



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**



*November 2017*

*No. 359*

# ewsletter

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## November Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

**Michael Young – CEO, The European Movement**

**European Movement after the Brexit vote: What next?**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – 7.30pm**

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER\*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

### Diary dates:

- Nov 7<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Bromley FoE's November meeting: plus Traidcraft stall
- Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thu) Talk on "London's Green Belt" – see below for details
- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Bromley FoE's December meeting: Winter social, quiz and all the usual seasonal fare
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> (Thu ) Bromley RSPB walk. Meet at Jubilee Country Park, Blackbrook Lane car park BR2 8AY at 9.30am. Bring binoculars if you have them.
- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tue) Bromley FoE's January meeting: plus AGM

### November Meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November European Movement after the Brexit vote: What next?

The European Movement, founded just after the war, campaigns for greater European integration and was and remains passionately opposed to Brexit.

We will also have a Traidcraft Stall at this meeting with the usual fairtrade foods, chocolate, stationery and gifts, Christmas Cards and other seasonal items.

### Talk on 'London's Green Belt' - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Friends of Jubilee Park have a talk 'London's Green Belt' by Peter Martin, who was Head of Heritage and Urban Design at Bromley Council. 2.30pm in the Garden Room, St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, BR2 8AT. Entry free but £3 donation suggested.

**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*

### Next Newsletter - copy details

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by **\*\*\* SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER \*\*\***  
**by post** to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS  
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The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons.

## Miller's Mutterings for October – Chris Miller

*For a change, we're leading off with Miller's Mutterings.*

The farming year has started again with the planting of the cover crop of black oats, phacelia and radish on 31<sup>st</sup> August. This has germinated well despite the colder soil temperatures.

We are growing two different varieties of wheat this year, Zulu and Bassett, both being what we call soft wheat for biscuit and cake flour.

Dodging some heavy rain showers, Peter has managed to drill the seed under good conditions. The sun has been quite hot during the planting so hopefully it should germinate within seven to nine days.

In some parts of the country, farmers are still combining spring sown wheat and beans due to the very wet August.

Goodness knows when they will be able to plant again. The harvest in Australia has been a lot smaller than usual due to the extra dry weather. One extreme to another.

We have been pleased with our Deutz–Fahr tractor, it has proved to be a great asset. Although smaller than we are used to, it has carried out all the work required without using too much diesel and is a pleasure to drive. We had a loader mounted on the front, which has proved very useful for moving bales etc.

The hedges have been trimmed back to thicken them enabling better nesting for the birds next year and keeps the hedges under control. The boys have

noticed this year that we seem to have more pheasant poult and partridges running about on the fields. This together with a lot more worm casts is another bonus for not ploughing.

The cats have settled in and working well, Steve watched one trying to catch a rat that was feeding on some spilt grain. It is good to see them about the yard again, the cats not the rat!

Work still carries on in the buildings, up grading electrics and delivering straw, hay and haylage.

The haylage has proved very popular with the horses, at one yard the horses were trying to bite through the plastic to get at it. Steve thinks it smells like Christmas pudding so goodness knows what a horse thinks!

The grass has been mown and cleared on Chelsfield green enabling seeds to drop, so we can look forward again next year to the wonderful wild flowers. Autumn is on its way and as I write a few swallows are still around but they will be gone very shortly.

There are plenty of acorns, fruit and berries on the trees and as the saying goes:-

*When berries are many in October,  
beware a hard winter*

## October meeting report – Sue and John Boccock

### The Woodland Trust

Our speaker for October was Professor Alan Aylward, describing the foundation of the Woodland Trust, its philosophy and future plans.

The Woodland Trust began in 1972 because of a Devon farmer, Ken Watkins' concern at the loss of hedgerows and small woods due to the drive towards "efficiency" in farming; he ran a campaign to save a local wood endangered by the loss of field edges.

