



**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# November 2012 No. 299 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB  
email: [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com); website: [www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)



## November Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

### **Sustainable Development in a time of Planetary Emergency**

*Craig Bennett, Friends of the Earth's Director of Policy and Campaigns, shares FoE's strategy*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November - 7.30pm.**

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER \*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

### ***In this Issue:***

Diary Dates	2	Bee Cause	7
Treasurer needed	2	Great Storm of '87	8,9
January meeting	2	FoE Conf – Judy (2)	10,13
October mtg report	3,5	FoE Conf – Peter	11,13
Transport info	4,5	FoE Conf – Judy (3)	12,14
Gatwick news	5	BEE World latest	14
Campaigns, Climate	6,14	Bromley FoE contacts	15
FoE Conf – Judy (1)	7	Non-members section	16

***The Great Storm of '87 remembered – 25 years on – See pages 8 and 9***

### Diary dates:

<b>Nov 6th (Tues)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's November meeting:</b> See front page
<b>Nov 21st (Wed)</b>	<b>Operation Noah Annual Lecture with Andy Atkins:</b> Friends House, Euston, 7pm
<b>Dec 1st (Sat)</b>	<b>Annual Climate Change march:</b> See page 6 for more info, also <a href="http://www.campaigncc.org">www.campaigncc.org</a>
<b>Dec 4<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's December meeting:</b> Social and Festive Fayre
<b>Jan ?? (???)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's January meeting and AGM:</b> See below

### Bromley FoE needs new Treasurer - Your help needed!

At the Bromley FoE annual meeting in January we shall need to elect a new Treasurer, following Debbie's decision to relinquish the job she has handled for two years. Can you help? Obviously, the group cannot operate without a treasurer so please give this request serious consideration.

The task involves entering subscription payments, banking cash and listing items of expenditure. The job is much easier now that the work is computerised, using Microsoft Excel. Some treasurer training and help is available from FoE Underwood Street.

If you would like more details, please contact Sheila or Debbie (see the contacts list at the back of the Newsletter).

Meanwhile, our grateful thanks go to Debbie for the work she has put in, whilst juggling family and work pressures. A job well done!

### New Year - All Change!

The Bromley FoE January 2013 meeting falls on a public holiday so the date will change. Please make a diary note. The place and time will be given nearer the time.

This will also be the group's annual meeting. Thoughts, suggestions, ideas etc for our future activities are welcome. We will also elect officers, including a new treasurer, and our joint co-ordinators Ann and Sheila would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to take on a job and help to run the group.

### Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by **\*\*\* SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER \*\*\***:

**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

## October meeting report, *Annette Rose*

At our October meeting, our speaker was Steve Miller who talked about 'Running a Farm in Bromley'. Steve works on a family farm in Chelsfield.

He described it as being 180 acres and having a mixture of soils- sand, gravel, chalk and London Clay. Some fields have several different soil types in it which makes them tricky to farm.

He told us about the crops he grows. Oilseed rape is grown for vegetable oil, biodiesel and specialist oils. Wheat is grown for milling into flour for Warburtons to make into bread. Winter barley is used for beer, whiskey and vinegar. Grass is grown to make hay to feed horses.

He explained that these four crops are grown in roughly equal quantities on the farm. They are rotated on a four year cycle to keep the crops healthy and this allows the ground to rejuvenate when planted with oil seed rape. The farm has never had cattle.

The farm has been in the family since 1890 and they originally come from Essex. In the early days it was a lavender farm. Between the 2 world wars 100 casual women field workers were employed. He contrasted this with today when there is just he and his son working full time and his wife working part-time.

Steve passed round some interesting pictures taken on the farm over the years. He showed us a combine harvester that was bought in 1982 for £2000 and his present day one that cost £18000 last year. These advanced machines are wider, more

powerful follow the ground contours. An interesting aerial photo showed the boundaries of the farm.

Steve estimated that in an average week he works 45 hours but sometimes there are 12 hour days and no time off for 4 weeks solid. Steve explained that rulings from Europe control much of what he is able to do on the farm and there is a great deal of paper work. If all the rules are followed he will receive a subsidy cheque. He said he would rather just be paid for what he produces.

