



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Bromley**



*November 2018*  
*No. 371*

# ewsletter

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## November Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

*A showing of the film*

### **Plastic Ocean**

*followed by a discussion about action we can take*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November - 7.30pm** (*prompt start please*)

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER \*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

**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*

## Diary dates: November

### November 6<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting.

A showing of the film 'Plastic Ocean'. Plus Traidcraft stall with seasonal items.

**November 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Orpington Field Club** will be hosting a talk at the BEECHE centre at High Elms. Bob Francis will be giving an illustrated talk about nesting boxes of all types- birds and small mammals. 1.30-3.30. £3 donation.

**November 28<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Friends of Jubilee Park meeting.** Trevor Weeks of East Sussex Wildlife Rescue Animal Service will talk about the work of this charity which is devoted to rescuing ill, injured, trapped or distressed wild animals. Meet in the Garden Room, St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley BR2 8AT at 2pm. Refreshments will be served before the start of the talk. Entry is free but a donation of £3 towards the cost of running the event and the work of the Friends would be welcomed.

**December 1<sup>st</sup> (Sat) Campaign against Climate Change** are planning a Climate Demo. This is timed to be at the start of the UN climate talks in Poland, For further details go to [www.climatecc.org](http://www.climatecc.org).

**December 4<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting.**

If you need any further information on these events, you can email us on [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or ask at the next monthly meeting.

## November Meeting – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### PLASTIC OCEAN

Friends of the Earth is promoting this film, which presents the problems of plastic pollution really powerfully. It shows the devastation caused to our environment and how its impacts are felt all over the world. This is the short version of the film – the longer one runs for nearly two hours. We will then have an open discussion about the issues and what solutions and actions we might be able to find.

## Next Newsletter - copy details

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

## October meeting report – John and Sue Boccock

### The Clean Air Emergency

#### Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah

delivered her very personal and poignant story about her daughter Ella who died on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at the age of nine.

Ella was born on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2004, a healthy child who loved being outside and active. She was particularly gifted at sport and dance, also enjoying cycling and football.

At this point we were shown a short video of her swimming and going under the water; she was still wearing her hospital wrist band and Rosamund said that in view of the state of her lungs it was amazing that she could do what she did and even more remarkable that she never had an asthmatic attack when doing strenuous activity.

It was in October 2010 that Ella began to experience difficulties. She had a cough, which sounded like whooping cough, and developed syncope (which long distance lorry drivers are often subject to).

She had her first asthmatic attack on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and on 28<sup>th</sup> December, only a week later, Ella collapsed, stopped breathing and had to be resuscitated. She was then tested for epilepsy and cystic fibrosis, but all the tests proved negative.

In 2011 Ella was in intensive care four times. At the beginning of 2012 she was given so many antibiotics but there appeared to be no pattern to her hypoxic seizures. There was however

a correlation between her asthma and a spike in pollution levels in the Lewisham area which was near her home and also near the South Circular Road.

Before she died, Ella had a reading age of 13 years, four years above her chronological age, clearly a gifted little girl who was in the top 10% of the ability range. She had had childhood eczema between three and fifteen months and this could have been an early warning sign of asthma. Her mother, Rosamund, explained how the family had extreme hay fever and how she herself had suffered from hay fever but only when she was pregnant.

The first inquest concluded that Ella had died of an extreme asthma attack triggered by 'something in the air'. Rosamund was told that her daughter had the worst type of asthma in the UK. With this information and the help of a doctor from Great Ormond Street Hospital she set up the Family Foundation. It was explained that over two million children in the UK under the age of 19 have asthma. Every year around 10 children in the UK die of asthma.

When Rosamund goes into schools to give talks about asthma, she stresses the importance of the children carrying their inhalers with them.

Professor Holgate of Southampton University saw the interview with Rosamund where she described her daughter's symptoms. He then looked at the very likely impact of pollution on Ella.

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### Fracking

Although four protesters were arrested during a peaceful demonstration outside the High Court to stop fracking in Preston, Lancashire, and were eventually released after large protests, Cuadrilla began fracking on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Sadly the legal challenge had failed, and the process got under way for the first time in Britain in seven years. Two people cemented their arms into a set of tyres in protest to stop the shale gas company.

