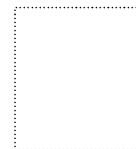




November 2013 No. 311 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
email: r.watson865@btinternet.com website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



November Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Nitrogen World

Mark Sutton from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology speaks on the new environmental challenge that links factories, farming and our personal food choices

Tuesday 5th November - 7.30pm

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by
*** **SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER** ***
Contact details inside front cover.

In this Issue:

Diary Dates	2	Survival demo	11
Into the community	2	CYW on Fracking	12
Campaigns etc	3,5	CYW on Land Grabs	12,13
October meeting rpt	4,5	Greenpeace on Fracking	13
Bees and Pollination	6	MEP on Fracking	14
Gasland Greed	7	MEP on Climate Change	14
Sunny Schools	8	Bromley FoE Contacts	15
Make It Better	9	Non-members section	16
BTTA lecture	10		

Gasland Greed – see page 7 for this poem from Ann

Diary dates:

- Nov 2nd (Sat)** **Film “More than Honey”** at Friends Meeting House, Bromley, 6.00 pm for 7.00 pm
- Nov 3rd (Sun)** Visit to Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve (no spaces left!)
- Nov 5th (Tue)** **Bromley FoE’s November meeting:** Mark Sutton, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- Dec 3rd (Tue)** **Bromley FoE’s December meeting:** Tony Banfield (Bromley Parks & Gardens) - followed by our traditional pre-Christmas social evening with seasonal fayre
- Jan 7th (Tues)** **Bromley FoE’s January meeting:** including our AGM

Into the community – A Quiz Night

It was no hardship for a band of Bromley FoE members to join in a social quiz night with members of the Friends of Jubilee Park, Petts Wood. Indeed, it was a pleasant social evening and it also raised money for the Friends.

Bromley FoE gets out into the community as much as possible and so many members turned up at this event that we had to divide into two teams. Neither was among the prize-winners, though we learned much from questions ranging from local history to plants growing in the park. However, it was also immensely rewarding to see the Jubilee Friends in such good shape and spending so much time and energy keeping their local park in good order. And thanks to Judy Palmer for organising our attendance.

Film Night - Saturday 2nd November

We are co-hosting the film 'More Than Honey' - a new documentary by Oscar-nominated Markus Imhoof narrated by John Hurt - on Saturday November 2nd at the Bromley Friends Meeting House, from 6.00 p.m. *Please see the enclosed leaflet which has all the details.*

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth nor of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** SUNDAY 17TH 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.

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

Campaigns, Climate and Energy - Ann Garrett

Fracking stall report

Many thanks to all 11 people who supported the stall on Oct 19th - really grateful as anti-fracking isn't so easy as the bee cards! There was a steady response. 23 cards were signed with another 20 from groups such as Bromley TUC, Greenpeace and TUC pensioners. The News Shopper turned up so hopefully we will get some good publicity in the next edition.

Bromley TUC's president Al Stoten has been very helpful in obtaining local information. The planning application for fracking exploration in the North Weald area was passed on March 13th and is on the LBB website.

Bromley did not oppose the request from Kent CC for drilling on 63 kilometres of 'road and track' by Northdown Energy just over the Kent border. Orpington is specifically mentioned. See www.bromley.gov.uk, then search on *planning applications* and then *'northdown energy'*.

Fracking

Here is some useful information in getting to grips with fracking issues.

There are up to 2,281 trillion cubic feet of shale gas under central Britain. 41% of Britons think that fracking should happen in this country, but only 25% want to see it take place in their area. Those who are more engaged in the issue are twice as likely to support fracking as the general population.

A single well requires between 9,000 and 29,000 cubic feet of water, and there could be up to 100,000 wells in the north of England. There was

unease, however, in 2011 when two earthquakes of magnitude 2.3 and 1.5 were felt near Blackpool.