He talked about some strategies that were put in place to protect and encourage skylarks but how he was able to find a better method by widening some channels in the fields so the skylarks have places to go and hide.

There was a brief discussion about GM crops and Steve felt we may be eventually forced into using them to ensure the food supply. The food won't go off so quickly and more people could be fed.

He described fluctuations in world weather patterns including droughts and heavy rain that quickly affect the world food supply. Prices can very quickly rise or fall. The price of wheat rose from £80 a ton to £180 a ton in only 2 weeks this August.

Europe has control over what is planted and to get a subsidy farmers have to grow 4 or more crops so block planting is a thing of the past.

*/continued on page 5*

### **Help for cyclists – and other victims**

The London congestion charge and the need to cope with motoring costs have led to a welcome increase in cycling. But it has also led to a growing number of deaths among cyclists.

However, Transport for London has listened to campaigners and is instituting an immediate programme to make junctions safer for cyclists, primarily by ensuring that vehicles turning left can see cyclists between them and the kerb.

TfL also promises more 20 mph zones and lanes segregated for cyclists.

However, that is only a part of the road safety story. In 2011 no less than 1901 people were killed on the roads, a rise of three per cent. Pedestrians killed rose by 12 per cent to 453. One in three road users killed were under 25, leading the insurance industry to call for under 25s to be banned from night driving, be subject to a minimum learning spell of a year plus a lower drink-driving limit.

While these figures are far below those on the 1980s, the increases are the first since 2003, so there is much to do -- not helped by the Government killing off funding for speed cameras. Indeed, Oxford council switched off its cameras only to restore them after an increase in traffic accidents.

Meanwhile, the Department of Transport is looking at the possible impact of raising the speed limit to 80 mph, to be followed by a consultation period next year – a proposal likely to

meet strenuous opposition from many quarters, including environmentalists.

### **Fares, please**

You will notice a change if you are using the bus in central London – the pay-before-you-board ticket machines, which have not been universally popular, are being withdrawn. The reason: more passengers are using the Oyster card.

This will be popular for those who have to scuffle around for change to buy their ticket and it also means that those wanting to make just a single journey will be able to pay the driver.

### **Aiming high**

How to spend £60 million: build a cable car system that soars up to 100 metres above the Thames, and links the O2 arena with the Excel conference centre on the north bank. It can carry more than 2000 passengers an hour and has the advantage of linking with the Docklands light railway system.

FoE did not endorse the project, arguing that it was a large sum of money that could have been better used to encourage motorists to use public transport.

### **A larger Luton?**

Luton Airport – which, oddly, styles itself London Luton Airport – is making an attempt to become even larger. Currently it handles 10 million passengers a year but it has applied to increase its size to 18 million annually.

*/continued on next page*

## **Gatwick's shock move, Ray Watson**

Environmental groups – including Bromley FoE -- fighting to prevent airport expansion in the London area were surprised by an announcement from the owners of Gatwick Airport that they were to examine the options for an additional runway.

Opponents to growth at Gatwick had hoped that the airport owners had virtually given up on a second runway because of past outcries from residents in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, falling passenger figures and an apparent lack of space on the site.

The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, representing nearly 100 borough, district and parish councils, said: 'We have always opposed a new runway on environmental grounds, and have had massive support from three counties. We have been supported by all local MPs and all the county and other councils in a wide area. If necessary we will resume the battle.

'In fact all the options for a new runway have been examined many times before (1953, 1970, 1993 and 29003) and have always been found impracticable'

The GACC argues that a second runway would be too close to the existing runway and there would be too little space for a terminal building and for manoeuvring aircraft on the ground – a view, it says, that is shared by British Airways.

It is also claimed that a second runway would have to be shortened because of high ground at one end of the site and a railway line at the other, but

even so it would be only a few hundred yards from Crawley town.

GACC says fewer people are flying and, like Stansted Airport, Gatwick is not using all its slots. Plus, it adds, any growth in the number of flights will hit the Government's attempts to hit its carbon emission targets.

