

## Reuse

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

## Non-members Section

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

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

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

I would like to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my annual subscription (£8 single/£15 couple/family.) I also enclose a donation (optional) of ..... to help towards the work of our local group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Email address: .....

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

.....  
Please return this form to: Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent BR6 7RN. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to bromleyfoe@gmail.com or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**

**November 2019**

No 382

## Our Next Meeting

Tuesday Nov 5th

## Insect Trends:

*Is it all bad news?*

**Rosie Earwalker**

**Project Officer - Buglife**

**7.30pm The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

Everyone welcome

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# NEWSLETTER

## Diary Dates

**November 5th (Tuesday) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting. Insect Trends: is it all bad news? Rosie Earwalker Project Officer – Buglife. Insect declines are an increasing topic of conversation in the media, but is it all doom and gloom? Find out about the work of Buglife and the diverse world of invertebrates. Also, there will be a Traidcraft stall with many cards and seasonal gift items and Fair Trade ingredients for Christmas baking**

November 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) RSPB Bromley event. Knepp Wildland, Penny Green. Location: United Reformed Church, Widmore Road, Bromley, BR1 1RY Described by Chris Packham as "conservation's salvation", this pioneering rewilding project has seen nature return to a Sussex farm: from turtle doves to nightingales, and Britain's first breeding white storks for hundreds of years. Penny Green is Knepp's ecologist. ([www.rspb.org.uk/groups/bromley](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/bromley)) Time: 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm Price: £3.50

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tuesday) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting which includes our Seasonal Social**

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

## Situations Vacant!

Are you interested in the issues around Climate Change? We are urgently looking for volunteers to join our Climate Campaign Team. You can read email updates from Friends of the Earth about the campaign and help to keep the Bromley FoE group up to date with the latest news at monthly meetings. You will receive plenty of support in your role and help to produce short articles for our newsletter as needed. Please email us at [bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://bromleyfoe.co.uk) or speak to us at the next meeting if you are interested and would like to discuss further or shadow, with no commitment, one of our active members.

## Next Newsletter Copy

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale will all be considered for publication. Please send them to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **Saturday 16th November**

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

**Email:** [Robert.clark9@btinternet.com](mailto:Robert.clark9@btinternet.com) (please write 'Newsletter' in the subject line)

## The Future of the Bromley Friends of the Earth Newsletter

We are all very fond of our newsletters and continue to see them as a very important part of our group. But we would like to consider other options for environmental reasons. We would like to ask our membership their views on the frequency of our newsletter.

At present, the newsletter is posted out to you 12 times a year, with an option for members to receive it by email only. A way forward could be to reduce the frequency of the posted newsletter to 4 times a year, but to provide an email newsletter sent out by our admin team on the other 8 months. (We could also ask more of our members to choose the email only version.) For members who do not have email, we could provide a few printed copies at monthly meetings.

Please could you let us know your views and if you have any other suggestions to reduce our environmental impact? Please send your comments to [www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk) or let us know at our monthly meetings.

## List Of Contacts

### Acting Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689 851605  
[sheilabrown336@msn.com](mailto:sheilabrown336@msn.com)  
Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295  
[anncgarratt@yahoo.com](mailto:anncgarratt@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Vacant

### Treasurer:

Sheila Brown Contact details as above

### Press Team:

Ann Garrett, Paul Enock, Annette Rose

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown Contact details as above

### Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Boccock 0208 290 0485  
[johnboccock@hotmail.com](mailto:johnboccock@hotmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor:

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503  
[robert.clark9@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.clark9@btinternet.com)

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689 838819

### Bromley FoE Website:

[www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)  
Peter Gandolfi  
[petergandolfi@hotmail.com](mailto:petergandolfi@hotmail.com)

### Admin Team:

Judy Palmer Group emails  
[bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)  
Rob Clark facebook Co-ordinator  
[bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)  
Annette Rose  
[Annette.rose1@ntlworld.com](mailto:Annette.rose1@ntlworld.com)

### Campaigns

#### Nature/Trees:

Judy Palmer, Annette Rose & Diana Hurd

#### Anti Fracking:

Ann Garrett & John Catlin

#### Plastics:

Annette Rose, Judy Palmer, Sheila Brown & Viv Gardner

#### Climate:

Ann Garrett (acting), Bill Priestley & Sam Gee

nature, Climate Change and on addressing the drivers of poverty. Craig Bennett, CEO, Friends of the Earth, has written an interesting blog on how big a year 2020 will be. Follow this link to read it: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/opinion/happy-2020-its-going-be-big-year>