The Woodland Trust now has 73 square kilometres of woodland (25,000 acres) made up of 1000 woods and 850 sites and works to increase the numbers of woods into Britain.

Woodlands not only look attractive but also have economic potential, are extremely valuable in absorbing carbon dioxide and a variety of pollutants, they provide gateways for local animals including insects into the local habitats.

Before the Ice Age Britain used to have 33 species of native trees. More recent introductions have included the horse chestnut and the sycamore.

Currently the UK has only 13% tree cover of which only 2% is ancient woodlands compared to the European average of 30%. Most of this has developed over the last 3000 years. This is a prime natural resource as 85% of ancient woodlands is unprotected by British law, unlike listed buildings and SSSIs. There are some

species of animals and plants which only thrive in woodlands e.g. Dormice. Oak trees alone can support over 400 species of insects.

The focus of the Woodland Trust is to preserve and to plant new woodlands. The first hundred or so projects were to save and protect existing woods, but progressively 36 million new trees have been planted. This sounds like a large number, but more than 60 million trees have been lost to Dutch Elm disease and Ash dieback which threatens to take many more trees.

Additional losses result from projects such as HS2 and new housing developments. The Woodland Trust tries to link Woodlands, together with runs for fauna including butterflies as often, ancient woods are not large enough to support their traditional fauna.

Some ancient woodlands have been infilled with conifers. If these are removed many of the old woodlands will return spontaneously. The Trust's policy, where possible, is to leave nature to repair itself. Old woods contain a variety of features such as rotting trees and areas affected by deer.

Restoring woods can involve clearing introduced conifers and using old techniques such as pollarding and coppicing. This can open up the canopy encouraging butterflies and increasing biodiversity.

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## October meeting report – *continued*

Also included would be the removal of barbed wire and the marking out of footpaths, improving accessibility for people and dog walkers. (and also protecting sensitive areas).

The Woodland Trust has a Trees for Schools programme. They provide trees for free in bundles of 30, 150 or 450 for planting depending on the area of land to be covered. The children are offered help and advice on how to look after their trees.

In addition the Trust can also maintain and advise farmers and landowners, work with local authorities and the National Trust. The money comes from sponsorship which has included Sainsbury's, Patronage of Princess Anne and other charity donations. The Trust relies mostly on volunteers such as Alan who has been a volunteer since the Trust began in 1972.

Tasks include removing wire, clearing water courses, replanting and seeding healthy trees and researching Dutch Elm Disease since when 20 new diseases have appeared, often imported on pallets. There have been some areas which have resisted disease. Brighton still has some 300 year old Elm trees.

The Trust now has a new project for the Centenary of the First World War. They are called Memorial Woods. The aim is to have four in the four different parts of the UK: Langley Vale in Kent, Co-ed Ffes in Wales, Dreghorn Woods In Scotland, and Brackfield Wood in Northern Ireland. Oak trees were lost at Jutland and Verdun in Belgium.

Acorns have been planted all over the country. The Jutland memorial features 14 oaks, one for each ship that went down and 6090 other trees in memory of seamen who lost their lives

There are also memorial sites to footballers who lost their lives in the war. Schoolchildren are also involved in the forthcoming 800th anniversary of Henry III's charter which gave his subjects the right to use the woods.

The future, what will Brexit mean for our woods? The Common Agricultural Policy has deterred farmers from planting woodlands by encouraging more intensive farming. Currently there is no protection for ancient woodlands. We need a new land use policy.

The Trust has 50,000 members and is always looking for more public involvement. "Your woodland needs you!"

*With acknowledgements to Paul Enock, Anne Clark and Sheila Brown.*

### **Fuelling the Fire – Paul Enock**

To coincide with COP23, the 2017 UN climate change conference on 6 - 17 November (the so-called 'Conference of Parties' or COP) an alliance of groups including 350.org and Friends of the Earth will publish updated data on the fossil-fuel investments held by council pension funds throughout England and Wales.