The energy company have confirmed that they will spend at least three months fracking two horizontal wells and will then test the shale gas flow.

There are plans to monitor the site by the protesters for 24 hours a day amid concerns for using fossil fuels and their detrimental effect on global warming. Since the fracking began, there have been reports of small earthquakes in the area.

### Climate Change

The world is already well on the way to global temperature rises of 1.5C, experts have warned. It comes as countries hope to finalise a major report on the action needed to limit global warming to that level. It means the world will need to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero and the report will emphasise that this needs to happen by 2050.

Representatives from 195 governments and scientists have met in South Korea, and the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was asked to draw up a policy based on the 2015 Paris Agreement, amid fears for the survival of some low-lying countries. There are still concerns that some governments will still try to water down the final research.

### Sacrifice by Environmentalist

The trial of eight men accused of the murder of the environmental activist Berta Caseres began on October 17<sup>th</sup> in Honduras amid accusations of political cover-up. She was shot dead on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 at her home after a long battle against a hydroelectric dam project on territory considered sacred to the indigenous Lenca people.

Her death has sparked international condemnation, and is a reminder that in certain countries, environmental activists do risk their lives for their ideals.

### Transport

Electric car prices are due to soar as thousands of pounds will be added to the price of some electric and hybrid vehicles, as one of the government's main green initiatives falls victim to the cuts. Under the current plan the current maximum grant would fall to £3,500, while the grant of up to £2,500 for hybrid plug-in vehicles would be axed completely.

This puts into question the government's real commitment to reducing emissions, and meeting their targets.

## Wildlife News – Judy Palmer

### Wildlife – walking and twit-twoo-ing



I hope you all noticed some of the media reports from 23<sup>rd</sup> September when a fabulous 10,000 of us got wet and walked and cheered and sang, all in aid of the launch of Chris Packham's People's Walk for Wildlife! It trended on Twitter with 32,000 tweets and Billy Bragg brought along his guitar and got us singing, ending with 'Where have all the flowers gone', most appropriately.

There were other musicians playing and lots of wildlife organisations, including Friends of the Earth, had stalls too.

Before the walk Chris Packham talked about the Manifesto he was presenting to No. 10 later and introduced his 'ministers' who are varying experts in their fields together with his 'youth' team, and they are brilliant! The manifesto has been created with 17 other scientists, wildlife experts and campaigners and has 200 suggestions on how we can all help. Sadly, they feel the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, therefore every little bit we can do to enhance and improve wildlife, helps.

Then when we ended the walk at Downing Street, George Monbiot, the author, gave a brief speech praising the aims of the manifesto. Chris thanked us all for turning out in the really wet conditions, supporting him in this venture.

Here are some of us with the lovely banner Annette made, so thank you to her and to everyone else who marched from Bromley FoE. Apparently, the Government has promised that 2019 will be the Year of Green Action, let's hold them to that.

### Tawny Owl survey news

The British Trust for Ornithology is hoping bird lovers will take 20 minutes each week to listen out for the 'twit-twoo' call of the tawny owl, from 30 September until 31 March next year. If you are interested in participating, please register for the Tawny Owl Calling survey. The BTO is really concerned that light pollution and urbanisation is having an impact on populations, and the owl's conservation status has just changed from green to amber.



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## Microfibre News – Judy Palmer

I hope you noticed the petition Friends of the Earth circulated recently which is aimed at retailers asking them to stop using plastic which is 'hidden' in the materials they use to make clothes. FoE would like manufacturers need to identify the worst-offending materials in their clothing and find alternatives that don't harm people and the environment.

How many of us even think about the type of material used in clothing now? A staggering 64% of new fabrics include plastics – i.e. polyester, nylon, acrylic and polyamide. So, what happens when we wash the clothes; yep, they shed millions of plastic microfibrils which are so small they go through our machine filters **and** the wastewater treatment plants into the sea. Then to compound the problem, these tiny particles absorb chemicals so become toxic.

There is more detailed information on the Friends of the Earth web site which makes interesting, if unpalatable, reading and I urge you to read it.

But for now, here are some tips to help reduce the impact of microfibrils in our eco systems –

1. Sign the petition! This action will be noticed and the retailers will act.
2. Use a low temperature wash, this is less likely to shake out plastic fibres.
3. Put some washing into a special bag, or use a Coraball. They help catch the microfibrils.