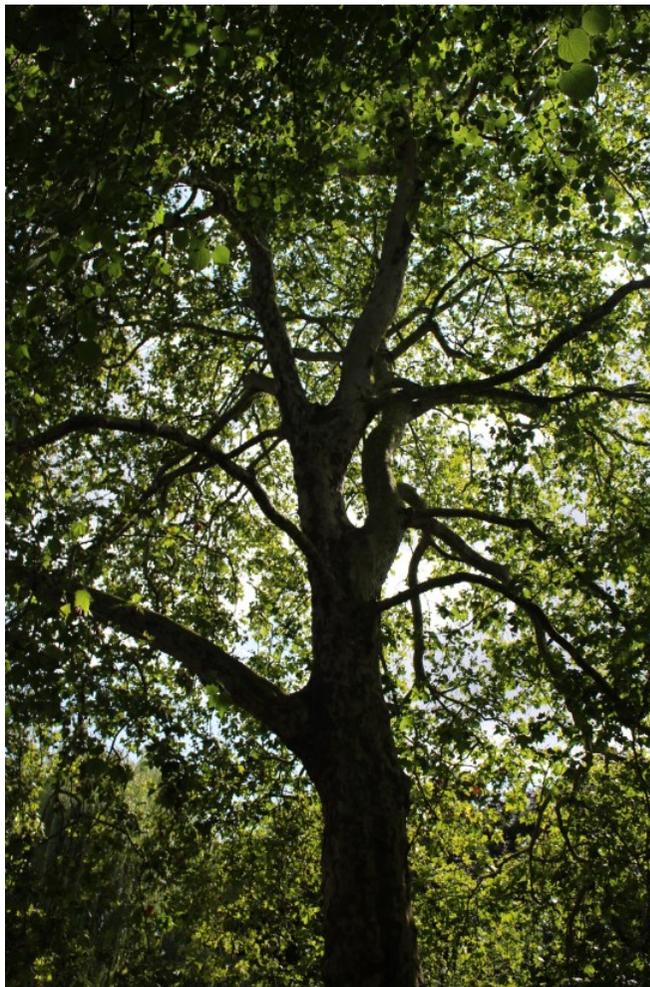
Also published this autumn was the recent report from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Red List of endangered species – and as many people have noted, the horse chestnut tree, our lovely ‘conker’ tree, has now been classified as vulnerable to extinction.

It is among more than 400 native European trees classed as being vulnerable. It found that 42% of these native trees are threatened with extinction and among the endemic trees which don’t exist anywhere else on Earth, 58% are threatened. The causes were identified as pests and diseases, but also competition from invasive plants, deforestation, unsustainable logging, changes in land use and forest fires.

A second report on shrub species made unhappy reading too – as almost half of them found in Europe are threatened with extinction.

These trees and shrubs are vitally important to ecosystems and help make a healthy planet.

Picture Bethan Clark



## October Meeting Report Peter Gandolfi

This was on The Dangers of Nuclear Power by Dr Ian Fairlie.

Consultant on radiation in the environment and Vice President of CND, Dr Fairlie started with a quote from Greta Thunberg: ‘I am against Nuclear power, but according to the IPCC it can be a small part of a very big carbon free solution even though it is extremely dangerous, expensive and time consuming.’ He then displayed a list of other well known people that also disagreed with Nuclear power these included: Caroline Lucas, Angela Merkel, Jonathan Porritt and Albert Einstein - who said that nuclear power was ‘...one hell of a way to boil water.’

The dangers include: nuclear accidents, routine emissions of radiation and nuclear weapons proliferation. Dr Fairlie listed some of the reactor accidents:

**Windscale Fire 1957** - This was not a power-producing reactor, but one designed to produce bomb grade fissile material. The graphite core caught fire. The radioactive plume was carried over the top part of England and across Europe.

**3 Mile Island 1979** - A partial core meltdown, caused by a coolant problem

**Chernobyl 1986** - This had recently

been on TV as a five part series; Dr Fairlie recommended this to those who hadn't seen it. Apparently very scary!

Conclusions of Chernobyl: 60,000 extra cancer deaths - He suggests this figure, which is 15 times the WHO estimate of 4000 and 18000 thyroid cancers.

The end result was that the USSR was heavily contaminated, although half the fallout was outside the USSR. The plume spread as far as the uplands in the North of the UK, which also happened to be contaminated by the plume from the Windscale fire.

**Fukushima Japan 2011** - Following a major earthquake, the four reactors exploded after the flooding of their emergency generators, needed for cooling the cores. This has led to contamination throughout Japan.

The problem is still ongoing, with the problem of how to reliably store huge volumes of tritium contaminated water, being used to keep the cores cool.