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### **Greenpeace and Big Oil**

Greenpeace are taking the Norwegian Government to court because for the first time in 20 years they are opening up vast new drilling sites in the Arctic, putting wildlife, our planet and our whole future in danger.

This is thoroughly irresponsible because they know that there's already more oil in the existing fields than we can afford to burn. They also know that burning oil causes climate change, melts the Arctic ice and fuels extreme weather events like hurricanes, floods and droughts. Drilling puts wild life in danger and spoils beautiful landscapes, and as it happens violates the Norwegian constitution that says the State will ensure future generations the right to a safe and healthy environment.

The court case could stop the drilling and also set a precedent, resulting in a domino effect that help protect precious species and fragile environments under threat from Big Oil 's insatiable drive for profit. The outcome of the case could have an impact that could reach the whole planet.

### **Fracking**

Rotherham Council have just banned fracking and any exploration of shale gas on council land. They were under pressure from the huge fracking company INEOS to give them access to fields, parks and playgrounds to carry out seismic testing - the first step towards fracking. But Rotherham have stood their ground and said no - showing that standing up to fracking bullies can work. The other good news

is that Scotland have banned fracking as well and set a fine example to the UK.

### **Nuclear Energy**

EDF Energy is planning to dump 300,000 tonnes of mud contaminated by waste from nuclear power plants, into the sea off Cardiff Bay. This is from sites at Hinckley Point A and B. The waste can transfer to the land via coastal flooding and sea spray. It is appalling that corporations can pollute our waters and land through cutting costs.

### **Nuclear Fusion**

Research into nuclear fusion (the Iter Project) is likely to be affected by Brexit due to funding costs. This is an energy source which, instead of burning fossil fuels, uses water. It produces no long-lived waste and can operate alongside solar, wind and other renewables to power the world to a carbon-free future.

Iter could be operational within a decade and will represent a huge step towards fusion. It is vital that the UK, a pioneer of nuclear fusion research and development since the 1950s, finds a solution when Brexit takes place, for a continued relationship with Euratom (a European nuclear co-operation agreement).

### **Electric Transport**

The government is considering providing subsidies for electric bikes as part of a concerted effort to get more people cycling. With the UK facing health crises from pollution and inactive living, other plans could  
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## Waste4Fuel site – Annette Rose

### Latest News on Waste4Fuel site from Bromley Council's website

Clearance of waste from the former Waste4Fuel site is once again underway following further funding being received from the government. This final phase of clearance is estimated to continue for approximately 2 months once Veolia, the council's waste management contractor is fully operational on site.

To date, around 18,000 tonnes has already been removed, reducing the risk of fire, with the revised estimated total figure being 27,000 tonnes.

"Confirmation that the additional funding has been secured and that we are now, at long last, within touching distance of seeing this land cleared is fantastic news for local people, to whom I would like to pay tribute for their understanding, staunch support and enduring patience throughout this extended ordeal." said Leader of the Council, Councillor Colin Smith.

Julie Foley, Area Manager for the Environment Agency, said "We understand how frustrating the situation has been for residents and thank them for their patience. We will do everything we can to support London Borough of Bromley and Veolia during the site clearance, helping to ensure there is no impact on the environment and local people".

The news follows a temporary pause in the clearance work earlier this year after the discovery of technically contaminated waste material in a

seam of rubbish towards the bottom of the stack, combusted/melted plastics and heavier based carbon materials. This has meant that the remaining waste needs to be disposed of in a more carefully managed way, with higher resulting processing costs.

The site in Cornwall Drive, located near to housing and the A20 Sidcup By Pass, is an exceptional case and has been the scene of repeated fires. The continuing fire risk will be removed following the final phase of clearance work and will also address the long-running concern and nuisance experienced by local residents.

### Climate, Energy and Transport - *continued*

include using electric cargo bikes to deliver packages from internet retailers, rather than vans.