The Prime Minister says that fracking could create 74,000 jobs, and that the tax rate on shale gas production has been halved from 62% to 30%. The fracking industry in the US supported 1.7 million jobs in 2012 and produced £40 billion in tax revenue.

Until this year the Yes lobby was winning, but with so much publicity about all the protest to halt Cuadrilla's activities at Balcombe this Summer, the voice of opposition is now growing.

Nuclear Power

The Sellafield nuclear power plant buys in more gas yearly than the towns of Whitehaven and Workington put together. This is based on a £1,000 per household bill and around 25,000 households. The bill from the public purse is £30m.

While gas looks like it may be rationed this Winter, the nuclear industry will not and cannot be rationed, but will continue to use profligate amounts of fresh water and fossil fuel. Fresh water is in short supply in West Cumbria though. Sellafield, interestingly, stopped producing electricity in 2006.

Climate Change Play

An important play about the environment took place from Sept 27th - Oct 26th at the Polka Children's Theatre in Wimbledon, *The Planet and Stuff*. The advert said 'How can we solve climate change? From what's

/continued on page 5

October meeting report – Graham Hemington

Water in Bromley by Paul Rainey (Geologist)

Paul enlightened us with water sources and their uses in and around Bromley. A major point of interest is the river Ravensbourne.

Rain falling on the chalk hills south of Keston seeps through Thanet Sands and emerges at Caesar's Well near to the Park car park. This is the start of the river, flowing into Blackheath Pepple Beds (with clay-ey Woolwich Beds underneath) and then continuing northward to Bromley; it joins the eastern branch of the river near St Mark's Church where it is culverted until it reaches Church House Gardens, bearing left to reach a former mill pond filled by the river and also a pipe with water presumably coming from the overflow from the lake up to the right. There are some licensed abstractions from the river.

The river Bourne joins the Ravensbourne south of Bromley. The name "bourne" means an intermittent stream; after wet winters the river Bourne is seen to rise temporarily in the area now developed at Sparrow's Den playing fields about 2.5km further upstream from its usual source.

In 1754 St Blaise's well was rediscovered in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace, now the Civic Centre, "Great numbers of people, of all conditions, but chiefly of the middling and poorer sort, drink daily of this excellent water, many of whom have been remarkably relieved from various infirmities and diseases."

The water has a rich irony taste and contains "An extreme subtil volatile principle that is very soon dissipated by heat." On adding powdered galls it turns into a "rich transparent elegant purple." "One pound of Bromley's St Blaise's Water when carefully evaporated yielded 8 grains of a residuum of dark cinnamon colour. Tunbridge Wells water yielded only 2,5 grains per pound."

After complaints about water quality and cholera the Kent Water Works Company introduced the water closet, but much more water was now used and cesspits rapidly filled yep and overflowed. In 1871 Mr Bilke, the occupier of Glassmill House, complained that "On May 31st a great rush of foul black sullage and excreta came down from the town drain into his pond, killing the fish." Action was clearly necessary, By January 1873 as a temporary measure sewage tanks were built in a meadow adjoining the burial ground of the parish church in what is now Church House Gardens.

In 1875 the West Kent Main Sewerage Board was formed. They built 18 miles of main sewers, 6ft high and 4 ft wide, in order to take Bromley and Bexley's sewage and dump it in the Thames at Long Reach. Bromley Local Board connected with these at Southend 23½ miles of 12 inch diameter stoneware pipes with about 670 manholes. On December 6th 1881 these were "very satisfactory and free from leaks and ready to receive Bromley Sewage." The Church House sewage tanks were then demolished.

/continued on next page

October meeting report - *continued*

Horsburgh, the standard work on the history of Bromley, tells us that in 1449 Lord Saye built here a paper mill. This seems unlikely. The first known paper mill in England was not until 1493. Horsburgh's source, perhaps unsurprisingly, is Shakespeare's Henry VI part 2. When Shakespeare was writing in about 1590, however, a reference to paper mills in Kent was a reference to corruption.

