saturday 1st May 7.00 - 11.00

An open air summer garden party is being planned for later this summer.

Ann was thanked for chairing the meeting, and thanked all for their contributions and questions and the meeting was closed.

Can You Help?

Friends of the Earth Bromley has had a website for many years, showing who we are and giving access to our newsletter archive. A lot of work has gone into updating this site over the past two years or so but we could do with some help from someone with web skills. Our current administrators are available to advise and help.

Recently, we have been asked by

national FoE to appoint a Safeguarding Officer, a role to ensure we look out for and protect young and vulnerable people who may be attending our meeting and events. We have been supplied with full information regarding what is required for this not too onerous role. It is hoped that we will have two officers to cover each other, increasing the likelihood of one being at each meeting or event.

If you are interested in either of these posts or would like to have a no-commitment chat about them, please contact Sheila Brown in the first instance. Her contact number is on the inside back cover of this publication. Alternatively, you could send us an email at: bromleyfoe@gmail.com

Tree Felling

Vicki Fricker

Perhaps I could call upon members to visit Keston Ponds? I complained to Bromley Council a few years ago because, when coppicing they need JCBs (for whatever) which meant most paths were impassable and have never really recovered despite being reinstated.

Now, it seems, they are felling quite mature trees near the Padmall Wood side (entrance from Commonsides).

This time there are no signs by way of explanation. I will of course, try and find out what's going on... Locally various councils seem hell-bent on taking down trees (not obviously rotten). I thought we are required to plant more trees!

I have also noticed this 'clearance'. What is mentioned above can be viewed

on a walk from Hayes to the Wilberforce Oak (about 10km there and back) You can start at George Lane, Hayes (119 bus from Bromley to The George).

Walk along George Lane and out of the far end into Hayes Farm. Follow the path straight ahead. Continue past the horses' fields and on to the bottom of a large field opening out to your right. The bottom is now fenced off, but if you carry on to the far side of the field you can follow its perimeter around. Walk all the way up to the end along the top of the meadow, staying out of the trees.

Cross-paths leave the field into the woods. Take the middle path and follow it winding through the woods, skirting, but never entering, the playing field on the right. This path wiggles but ends up crossing Barnet Wood Road at two metal gates. Cross and join the path directly opposite.

Stay on the same path until it meets Croydon Road at the junction with Commonsides. Cross this main road and Commonsides and join the footpath on the opposite corner. Beware the main road here. You are crossing a fast road with a blind bend in each direction. Take care. Visibility is easier on the return journey.

You will see the clearances that Vicki is talking about here. Follow the path to your left, passing a reed pond, and follow the left bank of the stream winding up through the woods until you come to the first of Keston's large ponds. Walk along the bottom of this to the right and join the main path turning left and continuing up to the rest of Keston Ponds.

You then get to Fishponds Road where the ice cream van usually sits. Cross over and walk beside the lake up to the car park. Walk out of the other end of the car park and continue until the sunken path gets to the joining of the roads at the Westerham Road roundabout. On the other side of the road you should see the path that goes onto the Holwood Estate and past the Wilberforce Oak.

For the return journey, life is slightly easier. I run this route occasionally and I know that it is slightly uphill on the way and downhill on the way back. Just follow the route all the way back the way you came.

I'll list a walk from this point onward around the airport and back again in next month's newsletter. That route is good when the bluebells are out, a little late for this year perhaps. And then possibly another walk from Hayes, through West Wickham Common to Keston Ponds, following that.

Ed.

Trichomonosis in Garden Birds

Tom Coling

Until last month, I had never heard of *Trichomonas gallinae*, which is a single-celled protozoan parasite that can cause a disease known as trichomonosis in garden birds. Within the space of two weeks, every chaffinch that lived in our garden sadly died.

Species Affected

Trichomonosis is known to affect pigeons and doves. It can also affect birds of prey that feed on other birds

that are infected with the parasite. The common name for the disease in pigeons and doves is "canker" and in birds of prey it is known as "frounce".