People buying electric or hybrid cars can receive up to £4,500 off the purchase price through a government subsidy scheme. However, there is no equivalent policy for e-bikes, where a small electric motor provides a boost when pedalled.

A report by MPs in 2013 called for a share of 10% by 2025, to be achieved by spending £20 per person annually on cycling provision. The current figure is only 1-2 %, less than most of Europe.

A new cycling and walking strategy was launched last April - an important move to improving the quality of life for people generally.

## Nature Updates – Judy Palmer

### **New digital information posts at Jubilee Country Park project, Judy Palmer & Annette Rose**

Jubilee Country Park are taking part in a project to have digital information posts across the park and to help compile the information needed, they enlisted the help of Dr. Judy John (Orpington Field Club), volunteers and girls from Bromley High School, Year 5. The Friends of Jubilee are co-ordinating much of the administration.

Annette & I, together with Sue & John Bocock, volunteered to help for one of the days in October.

Each volunteer had an information crib sheet compiled by Judy John, giving us pointers on the different plants, trees and species you could find in the vicinity of the posts. Each post had three girls and an assistant from the school with them and tablets to take pictures and record information.

Our job was to 'guide' them to the different points of interest. The girls were most enthusiastic and interested in all they could find and we all agreed what a great hour or so we had with them – and it was nice and warm & sunny!

We have all been thanked by the school and Sue, the Friends Group chair, also updated us on the project targets:

*'The next phase, for the school is to produce a short presentation for each post, and for me is to source the QR codes. The final nature trail will also be accessible from our website or by*

*accessing a URL directly. Our target is to have this ready before the end of term.'*

It is proposed that the exercise will be repeated in the Spring and Summer to record the seasonal changes in the park. Well done to all concerned in promoting this project!

### **Bees & nature update, Judy Palmer**

The expected vote on the extension of the ban on the neonic pesticide issue which was due this month has now been put back to later in the year probably.

Friends of the Earth are still working on ways to show Michael Gove, the Environment Secretary, how much public and scientific support there is for a complete ban on the use of these pesticides. One of the actions was to take out a full page advert in the Daily Telegraph recently, including quotes from scientists.

And talking of Mr Gove, and the team at Defra, they are still preparing to launch the 25 Year Environment Plan. This may take place by Christmas and will be followed by a debate. He has been speaking a lot this summer on a Green Brexit, covering pesticides, high environmental standards, the UK's global role, farming's role in restoring nature and micro-plastics.

And in part of a speech he is quoted as saying "...as Conservatives, as those whose love of country is rooted in love of home, we are instinctive

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## Nature Updates – *continued*

defenders of beauty in the landscape, protectors of wildlife, friends of the earth.....". Not bad eh?!

And the nature campaigners at Friends of the Earth have also been working on the issue of the illegal trapping of wild migratory birds in Cyprus; global forests and UK overseas spending; biodiversity offsetting; ragwort myth busting; and the effects of artificial light on people's health, the night sky and on nature. They have been busy.....

### **Marine plastic waste issues, Judy Palmer**

I noticed in an article in September that Keep Britain Tidy had collected 560 cheap polystyrene boards from just three beaches in Devon and Cornwall at one point this summer. How crazy is this fad!

Apparently, the boards are manufactured in China then shipped over 11,000 miles, re-distributed to shops and then used for a few minutes before they break and then get dumped in bins!

Unfortunately, most of the boards cannot be reprocessed as the polystyrene is contaminated by salt and sand, but one enterprising dress designer has made a dress with a 22 metre (72ft) train using fabric from 100 of the boards to highlight the waste problem. Good for her!

Sky are also continuing to highlight the continuing plight of our oceans by our use of, and disposal of, single-use

plastic. At the 'Our Ocean' conference, hosted by the European Union and held in October, Sky announced the company will remove all single-use plastics from its operation, products and supply chain by 2020. Sky also announced it will invest £25m in an Ocean Rescue Innovation Fund to help businesses develop technology that eradicates single-use plastics.