In 1765 the Glassmill lake site on the Ravensbourne was sold to Solomon de Meza for 60 years at £16 16s per year. He agreed to build there a paper mill, and a brick dwelling house and outhouses and spend for that purpose not less than £700. In about 1789 when Solomon de Meza's son, William, went bankrupt, the mill and house were sold to Thomas Ribright.

The mill was then examined by John Rennie, the notable engineer. He tells us that the overshot water wheel was 11ft 6ins in diameter and 8ft wide. In 1797 Thomas Wilson says "On the river Ravensbourne, close to the town, stands a mill many years used for grinding paper but for the last two years it has been employed for grinding and polishing concave and convex mirrors from 1 to 5ft in diameter. I received from Mr Ribright an invitation to visit his house and grounds. The situation of the mill is extremely pleasant, and the delightful and romantic prospect it affords is well worth the observation of visitors; a large sheet of water with a pleasure boat upon it gives us the opportunity to enjoy one of the most pleasing prospects I ever beheld."

In 1824 the site was sold, the mill demolished, and a fine country house built in its place. This lasted until 1938 when the lake was sold to Bromley Council and the house and garden replaced by the flats of Mill Vale. To control floods the Ravensbourne was culverted in 1955 between the railway and the much reduced mill pond which was replaced by the present concrete box.

Finally, HG Wells in 1875 spoke in glowing terms about the river Ravensbourne, describing it as a holiday wonderland.

Acknowledgements – Thanks to Paul and Sheila for helping with this report.

Campaigns, Climate and Energy – *continued from page 3*

going on in the atmosphere to where that sweet wrapper in your pocket came from and where it might end up, climate change takes centre stage'.

This was a part live science demo and part interactive game show, and was created in partnership with children from Polka Young Voices Panel for young people between the age of 9-13. There was also a teacher's pack with curriculum links, see www.polkatheatre.com.

Bee campaign – Pollination - Judy Palmer

I came across an article on foods which are / are not pollinated by bees on the FoE website this month and which gives other information about pollination and other pollinators – makes you think on how bland the food on your plate would be without the pollinators!

Here's a list of foods that are wholly or partially pollinated by bees:

Almonds / Apple / Apricots / Artichokes / Aubergine / Beans (*Broad, French, Runner*) / Blackberry / Blueberry / Cabbage / Carrots / Cocoa / chocolate (*mostly pollinated by a midges and bats with some help from bees*) / Cucumber / Garlic / Mango / Melon / Oil-seed rape (*a crop used for vegetable oils and fats is about a quarter pollinated by bees*) / Onions / Oranges / Pears / Peppers / Plums / Potatoes (*grown from tubers but the flowers are 'buzz pollinated' by larger bee species*) / Soya (*part self-pollinated, part pollinated by bees*) / Strawberry / Sweet potatoes / Tomatoes (*buzz pollinated by larger bumblebees*) / Herbs and spices: Cinnamon, Coriander, Cumin, Parsley, Saffron.

Wild pollinators are more important than honey bees

A 2013 study showed that wild bees and other wild pollinators (insects, bats) are as if not more important for world food production than managed colonies of honey bees:
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/feb/28/wild-bees-pollinators-cropyields>

Some self / wind-pollinated food crops are not pollinated by bees:

Bulgar wheat / Olives / Pepper corns / Raisins / Rice / Spinach / Walnuts / Wheat (*for flour, bread and pasta*). Bananas are cloned, and so do not rely on bees either.

More information

What are you wearing?

As well as food crops, some commercial textiles rely on insect pollination. If you're not wearing cotton then you don't need to say 'thanks' to the bees.

Pollination aids quality

Natural pollination is also known to improve the quality and shelf-life of the produce and to support high yields and vitamin content,

See page 6 of the report 'The Decline of England's bees' by the University of Reading for *The Bee Cause*. Friends of the Earth's bees campaign is here: <http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/beesreport.pdf>

Meat and dairy

Many crops grown as feed (fodder) for grazing meat and dairy cattle and other stock also rely on seeds that are insect-pollinated. In that sense, even meat and dairy production depends to some extent on bees and other pollinating insects.