4. Fill the washing machine. This reduces the friction/rubbing between items.
5. Reduce the spin speed. Again, the items are less likely to shed the fibres.
6. Air dry, not tumble. Ditto the above.
7. Front loading machines fare better in testing than top-loaders for fibre release!
8. Consider not buying polyester fleeces – the biggest offender for fibres emission.
9. And lastly, try to keep your clothes longer! The first few washes of new items shed the most plastic.

### October report – continued

Finally, Rosamund is hoping to be granted a second inquest. Will the medical evidence be sufficient? Pollution has never been recorded on a death certificate.

There is a need to clean up the air and to get diesel engines off the road. The UK is currently behind most of Europe in its quest for clean air.

Ella was hospitalised 27 times in her short life.

### Final sentence of Tawny Owl news

The breed is typically found in mixed woodland, large urban parks and suburban gardens; what a majestic night bird.

## Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

The spring barley was cut at the beginning of September and as thought was down on yield but the quality was reasonable under the circumstances. It should make malting though. The straw was obviously short, similar to the wheat but will be very welcome by the cattle farmers down in the West Country where it is destined.

Interestingly, where the cover crop was planted last autumn, the spring barley that was grown there was 25% better than on the unsown cover crop part of the field. You may remember that the cover crop consisted of phacelia, oil radish and oats.

This year the mixture will be phacelia, oil radish and rye as we are bringing oats into our four-year rotation. As you probably have gathered, not our best harvest but the whole country and Europe have suffered the same. As you can see, the boys were pleased to have finished.

Delighted to report that the cover crop and winter wheat were planted in mid September and just waiting for the barley seed to be delivered but as we had 27mms of rain over that very wet and windy weekend at the end of September, will have to wait for the ground to dry a little before we sow the barley seed. The oats will be planted in the spring behind the cover crop.

Pete has solved the problem over the missing crops on the boundary of the field with the footpath next to Court Road. For the past two years, sections measuring 3 x 25 metres have been missing under the trees. A bit technical

but it seems that the drill thought that the tractor wasn't moving as it had lost its GPS signal.

After talking to our John Deere dealership, we now use the land wheel on the drill, which was solved by telling the computer to ignore the GPS! I will say no more but just pleased that the problem has been solved.

This is now our third year of not ploughing and using the direct drilling system and we have been staggered by the change in the soil structure, increased worm activity, less time spent on the fields and reduced costs i.e. plough points, fuel. Perhaps some gardeners could try a no dig policy and see how they get on.

I hadn't seen any swallows for some time and then two were weaving about the yard this morning, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, but I'm sure that by the time you read this, they will soon be off to sunny spots. A few chiff chaffs have been singing in the garden and I was lucky to spot them in the larch tree outside the house together with goldcrests.

The blue, great and coal tits visit the feeders together with goldfinches loving the niger seeds. Long tailed tits very occasionally come to the feeders but see and hear them in the trees. We don't see many spotted woodpeckers but the green ones and jays are regular visitors. Very surprised to see a tree creeper the other day too.

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## Bromley FoE visit to Bedgebury Pinetum

**Ann Garrett wrote this:** A big thank you to Sue and John Bocock who organised this visit on October 7th on a beautiful sunny day. Bedgebury is owned and looked after by the Forestry Commission, which is the government department for woods and forests.

It is a unique mixture of two different elements:-

1. A commercial timber forest which also has facilities for people getting active outside.
2. A globally important conifer collection, which has over 10,000 trees of which 70% are conifers.

Two of us were particularly struck by a tree stump which had been the Old Man of Kent, and was once the tallest tree in the county. We were also glad to have a rest on a lovely walk by lakes and being overwhelmed by so many different species of trees.

It was good to see masses of trees, however, as a reminder of their important contribution to helping combat global warming.

**Anne Clark wrote this:** Thank you, Sue and John, for another enjoyable outing when nine of us met up at the Forestry Commission's Bedgebury Pinetum and arboretum in Kent.

After refreshment at the log cabin-type cafe area, overlooking the lakes with moorhens and surrounded by the green, grassy banks dotted with an assortment of trees just turning colour, reflecting in the water, we set off on the long or short pathed walks.