UK nuclear power stations emit large volumes of nuclear emissions as discharge. These emission discharges tend to spike during refuelling. These consist of:

Tritium	half-life 12 years
Krypton	10 years
Iodine isotope	16 million years
Carbon 14	5,730 years

There have been 60 studies on the increase in child leukaemia near nuclear power plants. A German government study found a 120% increase of childhood leukaemia and a 60% increase of solid cancers near German nuclear power plants.

He had brought a Geiger counter with him. These measure the level of ionising radiation. He turned it on, and it showed a low level, which we were told was mainly a background of cosmic radiation, coming from the sun, as well as outside our solar system.

Is nuclear power a solution to global warming?

A - Not really, the mining of uranium ore has a high carbon footprint

There was an interesting slide, comparing methods of producing electricity, with their carbon footprint in grams of CO2 per kWh. From what I remember:

Hydroelectric	10
Wind power	34
Geo thermal	38
Nuclear	66
Natural Gas	443
Diesel	778
Coal	980

At the end of allotted time, although there were many more slides to cover, Dr Fairlie brought the talk to a close by answering a few questions:

Q - Considering the high background radiation in the exclusion area around Chernobyl, there seem to be reports of lots of wildlife within the exclusion zone?

A – Dr Fairlie said that there were hotspots within the exclusion zone, with some areas having lower levels of radiation. Also there was the absence of their top predator- Man.

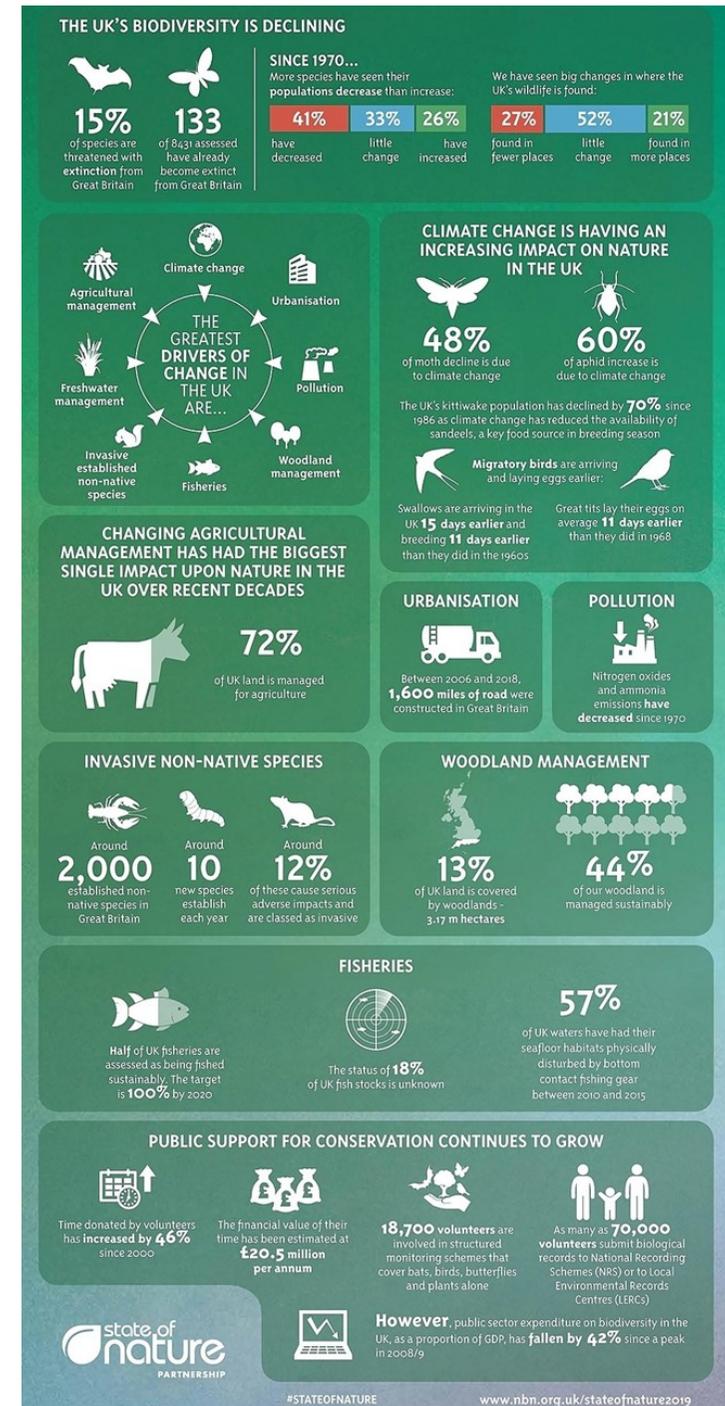
Q – How dangerous is microwave radiation, such as from mobile phones?