Trichomonosis was first seen in British finch species in 2005. Whilst greenfinch and chaffinch are the species that have been most affected by this infectious disease, many other garden bird species which are gregarious and feed on seed, including the house sparrow, goldfinch and bullfinch, are susceptible.

Signs of Disease

In addition to showing signs of general illness, for example lethargy and fluffed-up plumage, affected birds may drool saliva, regurgitate food, have difficulty in swallowing and/or show laboured breathing. Finches are frequently seen to have matted wet plumage around the face and beak. The disease may progress over several days or weeks.

Disease Transmission

The *Trichomonas gallinae* parasite is vulnerable to desiccation and cannot survive for long periods outside the host. Transmission of infection between birds is most likely to be by birds feeding one another with regurgitated food during the breeding season or through food or drinking water contaminated by an infected bird.

Disease Patterns

An epidemic of finch trichomonosis occurred throughout much of the UK in 2006 and 2007. The disease has continued to cause large-scale mortality of finches in subsequent years. The number of outbreaks typically peaks in the late summer to autumn months,

although they occur throughout the year.

Consequent to the emergence of finch trichomonosis, the UK breeding greenfinch population declined from circa 4.3 million to circa 2.8 million birds which equates to an overall decline of 35% of the national population from 2006 to 2009. This represents the largest scale mortality of British birds due to infectious disease on record.

Recommended Action

If you see birds of any species that you suspect may be affected by trichomonosis in your garden, the Garden Wildlife Health (GWH) team recommends:

Leaving bird baths empty until no further sightings of sick or dead birds occur.

Temporarily stop feeding for a minimum of 2 to 4 weeks. This is because feeding encourages birds to congregate, sometimes in large densities, thereby increasing the potential for disease to spread between individuals.

When re-introducing feeding, provided you are no longer seeing birds with signs of ill health:

Gradually reintroduce food to your bird tables and/or hanging feeders, whilst closely monitoring for further signs of ill health.

Consider using a broad range of food types.

If you see any birds with signs of ill health, once again stop feeding.

Ensuring optimal hygiene at garden bird feeding stations, such as frequent disinfection, can help to prevent disease transmission as a routine measure.

Reporting

If you suspect an outbreak of trichomonosis in your garden, you should report it to Garden Wildlife Health (GWH). GWH is a collaborative project between the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Froglife and the RSPB. GWH aims to monitor the health of, and identify disease threats to, British wildlife, particularly garden birds, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs.

You can visit the GWH website at: www.gardenwildlifehealth.org

You can request a booklet entitled "Feeding Garden Birds – Best Practice Guidelines" from GWH by email: gwh@zsl.org or telephone: 0207 449 6685.

Miller's Mutterings

Chris Miller Court Lodge Farm

March started like a lion with nearly every type of weather throughout the month together with 43 mls of rain but will definitely go out like a lamb.

Peter managed to apply the first dose of fertiliser and - hurray hurray - plant the spring oats. We are astounded at the amount of worm casts on the ground giving us such wonderful conditions for drilling (planting). Although the ground was wet from the winter rains, the drill managed to plant the seed beautifully.

Peter took a gamble and started drilling on Wednesday 24th March (same date for the last two years that we have planted oats) as rain was forecast for the Friday but actually rained on Thursday afternoon about 2 hours after he had finished. Warmer temperatures were forecast for the beginning of April so he needed to get on with it before the ground becomes too dry! Oh it is fun being a farmer.

Access was needed into Harecroft, the field opposite Harefield House but, of course, with the major road works a great big hole had been dug for the power cables. Peter managed to talk to the work supervisor, giving him the dates he would like access, and the work crew filled in the trenches when needed. The workmen were very interested in the tractor and drill and watched for a little while whilst Peter was drilling.

There was great news from the government: from the 31st March all poultry and captive birds were allowed back outside. This housing measure was introduced from the 14th December 2020 to help lower the risk of Avian flu. There were 13 confirmed cases in England amongst chickens, turkeys and ducks but not in this area fortunately.