Mountain bikes and scooters could be hired and in one southerly section was 'Go Ape', a commercial venture with zip wires etc. taking you through the tree tops.

However, we trudged along with crisp leaves, acorns and chestnuts crunching through beneath our feet, resting on a well placed log in a sunny clearing before branching off through rocky glades, with occasional explanatory notices about different trees, ferns, fungi with an American

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## Visit to the Butterfly House – Julie Etter

**Julie Etter writes:** Who doesn't love butterflies! I was lucky enough to be invited to visit the Butterfly House with the Lewisham Pensioners' Association last year.

It is situated outside the Horniman Museum in the grounds, a fairly new addition. As you enter, the beautiful unusual creatures are flying around you do not have to look for them.

The temperature is kept very hot in there to grow the tropical plants that the butterflies live on. There are many different varieties and all are beautifully coloured. The staff put out little dishes with orange segments and the butterflies sit and drink the juice from the dishes.

You are warned to look where you walk as sometimes the butterflies will rest on the ground.

It is a wonderful place to visit so when my family asked me where I would like to go for my birthday I told them about it and they all enjoyed it.

It costs £5 to go in. If you are stuck for somewhere to take the grandchildren, give this a go: they will love it.

The Horniman Museum is on the South Circular Road, Forest Hill (South London), a five to ten minute (uphill) walk from Forest Hill station; several buses go past the museum.

### Miller's Mutterings - *continued*

We are lucky to see so many birds living next to the busy Warren Road, even the house sparrows and dunnocks are happy flying in and out of the hedge alongside the road.

If you wish to enjoy the weather in October, plan an outing on the 18th, which is St Luke's Day as apparently it is often at the centre of a spell of particularly fine weather, known as St. Luke's little summer.

### Visit to Bedgebury – *continued*

gum tree (used for making 'Friar's Balsam') just turning colour.

The fir and pine cones, of which there are many varieties, weren't ready to fall yet, but after crossing another lake with ducks and water plants, we returned home in brilliant sunshine – in true FoE manner – having enjoyed the exercise, the beautiful layout with excellent tree labelling and occasional play areas, if needed, for children.

## Sylvia Priestley's funeral – Ann Garrett

This dedication and poem were read by Ann Garrett at Sylvia Priestley's funeral.

It is an honour to be here today to speak on behalf of Bromley FoE as joint co-ordinator with Sheila Brown, and to say how much we all valued Sylvia's dedication and support over the years.

Her campaigning energy and wise understanding of the importance of what we are trying to do as environmentalists, were invaluable.

I would like to read the following poem 'Earth' by Kay Ekevall which expresses how older pioneers pass on their ideals to future generations. It aptly describes Sylvia's love of nature and principles.

### **Earth**

*How do we love you ? Let us count the ways  
For the depths of your rivers and seas,  
Gleaming in the sunlight. For the breadth  
Of the land, golden in harvest.  
For the heights of your mountains, majestic, awesome.  
We love you freely, as generations loved freedom.  
We love you with a love we dare not lose,  
Born of the pledge of old pioneers  
For our inheritance, our children's earth.*

Thank you Sylvia

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## **Digital Nature Trail**

### **Annette Rose writes:**

Sue Boccock and I were able to attend the grand opening of the new digital nature trail in Jubilee Country Park. Some of us helped with the creation of this trail by working with the Year 5 pupils from Bromley High School.

The afternoon started with a song from the pupils and a short presentation from Sue Folkes from the Friends of Jubilee Park and from Judy John as nature expert on the project. The Mayor of Bromley and Colin Smith attended.

There was a slide show of pictures of the girls at work on the project. We then went over to the park where we were able to try the trail out.

If you would like to have a go, you need to download a QR reader app onto your phone. On each post you will find a QR code which your phone will now be able to read and will take you to an audio presentation of nature things you can find near the post you are standing at. There will eventually be a presentation for each season of the year. Give it a go!

## Green Christianity Event (Living Simply Project) – Paul Enock

### Laudato Sì, Living Simply and Green Christianity

The Green Christianity event held at Orpington Baptist Church on 12 October testifies to the growth of concern among religious communities about environmental justice, and the realisation that humans are deeply linked with one another through the fate of our common home, the Earth. (See the report from Sheila Brown on pages 12 and 13.)