If you are a fan of Sir David Attenborough and his beautiful nature programmes and you tune into the new BBC The Blue Planet II - be prepared to wince or cry! In a recent interview Sir David gave examples of how the plastic in our oceans is killing the wildlife and he believes that all of us have a responsibility on how we use and discard of our plastic.

Also announced recently – one of the Round-the-World yachts competing in the 8 month Volvo Ocean Race has teamed up with Sky Ocean Rescue. They will be using on-board data gathering equipment to measure water quality and composition, as well as micro-plastic.

The yacht team is part of the UN Environment's Clean Seas campaign, the aims of which is to try and understand the issue of plastic pollution in oceans, as well as trying to inspire people to take action in their own lives. Volvo has banned single-use plastics in the race villages across the world route.

## Lancet Commission on Pollution – Paul Enock

***“Pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and premature death in the world today.”***

So runs the opening sentence of a major study by the *Lancet Commission on Pollution*, which appeared on 11 October. Just to be clear about the specifically medical meaning of the word ‘environmental’ in this sentence: for medical science, an environmental factor is any external factor that influences the organism, from ambient temperature, the availability of food and water, the presence of predators or of transferable or non-transferable pathogens, diseases and parasites.

In other words, what we are doing to our environment, (to ourselves), is killing us three times more effectively than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined, and 15 times more effectively than all wars and other forms of violence.

This leads us to the headline many newspapers extracted from the report:

*“Diseases caused by pollution were responsible for an estimated 9 million premature deaths in 2015.”*

That’s one in six of all deaths. In the European Union, the figure is 400,000 preventable deaths, or nearly 8% of all mortalities, with air pollution being the chief culprit. More than 50,000 Britons died from exposure to man-made chemicals in 2015, making up 8.39% of deaths in the UK.

The report distinguishes between ‘traditional’ and ‘modern’ forms of man-made pollution. There is good news

about the former: household air pollution from open fires and water pollution associated with poverty and traditional lifestyles, are slowly declining. But there is bad news about the latter. These are outdoor air pollution, chemical pollution and soil pollution, which are produced by industry, mining, electricity generation, mechanised agriculture, and petroleum-powered vehicles. These are all increasing rapidly.

The problem with modern forms of pollution is that we are only now becoming aware of the effects on our health of pollutants we have been introducing into our water, soil and air over many decades. As the authors note, *“The list of diseases attributed to pollution will probably continue to expand as the environmental distributions and health effects of newer chemical pollutants are better defined and new exposure–disease associations are discovered.”*

For example, the rapid rise in autoimmune diseases cannot be accounted for by genetic distribution alone, and links between ambient levels of nitrous oxides (from motor vehicles) and the incidence of dementia are now attracting attention.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect is that children are at higher risk of pollution-related disease, even at extremely low-dose exposures, if these occur during *“windows of vulnerability”*, e.g. *in utero* and early infancy. Such exposure can result in disease, disability, and death in childhood and across the lifespan.

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**Lancet Commission – cont'd**

But the report offers no excuses for despair: there are proven solutions:

*“Pollution control provides an extraordinary opportunity to improve the health of the planet. It is a winnable battle.”*

The report cites the example of California, where the enforcement of controls on vehicle, agricultural and industrial emissions above the US standard has resulted in reductions in levels of major air pollutants by more than 70%, producing measurable improvements in children’s respiratory health. What is more, it has accomplished these goals at a time when GDP has risen sharply, *“thus documenting, yet again, that control of pollution does not stifle economic development or societal advancement”*.

The report stresses, however, that the enforcement of regulation is an essential tool, and *“both the polluter-pays principle and an end to subsidies and tax-breaks for polluting industries need to be integral components of pollution control programmes”*. This reads as a warning to the UK, where moves are being made to exclude just these principles from post-Brexit legislation.