On the wildlife side, the deer are still grazing in the middle of the big field, quite a sight and the skylarks are going strong. I have heard the chiff chaffs along with the usual dunnocks, robins etc and have noticed a couple of blue tits going in the nest box. I hope they will lay eggs and are not just having a nose. The gold crests can be seen quite

clearly flitting about the larch tree, especially as the needles haven't appeared yet but the lovely red female flowers, or larch roses, have just opened. The emerging cowslips have been really trampled on the Chelsfield Green but one or two are just showing. Hopefully, with the warmer weather they will burst forth.

Our first swallow was spotted here on the 5th April last year so hopefully it won't be too long before they return and this month's weather verse is:

Swallows and martins usually arrive around the middle of April.

If they arrive earlier, this indicates a fine summer.

The later they arrive, the shorter and more unsettled the summer will be.

Talk London

The Mayor of London and Greater London Authority have a great new website, where you can add ideas and comments and vote on them. Check it out at:

https://www.london.gov.uk/talk-london/share-your-ideas-reimagine-london?utm_source=talkemailCampaign&utm_medium=talk1EE&utm_campaign=Reimagine032021&utm_content=ideagen

Greener & Cleaner Bromley & Beyond

Judy Palmer.

I have just discovered that GCBB's new website is now up and running and

worth a look! There are still areas being worked on but it is a great clear site. Our litter-pick from the litter clean-up in Shortlands is featured too.

<https://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk>

Bladeless Wind Generation

Robert Clark

Bladeless wind turbines are here. Sounds fantastic doesn't it? But think again. This new design idea is being tested and installed.

The idea has various advantages over traditional turbines not least that it is more bird friendly.

The main mechanism behind the windless turbine is a phenomenon called 'vortex shedding', when smooth air passes by an object and causes it to vibrate, creating energy that can be harnessed. There are two repelling magnets at the bottom of the 10-foot pylon, which keeps the tower oscillating in the opposite direction to where it's being pulled – this makes it ideal for low-wind environments.

Read more: <https://metro.co.uk/2021/03/25/skybrator-bladeless-wind-turbines-could-prevent-500000-bird-deaths-14302920/?ito=cbsshare>

Paper Wrapping

Robert Clark

I've been a plumber for the past couple of years, having changed career in mid life.



Being a plumber, I install a lot of bathroom equipment. This inevitably comes packed in plastic. The boxes are padded with expanded plastic and each item is enclosed in plastic wrapping and perhaps even a plastic layer stuck to its surface to be removed once installed. Each smaller component is boxed and in separate plastic bags. I have come across some that are triple-wrapped in a bag, within a bag, within a bag! I really don't know why this is.

It's terrifying how much plastic gets thrown away with each bathroom installed.

Last week, I noticed something different though - a change I hope is going to catch on. One particular make of shower enclosure came wrapped in paper! See the picture below. There was still a small amount of plastic, but this is something new.



The shower screen was not an expensive make, but I do hope it's the start of something.

Campaigns

Recently Friends of the Earth have re-organised their campaign areas into the following:

Climate -

Heathrow

Green & fair recovery

Climate friendly communities

Renewable energy

Nature -

Trees & bees

System Change -

Trade

Planning & environmental law

Anti-racism

Consumption -

Food & the environment

Plastics

Climate

Climate Fight undermined by Toxic Social Media Reports

Fake news on social media about climate change and biodiversity loss is having a worrying impact in the battle to halt the growing environmental threat to the planet, a group of scientists and analysts have warned.

In a report published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, they say the measures to create a healthier planet, have been suffering as a result of targeted attacks on social media by climate change deniers. The Academy feel that this needs to be tackled by some form of legislation, due to the serious nature of the problem.

Ann Garrett

Dumping of Contaminated Water into the Sea

South Korea plans legal action against Japan's plan to release radioactive water into the sea from the Fukushima nuclear power plant . They have asked that the plans to release more than 1 million tonnes, be referred to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. This would put a halt to the plan, but there are still serious challenges as to where it would be safely stored.

The situation is in fact an international problem affecting the whole planet.