Alongside Bromley Friends of the Earth, the “Living Simply Project” based in Holy Innocents Church, Orpington, was present, and I attended the group’s meeting on the following Thursday evening.

The session consisted of a film presentation, meditation and discussion about the encyclical, *Laudato Sì, On Care for our Common Home*, which was published by Pope Francis in 2015, and which begins with the acknowledgement that “**other Churches and Christian communities – and other religions as well – have also expressed deep concern and offered valuable reflection**”.

The encyclical takes its title from a line in “The Canticle of the Creatures” written by St Francis of Assisi in 1225, which runs:

*Laudato sì, mi Signore cumtucte le  
Tue creature,  
(Be praised, my Lord, through all  
your creatures.)*

The song is perhaps better known in England by its translation into the hymn

“All Creatures of Our God and King”, which contains the wonderful line:  
Dear mother Earth, who day by day  
Unfoldest blessings on our way,

St Francis was known as an uncomfortable and rebellious spirit in an increasingly materialistic Church, who emphasised the need for simplicity in life and veneration for God’s creation.

The encyclical, *Laudato Sì*, which is the first encyclical written ‘in his own voice’ by a pope who specifically chose the name of the 13<sup>th</sup> century saint, is true to the spirit of St Francis and can, indeed, be read only as a manifesto for an “ecological conversion” with radical spiritual and political commitments. It has ruffled more than a few feathers among the cardinals.

The message is, however, being welcomed at parish level with the formation of groups under the motto “Live Simply so that others may Simply Live”. The group at Holy Innocents is led by Bromley FoE member Russell Brockett. It is organising activities under the three main headings:

1. **Living more Simply as Individuals** e.g. eating a healthier, more environmentally friendly diet, preferring active transport to the car
2. **Living Sustainably with Creation** e.g. working on a school allotment project, recycling
3. **Living in Solidarity with the Poor** e.g. supporting fresh water projects in Africa, taking part in Bromley Foodbank, supporting a hostel for the homeless in London

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## Green Christianity for a Fragile Planet – Sheila Brown

This panel discussion event was staged in Orpington with MP Jo Johnson and speakers from three Christian agencies which have concern for environmental matters:

**TEARFUND** which works to help communities around the world lift themselves out of material and spiritual poverty;

**A ROCHA UK**, a Christian conservation charity mobilising Christians and churches to care for the natural world, working to inspire and equip Christians to care for the environment and for their communities;

**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**, a climate change charity which works with constituents by supporting them to meet their MP and discuss climate change by finding common ground. **HFTF** are working to find ways of communicating the climate crisis more effectively to politicians. They gave the Orpington team a great deal of help, support and guidance in meeting MP Jo Johnson.

Cllr William Huntington-Thresher, Bromley's executive member for Environment completed the panel.

Local environmental organisations, including Bromley Friends of the Earth, participated with information stalls and displays in the lobby.

**Jo Johnson** spoke first on what difference politicians can make. Sustainability is important to the government, wanting to leave the environment in a better state than they found it. To this end, have a 25 year

plan to enhance national environmental capital.

They have established Blue Belt conservation area in the oceans, not just around the British Isles but areas we still control, which is a high proportion of the world's seas. Introduced the plastic bag tax, which has brought consumption down by 80%; he gave credit to the Lib-Dems in the Coalition for introducing this.

He concluded that the influence of Christians is fundamental and far-reaching.

**Helen Stephens from A Rocha UK** – what practical steps can Christians take to ensure that they are caring for the planet? A Rocha means 'The Rock' and A Rocha's mission is to restore the earth, to have life in abundance and not perpetual economic growth, not having the few thrive at the expense of the many. We are living in a most precarious time; 100 million people could be plunged into poverty if climate change is not halted. People in the West need two to three planets to sustain their current lifestyle. People need to reduce meat consumption and look at 'flexitarianism'.

**Jo Musker-Sherwood of Hope for the Future.** The organisation started with a cluster of Sheffield churches and grew from there. Churches have a role in raising environmental awareness. Hope for the Future has lobbied various MPs. Why is it that campaigning does not resonate with people?