Gasland Greed – a poem from Ann

Vast swathes of Northern America
steeped disturbingly in polluted wastelands
Acre upon acre, mile upon mile

Fracking rigs litter the landscape
creating sterile conglomerates of pipes
and steel pylon structures

Sticky turgid rivers of tar sands
seep into wheat fields
Angry farmers and labourers
masked for protection
roam like lunar-landed astronauts
examining the destruction

Chemicals burst into the air from gas flames
while oily pools bubble and eject
continuous orangy-blue gas jets

Murky rivers wend their way
through fields of grey grass
Herds of deer roam in search of green foliage

Corporate companies free to expand - grab land,
employ vulnerable workers glad to have jobs

Cancer statistics proliferate
as helpless residents survey the dangerous deluges around
Animals lie rigor-mortised in their holes

No Consultation
 Planning permission
 Congress responsibility
 Moritoriums

Get fractious world !

[Ann Garrett Ashley Feb 12th/13 after seeing the film 'Gasland']

It's Sunny Schools for FoE !! (from FoE's Campaign Hubs team)

Back in April we launched the process to find Friends of the Earth's Next Major Campaign. Staff, volunteers and local groups responded proposing loads of great options. These were then whittled down to a top 5 which were tested, explored, discussed at Basecamp, run by critical friends, evaluated by a stakeholder group, before finally going to the Senior Management Team (SMT) for a decision. There can only be one New Major Campaign, and the outcome is that it will be...

...SUNNY SCHOOLS!

SMT have chosen Sunny Schools as the next major campaign; to launch in 2014. We're really excited by this campaign; for its potential to create a tipping point for community renewable energy in the UK; for the opportunity it will give us to engage the centre-right as well as the left on positive action to address climate change; and for its potential to engage new and existing supporters.

You can read more about why we chose this campaign, the runners up, the process we went through to make this decision and more information on the overall campaigns package in the attached Executive Summary.

The runners up:

Fracking

Though not the next major campaign we see it as critical that work on fracking continues and we've agreed to continue to resource it until summer 2015. We expect the work on both Fracking and Sunny Schools (though

separate campaigns) to complement each other.

Flood

We think this would work extremely well as a rapid-response campaign that could be delivered in a tight time-frame when a major flood happens in 2014. We will task a small project team to develop this. We will also ask the Climate and Energy programme to consider how the thinking behind the idea can inform the development of our climate messaging.

Go Flexi & Hug A Banker

Though not chosen as the next major campaign there is real future potential in both these ideas and we wish to see the thinking developed further within the relevant programme with the expectation that at some point they will be elevated to a higher level.

Thank you and next steps

A big thank you to everyone who got involved with the next major campaign process; proposing ideas, and helping develop and critique them. Please do share this news with local group members. We are keen to involve local group members as the campaign is developed, so please follow the Hub where we will post opportunities as they arise.

The project group will now be undertaking an evaluation of the process and looking at how to build on what we've done when we come to decide future campaigns.

Make it Better Campaign – Annette Rose

The next stage of this campaign is pressing for improvements to a proposed European law. The following letter has been sent on the Bromley group's behalf and FoE is aiming to set up face to face meetings with MEPs before Christmas.

Dear Mary Honeyball MEP,

Non-Financial Company Reporting Legislation

As you are aware the European Union is discussing what major companies should have to report on annually as part of the proposed changes to the Accounting Directives.

We are writing to you as our political representative in Europe and a member of the Lead Committee for this legislation. We would like to encourage you to push for the legislation to be strengthened.

Current reporting requirements mean recent scandals - like horse meat burgers, the horrific Rana Plaza factory collapse in Dhaka and the effects of tin mining on Bangka, Indonesia - can be completely ignored even by the companies in whose supply chains they occur.