A - Dr Fairlie said not to worry about this. This radiation is non-ionising radiation, which does not have the energy of damaging DNA, unlike ionising radiation.

## Second Half

A mixed bag of news to share in October, as ever. We were missing some of our campaigners this month, so not every campaign could be updated. We did start with reports from attendees on the Climate March/Schools Strike, both in London and Bromley. Sam Gee gave a brilliant speech at the rally in Bromley in his capacity as Leader of the Bromley Youth Strike 4 Climate and many thanks to all our supporters who went along.

We had a quick update and thanks given to all the litter pickers at the event in Shortlands, then a sign-up sheet was passed round for the anti-fracking stall in the Mall precinct, Bromley and then we asked everybody what they thought



World, Climate Change is affecting whether they eat or have enough water on an annual basis. Meanwhile, in the Western World we, too, are seeing the effects of Global Warming with terrible storms and drought/flooding. Obviously one answer is to reduce emissions, but CO2 absorption is another, and trees, particularly mature ones, take up significant amounts of carbon. They also shade the Earth from the heat of the sun and their mere presence can attract much needed rainfall where it is needed. Conversely, their roots hold the soil and absorb excess water in flood zones.

When trees can do so much to combat Climate Change alone, why are there still fewer trees in the UK than in most of mainland Europe? Well, historically the Industrial Revolution and the increasing demand for land in our relatively small land mass compared to many countries in Europe are the reasons, but surely it is time to address this and start planting? Fortunately, despite the dense population and increasing demand to make land 'work', there are still plenty of places where trees would be beneficial, not only on a global but



on a local level as well. Trees bring many benefits to our local environment such as shade, fresh air, food (nuts and fruit), and (maybe I'm just biased here) aren't they just beautiful as well?

### **UK State of Nature Report 2019 & the Red List**

Judy Palmer

This report was published recently and is the third one – the first was in 2013, the second in 2016. The data comes from 60 conservation, scientific and other organisations and this year also includes some government bodies. The data in it tracks the condition, abundance and distribution of thousands of wild species, including plants, insects, birds, marine species and mammals. It also compares the present figures with past data and trends, as well as identifying causes and drivers of any decline.

There is a chart elsewhere in the newsletter which shows some of the statistics, and it was reported in the news quite widely, as the report demonstrates that UK nature is still in decline. Primarily, this is because the Government is not putting into practice international plans they helped negotiate ten years ago, which were supposed to help stop the decline of nature. 2020 will be a big year as the world's governments will reach new agreements on

of the idea of Bromley FoE joining TerraCycle.

There has been interest from businesses and individuals wishing to re-cycle the most difficult items that can't put in the general waste streams. And this is what TerraCycle does via companies and brands who participate in the scheme or via Zero Waste Boxes, which you have to purchase. We would need to research more thoroughly, and we would need a volunteer to oversee / organise it. It was decided to put it on hold for the moment, but for it to still be considered as an option. But if this is of interest to you, please do email us on [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)!

After this, an outing to Capel Manor at Crystal Palace was discussed, so watch this space for an update! The Greener & Cleaner fundraiser for Valley School was mentioned, and we congratulated Rob Clark for the money he raised running the Beckenham Half Marathon on behalf of this scheme.

We were running late unfortunately, so the last few items were raced through, with a reminder that at our next meeting, the speaker will be from Buglife.

### **Gross Domestic Product** Rob Clark

You may have noticed that the artist, Banksy, opened a pop-up shop called Gross Domestic Product in Croydon a

few weeks ago. Just like him, it was all a bit secretive. We managed to hear about it and get along there just a couple of days before it shut, unannounced, one night.



On display were a number of artworks addressing many topical challenges, particularly those social and environmental. It's a shame the display couldn't stay up longer otherwise I'd recommend you pay a visit. However, here is one of the pieces that caught my eye: a live tree through to a log. But Banksy noted it more optimistically, the other way around. This is, in his words a,

'handmade tool with a happy ending' taking it from log to living tree. Other exhibits included the stab vest that Stormzy wore for his Glastonbury set this year.

If you fancy your chance to own a bit of Banksy artwork then visit <https://shop.grossdomesticproduct.com> where all the pieces from the Croydon shop are up for grabs. And in a truly democratic way, you cannot just buy the items, you must apply for a chance to own them and justify why you want it during the application process. This is a way to spread art rather than make money out of it. Be warned, applications close on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **More Waste Free Shops Opening** Christina Clark

Here is a venture in Sidcup and Bromley.