Ann Garrett

Renewable Energy

Tesco produces some of its own power, thanks to wind turbines fitted to its depots and solar panels fitted to 35 of its stores. But to cover its energy

[Return to top](#)

demands, more investment is necessary. As a result, Tesco has signed a number of power purchase agreements with energy providers to help increase the UK's renewable energy capacity.

That commitment means that four new wind farms and five new solar farms are being created to help Tesco source more renewable energy.

Last year, Tesco signed a renewable energy agreement with energy investor Low Carbon to create solar farms in Essex and Oxfordshire that will generate up to 130 GWh per year.

Ann Garrett

Transport Roundup

The International Chamber of Shipping has suggested introducing a climate-related levy on fossil fuels used by the maritime industry. The proposed charge of \$3 per tonne of fuel used by shipping would raise about \$5 billion [£3.5 billion] over the next decade to fund research into zero carbon vessels. Some climate activists have said that this is too low, however.

Rolls Royce is back from the brink in its efforts to produce engines that are more energy efficient, despite a loss of £4 billion in 2020. Redundancies for 7,000 workers have dented its morale, so lower costs have come at a cost and unions are very concerned about the situation.

There are moves ahead by Airbus and Boeing to make important decisions to manufacture a new generation of aircraft that will lower the carbon footprint of planes.

A growing portion of research and development investment - 20% by 2020, compared with 7% now - will go towards creating lower carbon technologies.

Ann Garrett

From National FoE

COP26

Aside from preparing for the May elections, we're also looking ahead to COP26 this November. The UK is hosting the annual UN climate summit, which is a huge opportunity to shine a light on the actions of governments and crucially, to come together to show the strength of our movements and get more people involved.

Our focus is on strengthening UK climate ambition, both nationally and internationally, as well as powering up our network to take action on climate justice. [https://
campaigning.friendsoftheearth.uk/
climate/latest-news-climate-
campaign#cop-26](https://campaigning.friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/latest-news-climate-campaign#cop-26)

The New Police Bill

On Tuesday 9 March, the government published the new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. The Bill is a harmful piece of legislation, posing a serious threat to some of our most fundamental rights, criminalising the lifestyle of nomadic Gypsy and Traveller communities and limiting access to nature.

[https://
campaigning.friendsoftheearth.uk/
news/new-police-bill-threatens-your-
right-peaceful-protest](https://campaigning.friendsoftheearth.uk/news/new-police-bill-threatens-your-right-peaceful-protest)

Consumption

Deposit Return Scheme Consultation

The government is holding a public consultation on this proposed scheme and is asking for people's ideas on how this can be run. It closes in early June. I contacted FoE to find out their ideas on this and found out they are putting together guidelines to help individuals and groups respond and these will be available in the next few weeks. In the meantime, the two main points that FoE is making about the DRS consultation are:

The further postponement of the DLR scheme's implementation to 2024 at the earliest is unacceptable. The DRS was originally announced in March 2018 so there has already been a huge delay.

FoE are calling for an 'all in' DRS that includes no limit on materials and sizes; this means plastics, glass, aluminium and cartons from 50ml to 3L (like in Scotland).

If you would like to respond to the consultation as an individual, please go to: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs>

Annette Rose

Microplastics in the Air

A recent study has shown that about 85% of microplastics found in the air are linked to roads and mostly roads outside of cities where cars drive faster.

Particles come from road surfaces, tyres, vehicle brake pads and litter on the ground.

<https://www.wired.com/story/plastic-is-falling-from-the-sky/>

Annette Rose

Waitrose bans Plastic Toys

Some good news is that Waitrose Supermarket will no longer sell children's magazines with plastic disposable toys, to help tackle plastic pollution. Waitrose said the free plastic toys have a short lifespan and cannot easily be recycled. This follows on from their decision not to sell Christmas crackers containing plastic toys in 2020. In fact Waitrose came top in a supermarket survey carried out by Greenpeace that looked at progress on reducing their plastic footprint.

Annette Rose

Nature

Plantlife's No Mow May

This is a campaign about exactly that, asking people and councils etc not to mow areas of grass during May to encourage and protect wildlife. (see <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/nomowmay>)

System Change

Planning Application Objections

March 22nd 2021

Planning Application 21/00570/FULL 1

Dear Planning Officer,

Bromley Friends of the Earth wish to object to the proposed Edgebury Grazing Land, Slade Drive, Chislehurst planning application on the following grounds:

This land is an important green belt site.