---

### **October report** *(continued)*

Organic farming methods were mentioned and Steve explained that you cannot do this with just crops as fertilizers have to be used to get the yield. There are strict limits on what can be put on the crops and it all has to be recorded.

Steve feels that our government is lagging behind and British farmers do not have access to some of the French and German pesticides that are better. He feels it has been a good move to join the cooperative which takes their grain as this helps to keep up with the legislation regarding storage.

Steve was asked what his future hopes are for the farm. He explained that he doesn't want to carry on forever and important decisions will be made in the next 18 months about the future of the farm.

---

### **Transport info** *(continued)*

Opposition to the scheme is already building, with people in nearby residential areas mainly concerned about noise problems. Opponents also claim that there is insufficient space around the airport to handle the expansion.

### **The Climate Change march**

'Get Fracktious' (high-lighting tar sands drilling) is on Saturday Dec 1st. It will assemble at Grosvenor Square at 12.00noon and march to Parliament Square where a fracking rig will be built. If Mitt Romney is elected, the march will be the other way round, due to his intention of drilling for more oil. (Contact Ray, Sheila or Ann for more details re who will have our banner and where.) We can plan more specifically at our next meeting. The march will take place during the middle of the Qatar Climate talks.

### **Climate and Energy**

#### **Green Jobs at Risk**

Energy Secretary Ed Davey is in conflict with some of his own party over the importance of investing in clean energy jobs. He is frustrated by 'the tea party' tendency to be sceptical about climate change.

This attitude is destroying the possibility of providing more 'green' jobs during a period of economic uncertainty. Over recent months the Tories including Cameron and Osborne have appeared to dilute their enthusiasm for green policies. Davey is also opposed to over-reliance on gas. We wish him all the best as he has a hard job on his hands.

#### **CND Conference resolutions on radioactive waste and Fukushima**

I attended the conference on Oct 13th and 14th and was present for the debate on the above resolutions.

Conference noted on the first one 'that more than half a century after the first commercial power plants became operational there is still no solution to the problem of final disposal of high-level radio-active waste'. It resolved to press government, the nuclear industry and the public to accept responsibility now for potential costs to future generations and to safeguard the environment.

On Fukushima, conference noted 'that there is growing concern about the state of the power plant, and that the reactors are clearly not in a stable condition'. (Dr Ian Fairlie for Scientists for Global Responsibility.) It finally called on the UK government to do all in its power to discover the full extent of the nuclear disaster, and urge the UN to make representations to the Japanese government, to offer all the assistance it needs to mitigate the danger to the people of Japan and the world.

Both resolutions were passed unanimously.

#### **Healthy Planet - Books for Free**

Bromley FoE will be pleased to hear that the above shop will be opening in Bromley High Street precinct next to British Home Stores. I have already visited the shop in Fareham in Hampshire which is running very successfully with a little coffee/tea/cafe space at the back which can also be used for meetings.

*/continued on page 14*

## Conference Report + Bee Cause, by Judy Palmer

### Conference Report

My third and final workshop was on The Bee Cause and it was introduced by the Bee Cause Team.

We began with the FoE promotional film showing the Bee Cause launch in April where overnight they created a wildflower meadow on a walkway of London's South Bank. By the time the commuters began their trek to work, the bees had found their way there and by the next day the 10,000 free packets of bee-friendly wildflower seeds were gone.

Team members explained the thinking behind the choice of 60 Bee places: how in the Queen's 60 years on the throne we had lost 97% of our important natural grasslands and that it would mark the Diamond Jubilee as a turning point where people demand action to protect the bees and their habitats. The first Bee World site will be at Aberdeen University.

After team members spoke on how FoE will carry the cause forward and a couple of local groups demonstrated how they had worked on the cause, we broke into three different areas of working.

I joined the group in which we were all interested in creating the 60 Bee Worlds and have combined my notes with the information on the project in an article elsewhere in the newsletter.

An inspiring workshop and hopefully BFoE will be interested in creating a Bee World in the Borough.

### The Bee Cause

This article is a combination of notes from the workshop I attended at Conference and an update on how our group is taking this campaign forward.