Butcher Richard Douglas has been running Carnivore and Herbivore in Main Road, Sidcup for a few years. Carnivore sells free range and organic meat. Herbivore is a zero waste shop selling fresh, local and organic fruit and veg. Now both these shops are in Southborough Lane, Bromley. Herbivore opened in September. For a small shop there is an excellent choice of good quality fruit and veg, but Richard told me that not

much of it is organic at the moment. This shop also has an olive and cheese counter and plenty of dried goods to dispense into your own container. There is a good choice of rice, grains, lentils, beans, dried fruit, nuts, seeds, pasta and cereals. Many are organic. One cereal is gluten free. Well worth a visit.

### **Brexit Food Waste** Rob Clark

The trade magazine The Grocer has reported that UK farmers have shut operations down up to 6 weeks early this season due to a lack of migrant workers to harvest their crops. This is apparently caused by the uncertainty around Brexit.

Thousands of tonnes of fruit and vegetables are being left to rot in the fields because of the lack of manpower to pick and pack them, it is reported.

This situation has increased further the difficulties being felt by farmers following a restriction of seasonal working visas in 2013.

We can only hope that the future brings more stability and less waste.

### **Flexitarianism** Diana Hurd

Before having kids, we were largely vegetarian. I say largely because we still ate meat at social/family events, just not at home. However, having a baby who was

sions. There is a clear link between plastics and Climate Change.

If you have any ideas for BFOE's Plastics Campaign, such as suggestions on which local businesses in the entertainment and food industries we might approach to support in their reduction of plastics please let us know at our email address [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or let us know at the monthly meeting please.

### **Nature/Trees**

#### **National Tree Week**

Diana Hurd

The 30<sup>th</sup> November will see the start of National Tree Week and this year the Woodland Trust is heading a campaign for 1 million new trees to be planted. The Trust is not only trying to reverse the significant deforestation that has taken place in this country for hundreds of years but is also leading the way in attempting to combat Climate Change.

This is how you could be part of the initiative:

Plant a tree in your garden; Make a donation to the Woodland Trust so they can plant a tree for you;

I am hoping that there will be a local tree planting event in Bromley this winter that you could get involved in (more news on that to follow);

Share #EveryTreeCounts on social media and encourage your followers to

get involved.

I will definitely be doing what I can to join in with this campaign to plant new trees, but I am also a closet tree rescuer. I go around in the summer with watering cans to water (usually newly planted) trees in draught distress. I also rehouse trees found in the wrong place in my garden and I plant seeds from local trees myself. The Council have taken the last crop I had of these and put them in the wood next to Norman Park, but current candidates in my 'tree nursery' might find new homes in local schools, or even on the Green near me or the New Inn in Hayes, if permission is granted! (I am aware that permission must be granted if trees are to be planted on private land).

I have been a tree lover all my life. I am certain that my first memory was looking up at trees from my pram, but that idea may have been 'planted' by my mum who said she often put the pram outside in the garden for my nap. As a teenager, I would love going for soothing, therapeutic walks under the beech trees near my home in West Sussex. However, I have become increasingly aware of the value of trees since then, first joining Friends of the Earth when I heard about the deforestation of the Brazilian rainforest for mahogany (the Mahogany is Murder Campaign in the mid-1990s).

Tree Aid, another tree charity working in Africa, has fantastic resources for explaining the importance of trees. For more and more people in the Third

hydrocarbons.

Opposition to fracking appears to be growing in the region. Sedgemoor District Council voted unanimously on 9 October 2019 to be a Frack Free zone. This follows previous similar votes in Somerset West and Taunton councils.

Source [drillordrop.com](http://drillordrop.com)

## Plastics in the Environment

Annette Rose

### Friends of the Earth Webinar

On the evening of our last monthly meeting there was a webinar, a one hour online conversation with Julian Kirby and Ted Burke from the Plastics Campaign, which we were unable to take part in but which we received a recording of. It contained the latest updates on the Plastics Campaign which I will summarise here:

FoE's plastics campaign has three strands.

1. The political campaign focuses on the Plastic Pollution Action Plan and its inclusion in the new Environment Bill. The work will continue with MPs to get them onside. But it is also important that we get support from Local Authorities and a range of other institutions.

2. FoE wants to focus on organisations that have a high plastic use. For example, Premier League clubs can make a real difference. Manchester City was using 29,000 single use plastic cups per

game. It has now changed to reusable cups that can be used 100 times. Compostable or recyclable cups are not the answer because they just end up in the waste stream and are not composted or recycled. Deposit schemes have been shown to work well so if, say, cups have a £2 deposit on them many will be returned. If they have attractive logos on them however, people keep them as mementos!

