

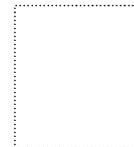


**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# October 2009 No. 262 Newsletter

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



## October Meeting

Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

**Campaigning locally – Local Groups' success stories**

**Howard Whitehead**  
FoE London Network Developer

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**  
7.30pm.

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by  
**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**. Contact details inside front cover.

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***Don't forget – Sheila's Fairtrade stall will be at our October meeting***

**Diary dates:****October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat)****October 6<sup>th</sup> (Tues)****November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tues)****December 1<sup>st</sup> (Tues)****January 5<sup>th</sup> (Tues)****Visit to Morden Hall Park** (see below)**Bromley FoE's October meeting** – Howard Whitehead, London Network Developer from FoE Underwood Street. Also, an early chance to buy some gift bargains and other goods at Sheila's Fairtrade stall.**Bromley FoE's November meeting** – Tony Pearson on National Parks**Bromley FoE's December meeting** – Andy Atkins on the Copenhagen Climate Change talks, followed by our seasonal social**Bromley FoE's January meeting and AGM****Friends of the Earth Outing on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

Morden Hall Park is a green oasis in the heart of suburbia beside the meandering River Wandle, with parkland, meadows, wetlands and waterways, woodland and a rose garden, a Riverside Café and a second-hand bookshop. Deen City Farm is located nearby.

The meadows were last farmed in medieval times so have not been subject to artificial fertilisers or pesticides, and are rich in grasses and wild flowers. Morden Hall Park is a National Trust property.

Meet at 12 noon at Beckenham Junction tram stop.

**In the money...**

The group's Summer Fun Day produced £80.48p for Bromley FoE funds -- a valuable contribution to the hire of the hall used for our monthly meetings.

**Disclaimer**

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

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

**by post** to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS

**by phone** to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: [johnstreet@gn.apc.org](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

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

## September meeting report, by Anne Clark

The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition was launched in September 2005 and backed by Oxfam, Tearfund, Women's Institute, Greenpeace, WWF, FoE and others and made a coalition pledge in 2006 to reduce in some way, our carbon footprint.

Some members of the public were determined but others were disinterested, so they changed the approach to concentrate on Electricity. Our speaker, Ronel Klopfner, had only been here for 8 months, but was pleasantly surprised at the 'power of the people'. She was employed as a mobiliser for local groups and wanted us to back better techniques for power and green electricity.

As most power stations were at the end of their lives, it was time to re-invest, sensibly. Before the international Climate convention in Copenhagen, we must campaign for a new power "wave". She suggested everyone dress in blue, face paint included, & encircle (albeit at a distance) the Houses of Parliament imitating a huge WAVE.

In 2006, approximately 30,000 were in Trafalgar Square to spread the 'save the climate' word, so please encourage support for the December 5th march and aim for 100,000.

Having pledged 15% minimal renewable power by 2020, we do not want coal so must find alternatives, while protecting the poor and developing countries. Emission cuts must be made so that the government can go to Copenhagen with a clear conscience.

The Climate Camp group were not as yet involved with the Coalition but were urged to be so. As our representatives at the camp said it was so well organised and planned with good relevant discussions, attendance from far and wide, over 100 campaigners' tents - and no police.

Targets were all very well, but it was important to get local Councils involved and we must all write individually to focus on this point (to our local councillor, MP, or John Denham at the Department of Communities and Local Government.)

Graham read out his correspondence on our behalf regarding the new Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change as it concerns councils and communities. One letter to John Denham pointed out that a large proportion of local Councils have no climate change policy, so should be urged to have green energy targets in their planning policies, encouraged maybe by grants etc. to ensure their part in climate consideration.

The other letter was to John Horam MP urging him also to write to Mr. Denham setting out these points for local planning systems, be it solar, wind turbines, or other, not forgetting enough green breathing spaces.

We are grateful to Peter Gandolfi for taking on the massive task of summarising 10 resolutions up for debate at FoE's local groups conference. He also succinctly gave the arguments for and against the proposals, enabling the group to vote on each issue. Thank you!

## **Councils must change ! – letter written to the Borough's MPs**

Bromley FoE is supporting a drive by National FoE to get the government to strengthen the planning guidance for councils to ensure that climate change is given greater priority. Current rules make recommendations but are not obligatory, and thus many councils are ignoring them.

This letter was sent to all three of the borough's MPs and Graham Hemington has also written in similar terms to the Communities and Local Government Secretary, John Denham:

### **Re: new planning policy statement on climate change and councils**

You will know that the Government has announced that it will issue a revised planning policy on climate change this autumn. This is because current planning policy, while stating that climate change should be a priority for councils, does not oblige them to act, with the result that many are ignoring it.

This group (which has members in your constituency) has asked me to write to you requesting that you approach John Denham, Secretary, Dept of Communities and Local Government, to urge him to ensure that the new policy statement puts climate change at the heart of the planning process.

### **The need is to:**

1. Ensure that climate change is a top priority when councils consider new developments.
2. Ensure that councils are responsible for delivering green energy targets for their area.

3. Ensuring that the planning system contributes to the needs of the community, such as providing green spaces, affordable heating schemes etc.