The criteria for creating a Bee World site were outlined again and the group I was in had input from a representative from a 'seed bank' company on various pointers to help create a beneficial habitat for bees. (*see attached sheet*)

There were a few questions flying back and forth covering whether vegetables and/or shrubs could be included; organisations which provide seeds; pollinators lists/guides; 'green' roofs; companion planting; councils & roundabouts – having to do a risk assessment if that was a group's choice; Highway Agencies & National Rail policies – quite a variable list as you can see and demonstrates one of the joys of group 'brain-storming' I believe.

I left feeling hopeful that our group can take this campaign forward and create our own Bee World.

**Update:** Well we did discuss the idea at the October monthly meeting and decided to explore the possibility of doing so if we could find an appropriate site. The borough of Bromley being so diverse and 'green', we are spoilt for choice. A number of suggestions were put forward in the limited time available and the debate continues. *Very latest info on page 14.*

## Canute couldn't do it – but the Great Storm did

### John Street writes:

King Canute famously tried to hold back the tide and failed, but, according to local historian Bob Ogley, the Great Storm of October 15/16 1987 did just that. At Southend, the strength of the wind was so great that you could have walked, at ground level, to the end of Southend Pier.

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 25 years after the Great Storm swept across the southern part of England, Bromley's Town Twinning Association hosted a talk by Bob Ogley. At the time of the storm Bob was the editor of a local paper near Sevenoaks. The title of the talk was *The Great Storm and How It Changed My Life*.

There were between 50 and 60 people at the talk, mostly men and women "of a certain age." Bob gave us a verbal picture of how the storm had changed his life, and then the floor was opened for questions and comments from the audience. What's below is based on the notes I took and my ability to decipher them on the cool light of day.

Bob Ogley lived in a cottage near the highest point in Kent, not that far from his local pub, the Fox and Hounds. On the evening of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1987, he was in the Fox and was advised by the landlord not to walk home by his usual route through the woods and that he should ignore Michael Fish's assertion that there would not be a hurricane that night. Bob ignored this warning but by the next morning the woods had gone – blown away by the storm.

Bob was woken at 2.30am by what sounded like an "express train"; the night sky was lit up by the effect of trees falling on power lines. His first thought was "They've dropped the bomb" but then he realised that it was a storm. Daring to venture outside, he narrowly avoided being felled himself by an airborne rabbit hutch. Bob retreated indoors and, along with his wife, spent the rest of the night waiting for trees to fall on his house. They didn't but the chimney pot came down, part of the roof was lifted off and the glass was blown out of the conservatory.

When Bob opened the front door at first light (he couldn't wait for dawn) Toys Hill woodland had gone – there were felled trees everywhere.

His top priorities that morning were to get to the office to organise his reporters and to check on the Fox and Hounds. The pub building was damaged and there was no water, electricity and no working phones. The he set off the 6 miles to Sevenoaks, mainly crawling and climbing over fallen trees and scratching the earth every now and then to check for a road surface.

Bob's main memories of that trek, apart from the eerie silence broken by the sound of a solitary chainsaw, were of uprooted trees lying beside houses, everything beneath the trees had been squashed although the houses themselves were ok. Until he reached Brasted, where a huge beech tree had sliced a house in two.

*/continued on next page*



## Canute couldn't do it – but the Great Storm did, *continued*

Bob did eventually reach the newspaper office in Sevenoaks; all the other staff were already there. No phones were working and all the roads were blocked. The best thing to do would be to hire a helicopter or a small plane. Bob managed to speak to the owner of a flying school at Biggin Hill who said that most of the planes had been flipped over during the night but one might be ok. It was, and Bob and a photographer flew over devastation unlike anything he had seen before. They flew over the North Downs, the Thames, Knole Park and saw the extent of the damage – trees toppled, boats relocated out of the river onto the shore, floods in Tonbridge, rail lines blocked by fallen trees.

The Seven Oaks on the Vine Cricket Ground, from which Sevenoaks derives its name, had been reduced to one still standing. It soon became apparent that the storm wasn't just confined to west Kent; it had affected the whole of the south east, from the Channel Islands to the Wash. And at Southend the wind had been so strong that it had held back the tide and it would have been possible to walk along where the sea should have been to the end of the pier.