3. The Takeaway food industry is a high plastics user. We are asked to contact some local food businesses and ask them to ditch non-essential plastics such as plastic sachets and stirrers. Ask them to find alternatives to single use tubs. Again, compostable alternatives are not the answer unless they are being collected and treated in the correct way. For example, Vegware collect and compost from some places. Unfortunately, the Vegware used in the Houses of Parliament is apparently being put in the general waste.

There are plans for FoE to produce a toolkit to help local groups with our campaigns with entertainment and food venues and they have asked for any ideas you would like included in the toolkit.

Other discussions on the Webinar were how schools can be supported in reducing their plastic use at school events and fairs. Reusable cups are an important change.

Plastics are made from fossil fuels and when they are burnt in incinerators or put in landfill, they add to carbon emis-

allergic to milk and eggs and was not supposed to eat nuts or seeds made us decide that it would be better if we did give him a little meat. We didn't want to treat our second child any differently and even when my son grew out of the allergies, meat dishes had become firm family favourites. But, for a year now we have been trying to eat less meat in order to reduce our carbon footprint. Not only that, but I have been attempting to cook more vegan food, with mixed success, and this article is about our gradual switch to Flexitarianism.

We have been a soya milk family for over 20 years now, but more recently have tried other alternative-to-cows' milks such as almond and oat. I adore cow's milk and am of the generation when children were given free milk at school. I gladly gobbled up this and anyone else's unwanted cream or lumpy custard at lunch too! I have therefore never been a good candidate for giving up cows' milk and still have it in coffee/tea, but I have found that in cereal: soya, almond or oat milk are perfectly acceptable and can even give a pleasant flavour, eg nutty muesli is excellent with almond/soya, and porridge is actually complimented by oat milk, which is pleasantly creamy. Rob and my daughter find all these alternatives easier to digest too, which is an extra bonus for them.

As to our vegan dinners, ah well, these are not always the height of culinary delight, but I am rusty and need to hone my skills! Actually, I used to make a delicious ratatouille with houmous years ago but stopped due to the allergen, sesame, which is in houmous. Allergy testing at King's proved my son was not allergic to nuts or seeds so the recipe has been reinstated. Unfortunately, it is my daughter's least favourite meal and so is reserved for evenings when she is not eating at home, but is still probably my best recipe. New recipes include my puy lentil and aubergine (summer) or chickpea and butternut squash (winter) stews. Also, universally accepted by everyone in the family, is my weekly 'treat' of marinated tofu stir-fry.

I suppose the only problem I have found with vegan cooking is that I do not care for meat substitutes and have only gelled with recipes that were intended to be meat-free. I have tried to like textured proteins and Quorn but, to date, the only product containing Quorn we eat on a regular basis is Quorn eggs. However, this is just personal taste and I know other vegans/vegetarians who swear by these products.

At the moment, we eat vegan evening meals twice a week, though I usually take vegan lunches to work as well. We also eat a main vegetarian meal (eg pesto pasta) once or twice a week and, wherev-

er possible, free range/organic meat or sustainably sourced fish the remaining days. This seems to be a good balance for us. I think I would miss meat if I were to leave it out altogether but am open to doing so, given enough good alternatives. I would say that, as a result of our new 'flexitarian' diet, we are eating more healthily (with the increase of pulses and vegetables) and are doing our bit for the planet too: a win-win situation.

If anyone has any vegetarian or vegan recipes that they would like to share, then please send them to the editor.

## Graph Rob Clark

The graph opposite gives an idea of the greenhouse gas emissions costs for some common food stuffs. Even if the figures are vague, the comparisons are interesting and quite shocking, perhaps.

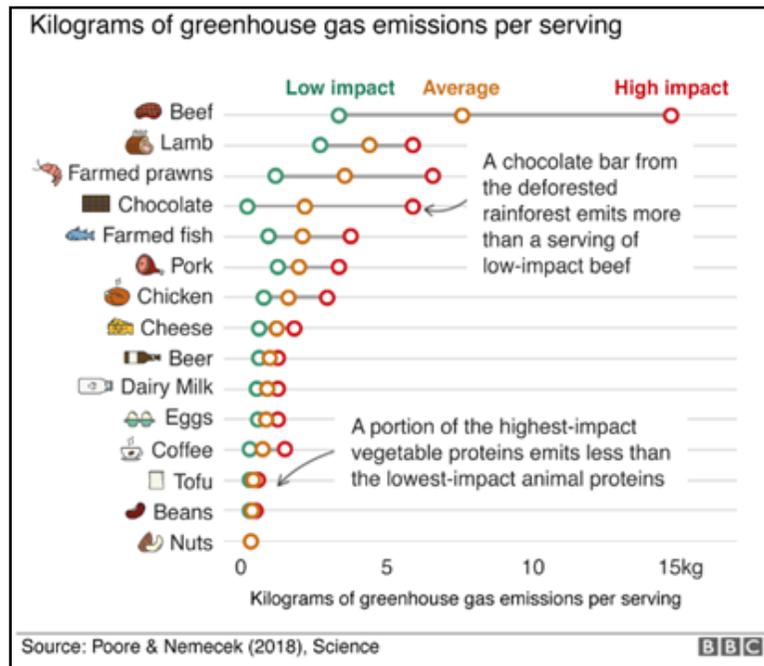
I have another graph which adds in the CO2 used when cooking those items which require it. There seems to be a lot of talk about how much CO2 is used to produce food, but if we just look at this alone we are misleading ourselves.