By reporting both the good and bad impacts of their operations, companies can improve their efficiency while protecting both people and the environment. Proper reporting gives businesses the chance to perform better and exposes otherwise hidden, and potentially costly, problems.

Please press for improvements to the proposed European Union law so that it includes:

1. Reporting requirements that include risks to communities and the environment, not just to the company's profits and also an analysis of the company's resource use
2. A requirement for companies to exercise due diligence^[1] and report on the worst impacts and risks to communities and the environment associated with their supply chains
3. Robust guidelines to ensure all companies provide clear, relevant and comparable reporting.

Please let me know your stance on the non-financial reporting law and whether you will press for the adoption of the above suggested amendments.

NB – Mary Honeyball is one of two Labour MEPs for London; London has 8 MEPs, 3 Tory, 2 Labour, 1 each of LibDem, Green, UKIP

BASECAMP 2014

Date: June 13/15

Location: Castleton

FoE offer "A weekend full of opportunities"

Bromley Town Twinning Association Annual Lecture – *John Street*

This was held on Wednesday 16th October and was billed as the journalist Werner Sabiers giving a talk on “A review of post-election Germany and of the Merkel years.”

Well, the journalist was introduced as Werner Sabiers but he didn't really address the published topic. Instead he spoke for about 20 minutes on the recent German general election; this was followed by a fair number of questions from the 35 or so people in the audience.

The German electoral system provides a mixture of first past the post and proportional list. Voters have two votes. The first vote elects constituency MPs in a first past the post contest, and the second, proportional, vote determines how many MPs a party should have, with additional MPs elected from a national list if necessary. If a party has more MPs elected in the first past the post contest than it should have according to its percentage of the vote in the second part, they keep the “extra” MPs and the number of MPs elected is increased so that proportionality is maintained.

Werner described these elections as the most boring he had experienced. Angela Merkel avoided wherever possible political issues, concentrating on “Me” as in “Trust me and all will be well.”

At the time of writing Merkel's CDU party, although the largest single party in the Bundestag, was still looking for a coalition partner, as early discussions had not led anywhere. The most likely

coalition will be one between the CDU and the Social Democrats (SPD) and will probably be completed before Christmas, according to latest news reports (**)

Audience members asked questions on various topics, including:

The German constitution; why the Liberals did so badly in the election; the stability of the euro zone; how the Germans viewed having someone as prime minister who was both a woman and from East Germany; Merkel's views on nuclear power; the nuclear power shutdown timetable; renewable energy; fracking in Germany.

Also – The strength of the German economy; Cameron – Merkel relations; the economy being dragged down by the need to support the former East Germany; ministerial positions for the junior partner in a coalition; unemployment in Germany; the rise of UKIP.

(**) The same news report also said that “The SPD set out 10 demands, including the imposition of a new financial transactions tax, which not all EU countries have signed up to and which is currently bogged down in legal challenges, and restrictions on EU weapons exports, including for the German weapons industry.

“One demand which Merkel's allies have already signalled willingness to compromise on is a country-wide minimum wage at €8.5 euro per working hour.”

Survival demo – Richard Comaish was there

On Thursday 3rd October at 1 o'clock I turned up outside the Brazilian Embassy in London for a demo in support of the Awá Indians of the Amazon basin, whose land is under threat from development.

The demo was organised by Survival International, the Barbican-based organisation who look after the rights of indigenous peoples globally. I have long been interested in this cause, which seems analogous to the Celtic League.

Indigenous peoples have a special, intimate relationship with the land and its ecology, but have historically been repeatedly displaced and subjected by colonisers and developers.

I tried to advertise Survival years ago in Bromley Central Library (then called 'Survival of Tribal Peoples'), but was told, to my eternal amazement, that it was 'too political' (you would think, in this day and age, that councils of whatever politics would wish to be seen to stick up for the rights of vulnerable indigenous peoples of whatever politics?).