Bob had collected a great number of photos of the storm damage and approached Hodder and Stoughton with the suggestion of publishing a book of them. They, however, declined to do so. Stuck in a traffic jam, Bob happened to notice that he was outside Landside Printers, general printers, and he went in, spoke to the managing director who thought it was a great idea but needed the copy, the

pictures, the index etc within a week so that it could be published before Christmas.

The book mainly consisted of photos of the storm damage in the Kent area and was titled "*In the wake of the Hurricane*" with an initial print run of 5,000 and was in the shops at the end of November. Within a week all had been sold; and by Christmas over 20,000 had gone. Orders were still coming in and the book was at No.6 in the bestsellers list published in the Sunday Times.

Bob's wife suggested that they write a national edition of the book to raise money for the National Trust. Between them, Bob and his wife visited every affected county and amassed more stories and photos. When the new "national edition" was published it stayed in the top ten for eight months and sold over 250,000 copies, raising £64,000 for the National Trust.

From this start, Bob gave up his job as newspaper editor and went on to write books on the war years, as well as histories of Kent and Sussex.

Twenty-five years later, it's apparent that nature has regenerated far more effectively where the fallen trees were left in situ than where there was hurried felling, as unfortunately happened to six of the seven oaks of Sevenoaks that were toppled.

Bob rounded off his talk by inviting comments and questions from the audience. It's interesting to note that over half the people there claimed to have slept through that night.

The second workshop I attended was led by Vicki Hird, Senior Campaigner, Land Use, Food & Water Security Programme, and there were 3 speakers. They were, in order of speaking, Pam Warhurst of Incredible Edible Todmorden, Sue Dibb from the Food Ethics Council and Fred Pearce, environment writer. Each speaker had ten minutes and then Vicki opened up the floor to questions.

### **1. Pam Warhurst, one of the Co-Founders of Incredible Edible**

**Todmorden** is one of the most passionate, energetic speakers I have heard, and I recommend you look on the web site to see the scope of the groups' achievements in just a few years, its brilliant.

Incredible Edible was started by a few local residents in Todmorden, Yorkshire, as a positive venture to provide free local food for the town, by growing plants in public places. Local residents could then come and take the resulting produce and feed themselves. This has now grown and expanded to about 30 towns which have created their own food economy.

Pam feels that the policy makers need to shift their way of thinking, think simple steps first, then the small actions become larger ones. It took two years of growing to get the towns people to participate in the sharing. And from these examples they have shown other businesses how to benefit. The town has a Green Route, a Pollination Street and Vegetable tourism; Todmorden is truly on the map.

### **2. Sue Dibb from the Food Ethics Council**

spoke on tackling UK consumption, tackling the cheap food myth and urging people to value food more and re-connect with food. Not an easy issue to do in 10 minutes.

She led with why we need sustainable diets and compared the UN definition of sustainable diets and the WWF one. The UN one took up two pages, the WWF one is called a Livewell Plate and the plate is divided into – eat more plants, reduce food waste, eat less meat, cut down on highly processed foods and buy credibly certified sustainable food.

Sue demonstrated with graphics of a double pyramid showing a sustainable food pyramid compared to one of an environmental one, which led into how the meat issue brings other important factors into consideration.

The Council feels that the UK needs policies to: reduce meat consumption; there should be an official UK definition of a sustainable diet; greater public awareness and that the supermarkets and food companies need to find another form of meat alternative and they need to work on better communication with their customers.

### **3. Fred Pearce, environment writer.**

His latest book is on 'landgrabbers' and is written from a global perspective. Fred demonstrated with plenty of his slides from around the world who the landgrabbers are and

*/continued on page 13*

### **Breaching Planetary Boundaries**

In our struggle to keep the planet safe, or is it time to think the unthinkable?

This consisted of short presentations by the three guest speakers, followed by questions from the floor, answered by all three speakers: Charles Secrett (ex Director of FoE), Kate Raworth (Oxfam), Richard Owen (University of Exeter). The discussion was chaired by Mike Childs (FoE).