An egg, for example, costs so much to produce, but

we never eat eggs raw. We should, of course, add the cost of cooking it as well.

Simple raw foods are then obviously the cheapest CO2 cost. However, I do support the argument for reduction of 'expensive' foods rather

than a sudden purge, which I'm sure no one fancies.



Published on the BBC website Science & Environment section <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714>

There are deep concerns that this will increase the spread of contamination now that the bags, which have been splitting, are in fast rushing waters.

The decontamination effort involved removing debris, such as soil, leaves and plants, containing radioactive substances released after the triple meltdown at the Fukushima No 1 plant.

## Transport

### Launch of New-look Renault Electric Car

[Some of the following information was selected from the Bromley Borough news motoring section].

'The automobile industry is in the middle of a seismic shift towards electrified vehicles, and the launch of the new Zoe is an example of this. With a 245-mile range, Renault reckons it's no longer only looking at tech-savvy eco-conscious buyers and thinks that the Zoe will appeal to mainstream buyers'.

The price though is hefty at £21.2K.

Part of any government climate change action plan has to be about granting subsidies for purchasing electric vehicles.

## KLM

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is going to replace one of its daily flights between Brussels and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport with a Thalys high-speed train with effect from March 29 2020 when the summer season in aviation starts. This is a joint venture with Thalys and Neder-

landse Spoorwegen which will see other flights replaced with train services.

This was in the weekly email I receive from European Rail Timetable: [editorial@europeanrailtimetable.eu](mailto:editorial@europeanrailtimetable.eu)

## Anti Fracking

### Failure to Assess Fracking Risk

The safety regulator for the nuclear industry has no information about the risk of earth tremors from fracking near the Hinkley Point power station, the campaign group Frack Free Exmoor, Quantocks and Sedgemoor (FFEQS) has revealed.

They have also shown that the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has had no correspondence on the subject with either the oil and gas industry regulator, the power station operator, local exploration companies or Somerset County Council.

FFEQS has described the failure to assess the risk of fracking on the nuclear station, which includes the new Hinkley Point C facility, as 'a gaping hole' in the safety case.

In August 2019, fracking by Cuadrilla near Blackpool caused more than 130 earth tremors, including the UK's largest fracking-induced seismic event, measuring 2.9ML. It's understood that this tremor led to formal complaints of cracks to walls, windows and doors to about 100 properties.

Hinkley Point is a few miles from an area where the exploration company, South Western Energy, has indicated it is, apparently, interested in drilling for

This has seriously undermined efforts to persuade other countries to invest in resilience.

The UK is bidding to host another international climate summit in December 2020, the fifth anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement, and in order to achieve this, will have to come up with far more rigorous climate change policies.

### **Extinction Rebellion**

Two weeks of intensive climate action by Extinction Rebellion (some of it controversial) in October has done much to promote the urgency of the situation the planet is facing. Many eco activists have been arrested for their brave actions. The UK XR movement is an important part of global XR protests throughout the world.

### **Extreme Snow in the Arctic**

A Danish study has found that extreme snowfall meant that only a handful of plants and animals were able to reproduce in part of North-West Greenland last year.

The snow in Zackenberg covered the ground well into the summer in what could be a 'peep into the future', as the Arctic experiences an increase in extreme weather events alongside long-term warming. Such poor reproduction across all levels of the ecosystem has never been observed before.

## **Energy**

### **Energy Initiatives by the National Trust**

The National Trust have stated that they have seen landslides and flooding at many of their sites and feel the urgency of doing something about climate change. As a result, they are working with Smart Energy GB to install hundreds of new smart meters in a bid to be far more efficient in monitoring their energy consumption.

As electricity starts to power more things including cars, smart meter companies are promoting the importance of avoiding putting too much strain on the national grid.