In view of the serious situation regarding climate change, it is vital that all green belt land should be preserved at all costs.

The area is virtually a field and should be retained as such.

The impact on the infrastructure and traffic flow in an area which is already receiving a large amount of new building.

Local people enjoy walking on this pleasant green site, and should continue to be able to do so , especially during the pandemic situation.

It acts as a flood plain, which is important in order to avoid local flooding, especially during the increasing freak weather conditions .

Biodiversity would be severely affected should any building take place on the site.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Garrett and Sheila Brown [Joint coordinators of Bromley Friends of the Earth]

March 31st 2021

Planning Application for the Development on Swanscombe Marshes

Dear Planning Officer,

Bromley Friends of the Earth wish to object to the proposed planning application on the following grounds :

This land is an important wild life nature reserve of outstanding beauty

In view of the very serious situation regarding climate change, it is vital that all green belt land should be preserved at all costs.

A wild life area like this will help the UK meet its Co2 emissions targets.

The area is used by the public and ornithologists for important research

The impact on the infrastructure and traffic flow in the area would be drastic

Local people enjoy walking on this pleasant green site, and should continue to be able to do so , especially during the continuing pandemic situation.

It acts as a flood plain, which is important in order to avoid local flooding, especially during the increasing freak weather conditions .

Biodiversity would be severely affected should any building take place on the site.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Garrett and Sheila Brown [Joint coordinators, Bromley Friends of the Earth]

Supplies That Don't Cost the Earth

This is a regular reference point for useful and practical resources, helping us to sustain the greenest lifestyles we can. These are not recommendations from Bromley or National FoE, but are just suggested by BFoE members. Any

suggestions or reviews gratefully received. bromleyfoe@gmail.com www.ethicalsuperstore.com/

IT & Phone Repair *Orpington IT Centre*, 92 High St, Orpington BR6 0JY (Opposite Aynscombe Angle) www.orpingtonitcentre.co.uk

No/Low Waste Shops

Alexander Stores, 61 Beckenham Road.

Green Room, Station Approach, Hayes.

Current opening hours Tuesday - Saturday 10.30 - 3.30.

The Burlington Food Hall, Chislehurst High Street (Next to the Post Office): www.burlingtonfood.co.uk

Internet

Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond) 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://>

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, CRO 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>

Bike recycling

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

Facebook

Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond) Consumer action!

Hayes Life Freebicyclers There may be something similar in your area.

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/>

Reuse

If you have any items that you no longer need and that could be of use to someone then please let us know and we will publish them in the Newsletter. Alternatively, you could bring them along to our monthly meeting and put them on the table in reception. Any donations to BFoE from sales will be greatly appreciated.

List Of Roles

Everyone can be contacted via the groups email address: bromleyfoe@gmail.com

Acting Co-ordinators/Mentors:

Sheila Brown 01689 851605

Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295

Treasurer:

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

Instagram and Twitter Admin:

Emmanuelle Coetzee

Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

Bromley Environmental Network BEN Reps:

John Pavitt, Judy Palmer

Web Site & 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

Pending due to no live meetings

Newsletter Production: Dan Sloan

Newsletter Editor:

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503

robert.clark9@btinternet.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 heads in bold - specialisms bracketed

Campaigns Administrator: Judy Palmer

Climate:

Ann Garrett

Sheila Brown

Ruth Fabricant

Paul Garratt

Nature:

Diana Hurd (trees)

Ruth Fabricant

Paul Garratt

Judy Palmer

System Change:

Tamara Galloway (Planning)

Ruth Fabricant (Anti racism)

Ann Garratt (Planning)

John Pavitt

Consumption:

Annette Rose

Ruth Fabricant

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 Sheila Brown or Ann Garrett (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 (*delete as appropriate)

I would like to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my annual subscription (£8 single/£15 couple/family.) 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?

.....

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

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 or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.