**Kate Raworth from Oxfam** said that we had been tinkering with nature not only since the industrial revolution 200 years ago, but since the start of agriculture 10,000 years ago. We needed to keep in the zone of stability for continued civilisation. Control could be by Geo engineering, or by social change, and introduced the topic of 'doughnut economics'.

She defined the 9 planetary boundaries to ensure this stability. These included:

Climate change, Ozone depletion, Biodiversity loss, Chemical pollution, Ocean acidification, Land use, Nitrogen and Phosphorus cycles, and defined the limits of these to ensure a stable environment.

We were exceeding these limits for Nitrogen use, Climate change and Biodiversity loss.

\* 13% of the world's population did not have enough food

\* 20% survived on less than \$1.25 a day

\* 30% of food is wasted yet 3% of global food supply would end world hunger.

\* 0.2% of global income would end poverty for all.

\* 50% of Carbon dioxide emissions are produced by 11% of the population.

\* 33% of our nitrogen budget is used to produce meat for the EU.

**Richard Owen** gave a presentation of how we could engineer our way out of trouble, by the direct manipulation of the earth's climate. It was difficult to make notes during this session.

**Charles Secrett** made the point that we it looked as if we were exceeding the 4 degree limit experts had warned us about, and that we were in trouble. He suggested that climate change was now unstoppable without direct action. It could well initiate the 6<sup>th</sup> great environmental extinction in the history of the planet so far. (Up to now we have had five!)

We need radical change or we don't have a hope and these changes need to be political, economic and society based. He shares the views of James Lovelock (How introduced the Gaia concept) that this will result in wars this century over water, food, land etc.

There is a need to dump ideology that has built the industrial revolution, and to think local act global. To move to a world where individuals needs are met with new forms of debate and decision making, with citizens having power socially.

He thought that nuclear power made better sense for countries such as India and China as it avoids their increased use of coal and that they have the technology and development.

*/continued on page 13*

**Discussions with Dame Fiona Reynolds of the National Trust.**

Dame Fiona has a big campaigning background with varying organisations since 1980 and is a passionate believer in reconnecting people with nature. She is in the process of stepping down as Director-General of the NT and has guided the Trust from what she described as a 'closed-arms' organisation to an 'open-arms' one.

This is an American-ism admittedly, but Dame Fiona had studied the national parks organisation in the US and applied some of the examples to the good of the NT! The NT has 4million members at the moment which can provide a lot of pressure when the Trust needs a voice.

This discussion was led by Paul de Zylva, FoE's Senior Campaigner, Biodiversity Programme, and after the introduction Paul opened up the floor to questions. These were mostly Trust related naturally, but did lead to other areas occasionally.

*(Although the speakers in all the sessions for the most part had mikes, questions from the audience were not always audible; hence my note taking was a tad erratic!)*

Questions covered included: *Answers in italics*

- The Trust liaising with schools / nature on the national curriculum
- *Some properties have special schools programmes – they need to be fun! The debate continues on whether to put nature back on*

*the curriculum, teachers as well as pupils need to be encouraged.*

- how the wardens/volunteers interact with the public
- *Wardens are called rangers now and staff training is an on-going process. House staff and Countryside staff are trained differently.*
- the Back to Nature campaign being well received or not
- *Getting out of doors can pose dangers on the Trust properties. Discussion led to training for staff, interest in bees / insects on properties and the recent rise of the sale of 'real' books as opposed to electronic books, on nature subjects.*
- How the NT undertook re-engaging with the public
- *Each property staff undertake training, they needed to engage with the open-arms policy.*
- How to engage people with a policy
- *Do by example rather than politically. This led to how the NT board dealt with the pressure from the Government on the protest on the Green Belt changes; the threat shifting slightly and planning campaigns politically.*
- Will the NT challenge the government again
- *No, but they are watching all the time and do not like to be predictable.*
- How to combine the protection of SSSIs with connecting with nature

*/continued on page 14*

## Conference reports continued – Judy's (p10) and Peter's (p11)

### **Judy's page 10 report** *cont'd*

how they still want to increase their land ownership, together with tales of the indigenous people who have, and will, lose out by their land rights being trampled on. One area in Africa the landgrabbers desire is the Savannah grass lands where half a billion Africans live, and who are the poorest inhabitants.