The UK is a rich economy, but when it comes to controlling pollution, it tends to behave as if either the resources aren’t there, or it just doesn’t care enough about the health of its most vulnerable citizens.

Bromley FoE has been making plans for a Clean Air Action Event on 28<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately, by the time you receive this newsletter, the event will almost certainly be in the past. However, you should have a report of the event at our meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

This was a local event, aimed at engaging with local decision makers and those directly affected by levels of pollution in the borough.

The action was due to take place in Queens Gardens, off Kentish Way, behind the Glades in Bromley.

Bromley FoE advance publicity stated: “Bromley Friends of the Earth want air that is good enough for children to breathe. We plan to draw attention to the illegally high level of pollutants in central Bromley and other places throughout the borough. We will be wearing ‘Clean Air’ T shirts and some will be wearing masks.”

This local emphasis is in line with a change in strategy by FoE nationally. As Tom Wright wrote to us: “The government has shown little interest in tackling the problem at anything like the scale necessary – and the balance of forces in terms of trying to convince the government to act are against us”.

Bromley FoE were planning to invite local councillors responsible and those who have shown an interest, (Cllr Huntington-Thresher, Cllr Vanessa Allen), and to aim at building broad public support for real action on air pollution.

## Friends of the Earth's Judicial Review win

### **Or ... How we stopped the government pricing people out of taking it to court**

Together we've stopped the government making it harder for ordinary citizens, charities and communities to challenge bad environmental decisions.

Imagine the government wanted to chop down ancient woodland – yet no one dared to take it to court because the legal bill could change at any time during the court case. Faced with unknown expense only those with deep pockets would risk bringing a case – leaving most of the hard-pressed public and cash-strapped community groups priced out of justice.

It sounds unfair. But that's exactly what the government's new rules meant. We believed the move was unlawful and together with the RSPB and Client Earth took a case to the High Court to stop it.

Thanks to our generous supporters we are lucky enough to have a highly effective legal team. And thanks to their work, the judge's decision means that when people challenge the government about decisions that affect the environment, the maximum amount the case will cost will have to be fixed early on.

### **The government isn't above the law**

Thanks to a UN treaty – signed in the Danish city of Aarhus in 1998 – the costs of doing this were fixed and capped so citizens could be sure they wouldn't face bankruptcy if they lost.

But in February 2017 the Ministry of Justice removed these caps. This meant that legal costs could change at any time during the court case. We believed that it was breaking the Aarhus treaty. That's why together with the RSPB and Client Earth we took the government to court.

### **Unpopular and unlawful new rules**

The government had plenty of warning that the new rules would have a harmful impact. Then one week in September it all went horribly wrong for the government.

It lost a vote in the House of Lords: peers voted 142 to 97 to 'regret' the Ministry of Justice's new rules. And the United Nation's Economic Commission for Europe found that the UK was breaking its international obligations for access to justice under the Aarhus Treaty.

The result of our High Court case delivered the final blow. The judge ruled it would be unlawful for the government to use the new rules to increase the potential legal bill for the person or organisation bringing the case once it had been given permission to proceed – unless they had been lying about their income or won the lottery!

Our environmental rights – to have information about, participate in and challenge environmental decisions – have been hard won. They are far from perfect and are under constant threat. But this successful campaign has held off one threat and Friends of the Earth will continue to fight in the future.

## FoE Community News – Bude’s Community Orchard

Bude Friends of the Earth’s proposal to create a community orchard in the centre of the town has just been unanimously approved by the council.

At the September meeting, the council asked BFE to draw up detailed plans, and these were taken to the meeting by town councillor and treasurer of the group, Simon Browning.

The orchard, which will cost £1,000, will largely comprise of 26 one-year-old MM106 apple trees, six hazelnut trees and ten fruit bushes.