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## Green Christianity for a Fragile Planet – *continued*

It is important to build strong working relationships and trust. She talked about meeting Philip Davies MP, known as a maverick and a climate sceptic. He became interested in climate change, said he cared about it and wanted to work together and is now more open to climate issues.

**In response to questions, Jo Johnson** emphasised the need for recycling and advocated moving towards a circular economy.

Asked about the Environment post-Brexit: - The Government sees this as an opportunity for the environment. He said that his father had spent most of his working life in the EU and been involved in various environmental directives. He said it was vital that we don't slip back but keep at it. He referenced the Common Agricultural Policy which rewards production rather than good practice and said that Environment minister Michael Gove plans to change this.

Similarly with regard to Fisheries, Michael Gove believes there will be opportunities for Britain to develop more sustainable industry outside of the EU.

**Asked about the Feed In Tariff** being abolished and why the Government was repealing it, Jo replied that Solar had been a great success story and a way of engaging householders and involving them in doing something to decarbonise the supply chain. During the heatwave in May, the proportion of energy generated by solar hit 30%.

The Government needs to strike a balance. The cost of solar panels has plummeted making them much more affordable and battery storage now means that energy can now be captured and stored, or used to charge an electric car. Yes, it is the intention to phase out FIT with the emphasis now switching to subsidising car charge points.

**Billie Anderson from Tearfund** was asked why Christians should become environmentalists. Yes, in the context of restoring all relationships, between humans and with the environment. In trying to eliminate poverty, people in poor countries asked Tearfund to do something about climate change.

**Helen Stephens from A Rocha** recommended reducing what we consume. The chairman recalled the slogan, 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'.

On the subject of **how an individual church could make a difference**, Jo Musker-Sherwood from Hope for the Future said that churches are embedded in their communities and their members span the political spectrum; all small actions are positive; we should try and make a small difference and that our job is to participate.

There were questions on a wide range of topics including building on green belt land, biodiversity, lack of support for recycling in schools, illegal levels of air quality around schools, 'meat-free Mondays', increasing use of solar energy, increase in electric cars.  
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## Campaign Against Climate Change – Together for Global Justice

**CACC says:** The recent IPCC report is a landmark for our planet, setting out just what is at stake if we breach 1.5C warming.

For many years 2C was talked of as a 'safe' limit. It was only by the tireless work of those countries most at risk from climate change that 1.5C made it into the Paris agreement at all. But now it is clear that 2C is 'safe' for no one. It's also clear that we're on track to overshoot it. Nations' inadequate plans to tackle climate change would see us reaching 3C or 4C within the lifetime of today's children.

Heatwaves and hurricanes make it clear: it's time to act on climate change. The Paris agreement was a starting point but we have a long way to go, and it's not just Trump who won't quit fossil fuels. From fracking to a Heathrow third runway, the UK is stalling on climate action.

But we know we can't depend on governments to represent us at UN talks infiltrated by fossil fuel interests. We need to hear the voices of those in the front line of climate change, those whose land and water is threatened by fossil fuel industry pollution, and those fighting for climate jobs.

We need solidarity from all parts of society, as we saw in the unprecedented mobilisation against Trump's UK visit this summer. The government of Poland wants to

suppress the voice of civil society, but we will speak out and send a clear message to our own government to act on climate now.

Join us on Saturday 1st December in London for a climate demo, at the start of the UN climate talks in Poland. The default plan is to gather outside the Polish embassy and then go to Downing Street.

### **Green Christianity Event – cont'd**

These three divisions of 'the personal', 'nature' and 'the community' reflect the theoretical commitments of the encyclical's text that: "*nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live*", and further that "*every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment*".

### **Green Christianity for a Fragile Planet - concluded**

**Panel members left us with a final thought.**

**Jo (Hope for the Future)** encouraged positivity and wholeness of life rather than being judgmental, to excite people, to fight battles and not each other.

**William Huntington-Thresher** said to lead by example, not wait for somebody else.

**Billie (Tearfund)** advocated changing diet to reduce our carbon footprint.

**Helen (A Rocha)** said Caring for the Earth should be embedded in our life and not just an add-on.

Around 170 people attended the evening.

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#### Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

#### Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi *details as above*

#### Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689-820469

**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 annual subscription (£8 single / £15 couple/family). 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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