He went on to demonstrate how food storage in the poorer countries is bad which leads to wastage but that the UK's waste is just 'pure waste'. He also feels that the world creates enough food **now** to feed 9 billion inhabitants, led alone when the population grows to this figure. Therefore we do not need to create GM food to feed this myth. Fred also spoke a little on how grazing pastures have disappeared to 'feed the world' and that changing to smaller farms would need heavy investment. 'Protect Nature & People'.

The three speakers then came together to answer questions from the floor, which by then there wasn't much time for! Some questions covered subjects on:

- Fred on the need for small holder farming
- Pam on how to get the local people involved at the beginning of a campaign by taking with a propaganda garden
- Sue on how food prices and how an essential diet can cost you less
- Sue on how you can find a middle ground working with other NGOs
- Fred on countering the GM myth

- Fred on creating a strategy on how to get information to small groups
- All / FoE on the footprint of land development being on the political agenda
- Fred/All on dispelling the population / food growth

---

### **Peter's page 11 report** – *cont'd*

There is a risk in getting solutions wrong, but not doing anything has a much greater risk, and this is the greatest challenge that humans have faced so far.

In developing countries there is a need for cheap solutions – better healthcare, getting girls into school, giving power, and jobs to women and they will have fewer children. We all seem to need more, yet still seem to be less happy. Discussed the two problems of population and consumption, and the need to tackle both.

**In conclusion**, a very interesting and thought provoking discussion, and one that could have lasted a lot longer. The audience was bombarded with data, which made note taking difficult.

I was particularly taken with the points made by Kate Raworth from Oxfam, who pointed out the impact that the developed world can have on the rest of the population and that small changes we make can affect the rest of the world drastically. I liked the graphics used for showing planetary boundaries, and the concept of doughnut economics. A future article perhaps?

## Conference reports continued – Judy's page 12 report

- *Each property has different suitable managements. Properties need to have access, together with set boundaries. This led to how dog walkers need to see the bees!*
- How to raise funds campaigning for NT properties/causes
  - *Education, which led to a wider discussion taking in local and global connections, with Dame Flora giving an example of a property with a negative history not being visited by the local population but was by national visitors.*
- Wind farms
  - *The NT does not have a policy on wind farms being an aesthetical organisation rather than a campaigning one. Each property deals with it differently, some have small ones. It does invest in renewable energy. Discussion led into people changing the way they think on subjects.*
- How the natural childhood campaign can reach out to new families
- Stewardships / short term & long term solutions / taking forward campaigns when people are engaged.
  - *In general to the above – all properties engage differently and have different stewardship policies. Long-term policies / solutions are needed. Activism to connect with nature needs to start in childhood, as when people are engaged they will in general come back to it when adults.*

### **Climate and Energy – cont'd (p6)**

The organisation states 'that by picking up free books you are stopping them ending up in landfill like thousands of others'.

Once the book or books have been read they can be returned or passed on. (In Fareham people are allowed up to 3 books at a time.)

Other projects include: Adopt a Plot (conservation around the world), Healthy Learning (free school 'green' lesson plans and grants) and Empty Spaces (using commercial properties for charitable and community purposes).

Volunteers are need for Bromley -  
hr@healthyplanet.org or phone 020-3405-2435

### **BEE World news**

Bee World – A possible site has been identified near Tugmutton Common in the Locks Bottom area of Orpington.

More details will be available at the next monthly meeting!

### **FoE's Big Green Bike Ride**

April 27/28, 85 miles from London to the New Forest.

More info from the FoE website  
[www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605  
*email – sheilabrown336@msn.com*  
Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295  
*anncgarrett@yahoo.com*

### Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Secretary:

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

### Treasurer:

Debbie Witherick  
*debbie.witherick@sky.com*

### Press Officer:

vacant

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Outings organisers:

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

### Newsletter Editor:

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

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

### Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

### 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*

### Bee Cause

*Judy Palmer, judy.palmer@talk21.com*

### Bromley FoE web site:

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

Peter Gandolfi  
*petergandolfi@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!

---

**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](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?

.....