I was joined by a mixed bunch of Britons (one at least from as far afield as Milton Keynes), Survival staff and South American Indians, some of whom wore authentic native head-dresses and face paint. I had never really met and talked to native South American Indians before, despite a long interest in them.

The demonstration was small and good-humoured, attracting much attention from journalists, tourists and

passers-by (the Brazilian embassy is in Cockspur Street, near Trafalgar Square). Official representations were made to Brazilian embassy staff, who came out to discuss the situation at some length. After an hour we dispersed. I am assured that similar events are being planned for the coming months.

And subsequently sent this letter –

Dear Minister Cardozo,

I urge you to ensure that the eviction of the loggers and ranchers from Awá land starts in the next couple of weeks, before the rains set in making the operation almost impossible.

The Awá will lose everything if you do not take fast action to ensure their survival. They depend completely on their forest, which is being destroyed at an alarming pace.

You promised to evict the invaders from the Awá's land, and a court ordered this to be done by early 2013, but little concrete action has been taken and the Awá are warning that they are unable to feed their families.

Only you have the power to save the Awá and there is no time to spare: if you do not act now, earth's most threatened tribe will be driven to extinction.

FoE's CYW - What is fracking and why is it so risky?

Fracking is a controversial technique used to extract shale gas which is trapped underground. Water and toxic chemicals are pumped underground to break the rock and free the gas.

In the United States fracking has been linked to water and air pollution, and droughts due to the huge volumes of water needed.

Exploration licences have already been granted for many parts of the UK, including Lancashire, Sussex, Kent, South Wales and Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. Fracking in Lancashire has already triggered earthquakes, while test drilling in Balcombe, Sussex has sparked a summer of protests by residents and campaigners.

The Government is promising regulation of the industry, but Friends of the Earth believes that while regulation can make fracking safer it cannot make it safe.

Despite the hype, energy experts, Government research and the frackers themselves admit shale gas is unlikely to bring down our fuel bills. And while the shale gas lobby claim it is a 'clean fuel', its climate impact could be as bad or worse than coal due to leakage of methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide

We already have more fossil fuels than we can afford to burn if we have any hope of avoiding catastrophic climate change. This dash for gas is a dangerous distraction from the clean

renewable energy solutions that we urgently need.

It is critical that we act now. Friends of the Earth have been supporting residents in Balcombe, West Sussex to resist drilling in their village. But it's not just Balcombe. There are applications for a site in Fernhurst and Wisborough Green that West Sussex will have to consider soon. In the meantime you can see if fracking is on the agenda in your area by using our interactive map: www.foe.co.uk/help_us_pull_plug_fracking_40282.html

FoE's CYW - Is your money funding land grabs?

UK investors are funding companies grabbing land in Africa — possibly with the help of your pension fund.

Land grabbing is when companies and governments buy, lease or seize large areas of land to exploit for their own benefit. Often the land has been used for generations by local communities to grow food and make a living.

These communities are driven off their land, often without their consent and little or no compensation. Their livelihoods, ability to feed themselves and culture are destroyed..

Sometimes communities are evicted by force and their Human Rights are violated. Land grabbing also causes environmental damage — forests are

/continued on next page

Greenpeace and fracking

Greenpeace recently sent this email to their supporters

With 30 of our friends sitting in a Russian prison on trumped-up piracy charges, it's been difficult to stay focused on our work here at home.

But then I thought about what our friends were doing in the Arctic - fighting to stop an extreme form of energy that, if exploited, would be disastrous for the climate. And we have a rare chance to challenge extreme energy right here in the UK: fracking. But we don't have much time.

So while we are still doing everything in our power to free the Arctic 30, we can't let the frackers sneak into our backyards while our attention is diverted.

Right now, the government has earmarked nearly two-thirds of England for possible fracking, without fully understanding what effects it is likely to have on our health or the countryside. What we do know is that if we want to tackle climate change, we can't be digging new fossil fuels out of the ground.