Since there are some concerns about smart meters, it is a matter of weighing up the options and making compromised decisions.

A national roll-out of 53m smart meters in 30m UK homes and businesses, it is estimated, will help cut CO2 emissions in 2035 by 25% from 2015 levels.

### **Japan Typhoon Impact on Fukushima**

An unknown number of flexible bulk bags containing waste from the decontamination work around the Dai-ichi nuclear power station, were swept away by flooding into a river during the recent typhoon.

According to the Tamura city government, the bags were among 2,667 that have been stored temporarily at a site in the Miyakoji-Machi district.



### **Peace One Day Sept 21<sup>st</sup>**

Above, the Woodcraft Folk peace posters in the Friends Meeting House, Bromley.

### **Miller's Mutterings** Chris Miller

The oats were combined at the very end of August and, as we thought, the wind had done quite a lot of damage by knocking them down to the ground and tearing the actual oats from the stem, the joys of farming! All in all, not a disaster, at least we covered the cost of growing them and they are a break crop and so of some benefit. We combined 50 tonnes of spring oats, which was quite low, an average year should have been nearer to 100 tonnes. The quality was reasonable though. The wheat and barley crops were ok considering all the dry weather we had earlier on in the year; overall, we have met our targets for what we needed to produce. (Peter

did manage to repair our combine with the new part, clever boy).

Although it seems as if we have a lot of rain, we are about 5" down this year and 4" last year locally. We have planted the grass seed for hay making along the borders of some of the fields, this makes life easier during harvest. The hay is made around June/July so cleared before combining, making it easier for the harvester, tractor and trailers to turn and not run over the cereal crops that are not ready. The cover crop of phacelia, oil radish and rye has been planted on the winter barley ground. This is our third year of cover crop and we are certainly noticing a benefit to the soil, and the worms love it too. The wheat seed will be planted at the end of September or beginning of October depending on the weather conditions, along with the winter barley. We are growing a new variety of winter barley this year called bazooka, the reason being that this particular variety is very dominant against

grass weeds. It grows quite tall, so smooths out the dreaded black and rye grass by not allowing light to get to it. These two grasses are becoming resistant to sprays hence the different approaches we are making to eliminate them.

We have been asked to do a trial of some by-product from the coal industry in Spain that apparently helps to raise the level of organic matter in the soil! We will take soil samples, in the test area and adjoining area before and after application, to see if there is any difference.

The third week in September saw us still watching young swallows being fed by their parents. Seems very late but they must be leaving us again very soon.



Plenty of blue, great, coal and long tails tits in the garden and I have just managed to see a chiff chaff in the larch tree after hearing them for months but not spying them. I checked out the bird book and some stay here during the winter, so I will keep looking. We seem to have very large flocks of crows/jackdaws around the farm, most unusual.

*St Luke's Day is on the 8th October and is known as St Luke's Little Summer as it is usually fine and mild in England.*

### The Future of the Newsletter

John Street

Posting the newsletter to members helps keep postmen in jobs. The less stuff postmen have to deliver, the more likely they are to lose their jobs. How does contributing to job losses measure against the direct environmental impact of the newsletter ??

What's the environmental cost of printing and posting the newsletter, however you like to measure it ??

How does this compare with the environmental cost of holding meetings every month, including the cost of people getting to the meetings ?? Would reducing to, say, ten meetings a year outweigh the environmental cost of producing the newsletter ??

Personally, I would like to continue to receive the newsletter by post; if I receive it by email, it'll probably get a

couple of quick glances and then be filed somewhere or other whereas the paper version will probably get several read-throughs before being filed.

### World Clean Up Day 2019

Annette Rose

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September, our group met up for a litter pick in Shortlands. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to help us collect about 10 bags of rubbish. Bill brought along his litter pickers and the council provided some



bags for us. Some members of Greener and Cleaner came along to help too. We were able to put some rubbish in the recycling bins and the rest was collected by the Council. Some of us chatted to shop keepers in the village and gave out an information leaflets and materials on reducing plastics. The litter we found was varied but take

away cartons were prominent and there were hundreds of cigarette butts. Some members of the public chatted to us and we were made to feel very welcome!

### Campaign Updates

#### Climate, Energy and Transport

Ann Garrett

#### Climate Crisis Action

The UK Committee on Climate Change has said that Britain has one of the world's best capabilities for dealing with the climate crisis but is failing to make use of it. Little progress has been made in planning to protect farmland and wildlife

from intense storms and changing weather systems, or tackle health threats from rising heat - with grim short-term political consequences.

The UK had pledged to persuade other governments at the UN Climate Change Summit in New York in October, to commit more to adaptation.