Two or three of the hazelnut trees will be used as a wind break on the northern corner of the site, and a row of fruit bushes will be planted along the northern edge so that the trees do not impose on the view from the windows looking out onto the orchard.

Within the centre of the orchard, the apple trees, will be arranged in curved rows surrounding a central clearing, which will be used as a focal point for outdoor events. Between the trees, and a wildflower mix will be planted. The wildflowers will provide additional colour and attract pollinators.

Trees had been planted there a couple of years ago against the hedge, but hadn’t gone as well as hoped with infertile soil and a sandy base among the issues.

However, plans have been put in place to ensure that plenty of compost will be incorporated when planting to provide a good start and subsequent feeding and mulching of trees including

Comfrey for its properties as a soil conditioner.

All councillors present were unanimous in their backing with Cllr Browning abstaining from the vote.

Cllr Browning later told the Post he is pushing on with plans to get the funding sorted. He said: “Cornwall Council have a crowdfunder platform on their website, which we’re going to use.

The Council also have a Grow Nature Seed Fund where they’ll help projects with funding and we’ve already been told that we’re eligible for it.”

### **Fuelling the Fire - *continued***

The idea is to highlight the inconsistency, incongruency and incompatibility of investing in further fossil fuel exploration and thereby ‘fuelling the fire’ of climate breakdown while governments are making apparently solemn pledges to reduce carbon emissions.

The alliance will also be making letters available which local groups can adapt and address to the trustees of their council pension funds.

Councils are running out of excuses not to divest. Local authorities in Canada who divested from fossil fuels five years ago have now published a report on how their zero-carbon funds have outperformed conventional investments.

## FoE Community News – Chester FoE’s Campaign Perspective

Hi, I'm Helen and I've been with Friends of the Earth for over ten years.

My local group's just come back from The Goodlife Experience, an outdoor festival catering to all the things that make life more rewarding. This year's festival was a huge success; despite the rain we managed to raise a record amount of money.

We also forged a partnership with Hawarden Bee Sanctuary and used some of the funds raised to buy them a new hive. This will allow them to increase their bee count by 25%. The sanctuary takes in bee swarms from the local area and manages the hives as naturally as possible.

Future generations shouldn't have to live in a world without bees because of the mistakes we have made. Plus we quite like getting to dress up as bees most weekends.

We have worked with many groups such as Chester Zoo, Neston Community Centre, Chester West and Cheshire council, Broughton Shopping park and more.

Our campaign has involved:

- Encouraging bee-friendly gardens at home.
- Making a bee-friendly garden in the centre of Chester, near its historic walls.
- Working on a bee-friendly shopping park in Wales.
- Educating children, through groups such as brownies and cubs, on the importance of bees.

- Getting hundreds of local MPs to sign cards in support of a neonicotinoid pesticides ban.

We have also raised substantial funds via our Tom 'bee' la in the last 2 years. People love the game of chance! And we've been making bee jewellery, bee candle holders and cakes to raise funds.

We still have a way to go until we can be sure our bees are safe, so we will carry on with our work of dressing up and talking to people to #saveourbees.

### All change at Bromley Council

Councillor Colin Smith, well known to Bromley FoE as Portfolio Holder for the Environment, became Leader of the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September following the resignation of Councillor Stephen Carr.

The new Environment Portfolio Holder is Councillor William Huntington-Thresher.

We have made contact with him, saying how we have worked closely with Cllr Smith and that we look forward to having a good working relationship and working together on the crucially important Clean Air initiative, which has now moved high up the agenda for all London councils.

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### Campaigns –

#### Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Transport:

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#### Climate and Energy:

#### and Fracking / Clean British Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

#### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

#### Planning and development:

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#### Clean Air:

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#### Campaigner:

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#### Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,  
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose,  
Ray Watson, Paul Enock, Sheila  
Brown, Peter Gandolfi

#### Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

#### Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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

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

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

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## **Non-members' Section**

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

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

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

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, and Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

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..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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