Find out if your home is at risk of being fracked. Look up your postcode at wrongmove.org now. Fracking involves horizontal drilling that can extend two miles from the actual drill site, passing directly under the homes of those nearby.

Despite the government's enthusiastic dash for gas, we have the power to make fracking very difficult, and may

even be able to halt exploration in its tracks, if enough of us come together.

This is how it works: if you don't want fracking companies pumping toxic chemicals under your home, you can say so. Then, any drilling there becomes trespassing; the frackers would be breaking the law.

All you have to do is declare that your home is 'Not for Shale' and you will be added to the growing legal block to stop fracking where you live. But we need to act quickly. Now is our chance to take a stand to keep dirty fuels in the ground where they belong and say no to fracking under our homes.

FoE's CYW - Is your money funding land grabs?, *continued*

uprooted and wildlife lost. Precious farmland and local water sources are polluted.

Rises in food and fuel prices have triggered a dash to acquire cheap land in the developing world to grow cash crops and biofuels. In addition, the global financial meltdown in 2008 prompted investors to look for new opportunities. The huge demand for land makes it a profitable investment because of the limited supply.

Friends of the Earth is researching the links of UK investors to land grabs abroad and putting pressure on them to stop funding land grabs. We are also supporting communities in Uganda and Liberia who are fighting land grabs by taking their demands to UK investors.

MEPs reject Tory calls for public to be denied say on fracking and major plans - *Press release from Jean Lambert MEP*

PUBLIC consultation will play a key role in future applications on fracking in Croydon and Orpington and major development projects like Heathrow after MEPs voted to revise EU legislation on environmental impact assessments (EIAs).

The Greens strongly welcomed provisions to make EIAs compulsory for non-conventional fossil fuel projects, notably shale gas extraction and exploration involving fracking.

Commenting on the vote, London's Green MEP Jean Lambert said: "MEPs have today voted to ensure that all shale gas extraction projects and shale gas exploration involving the controversial fracking process including those proposed in Croydon and Orpington - are subject to compulsory environmental impact assessments.

"While this would not prevent permits from being granted, it would ensure a basic standard of assessment and public participation. This will help prevent risky shale gas projects being bulldozed through in spite of environmental concerns and public will.

"While the Greens believe there is already sufficient evidence to ban this risky technology, particularly in sensitive areas, there is a need to ensure that environmental and liability rules are applied and vigorously enforced at the very least. Today's vote is a first step in this direction."

Act now for action on climate change - so say scientists - *from Jean Lambert's latest newsletter to constituents*

Scientists working for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have recently published their report titled Climate Change 2013 – The Physical Science Basis. <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/#.UmO1TBAvyQJ> - It warns that runaway climate change, most likely caused by greenhouse gas emissions, is almost certain to be a reality across the planet by 2100.

They say the worst impacts of climate change will be felt in Africa, Asia and Australia, but that everywhere can expect an average temperature rise of at least two degrees - the level at which 'feedback loops' make climate change unpredictable and beyond human control.

"We need to stop burning fossil fuels right now - and just leave them in the ground," said Jean. "Instead we must move to a zero-carbon economy: of course it's feasible - if Germany can plan and act on this, then so can we. It's just a question of political will." Read more on Jean's website at http://www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/news_detail.php?id=982

NB – Jean Lambert is the Green MEP for London; London has 8 MEPs, 3 Tory, 2 Labour, 1 each of LibDem, Green, UKIP

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:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

Press Officer:

Sophie Lyons
sophielyons.foe@gmail.com

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

Bromley FoE web site:

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

Peter Gandolfi
petergandolfi@hotmail.com

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:

Mary Stirling
maryellenstirling@hotmail.co.uk
Tamara Galloway 01689-855352
tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Waste and Recycling

Annette Rose
annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

Bee Cause

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

Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and
Ray Watson

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

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.

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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