We are all aware that deadlines for meeting carbon reduction targets are appearing more and more difficult to reach. The above strategy will assist in attaining those targets – but only if the Government strengthens its planning recommendations to Councils.

### **Friends of the Earth Local Groups Conference – Sheila Brown**

The Conference took place in Nottingham over two days – a shorter programme than usual as part of FoE's cost-cutting exercise. The University campus is a wonderful venue, with the feel of a botanic garden. We coincided with a university open day, so hitched a lift from the station on one of the special buses they had laid on!

The programme comprised an introductory talk by Andy Atkins (reported by Peter), plenary sessions, a new initiative called Open Space where local group members set the agenda of topics for discussion, workshops and seminars, and the Earthmover Awards (reported elsewhere in this issue), plus wonderful vegetarian food, stalls and time to network.

There was a debate on Motions before conference, proposed by different local groups. The theme of the conference was "Now is Our Time" and we came away charged up with enthusiasm and new ideas.

## Transport info – Ray Watson, transport campaigner

### **Another air crash**

Another air accident went into the record books when a light plane from Biggin Hill Airport crashed-landed in the Bromley suburb of Southborough. It was the second such incident this year, the first killing five people in Farnborough. Both happened soon after take-off from Biggin Hill.

Once again it demonstrated the folly of having an airport in the suburbs of Bromley, especially where the flight paths in and out cross thickly populated areas.

Sadly, that risk will always be there and it may get worse if flights from Biggin Hill increase.

Perhaps we will one day get to the stage where a campaign will have to be mounted to increase the size of the Public Safety Zone – the area around an airport considered to be most in danger. That, of course, would be vehemently opposed by the airport operating company because, if successful, it would mean their having to buy up homes in the designated area.

Perhaps Bromley Council as owners of the airport should begin looking in that direction. After all, it's the council's residents who are at risk.

### **Bike to the future**

Cycling continues to make headway in Bromley, with the news that two cycling groups in the borough have obtained £3500 in grants to help them encourage more use of bikes.

The groups, Penge Go-Ride Club and Hayes Bigfoot, aim to increase the number of regular riders in the borough, particularly among children and families. The funding came from the £200,000 London Community Cycling Fund, a grant scheme funded by Transport for London.

But promoting cycling in Bromley has a long road ahead, despite the obvious benefits of health improvement and reduced carbon emissions if the car is left at home. This latter was touched on in a recent speech by Energy and Climate Change Secretary David Miliband who pointed out that we have a long way to go to get commuters to replace the car with the bike for their journey to the station.

He said that the small Dutch town of Leiden has three times as much cycle storage at its station than all the London terminals put together. In Holland a third of all journeys to the station are by bike whereas in the UK it is two per cent.

An interesting comparison is the seven-year-old Call-a-Bike scheme in Berlin run by DB, the national rail service. Riders register using a credit card and pay five Euros to obtain a code that unlocks the bike. They can then use it anywhere in the city for an hour or 24 hours (nine Euros) or 36 Euros for a week, dropping it off at any depot.

The scheme has seen steady growth and now has more than 20,000 users

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**Campaigns info, from Ann Garrett, campaigns co-ordinator**

**Climate Camp**

Managed to visit the camp on Sunday August 30th on Blackheath and was shown around by Roisin Robertson of Bromley Greenpeace. It was very impressive to see so many mainly young, committed people dedicated to campaigning and making a stand to confront climate change and our society.

At the entrance to the camp there were some challenging statements:- 'The camp offers an alternative to consumerism', 'An active movement for social change', and 'The state profits capitalism - capitalism = profit'.

There were plenty of workshops and meetings taking place on various issues such as global movements /

Copenhagen, legal aid, advice when being kettled, media communications, sustainable living, biofuels, climate science for beginners, the fight against Heathrow and the Third Runway, and stepping in to direct action.

The camp was well organised, and divided into different parts of the country so that people were able to network easily. Creative activities include music, painting and making, and an excellent children's area. It all lasted for over a week, and people were clearly enjoying themselves as well as planning further actions like the Great Climate Swoop on Oct 17th and 18th and The Wave on Dec 5th.

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## Campaigns info, *continued*

Organisers of the camp said that this year's venue symbolised the financial and corporate centres of power within the flood plains of the River Thames, and that their actions had targeted key sites. For instance they staged a "clean-up" protest outside the Treasury, held a flash mob demonstration at London City Airport, and finally occupied the offices of the Department of Energy and Climate Change saying that they wanted to confront the "false solutions", such as carbon trading which they accused the department of implementing.

There is an overall hope that the UN climate negotiations in Copenhagen will produce some meaningful targets. As the Climate Camp stated:- 'It is essential that politicians wake up to the need for urgent action and come up with a strong and fair agreement.'

### **Emissions Targets in Japan**

Environmentalists have praised the new Japanese prime minister's promise to cut CO2 emissions by 25% by 2020. The target is among the most ambitious cuts proposed by an economic power and significantly more than Japan's current plan of 8% cuts. Greenpeace International have called the Japanese pledge as a major step forward. The country which hosted the Kyoto conference in 1997 is home to some of the world's leading environmental technologies, including advanced solar panels and top-selling hybrid cars like the Toyota Prius.

### **Linking with Local Groups**

It was valuable to support the Viva (Vegetarians International Voice for

Animals) stall on Sept 5th, especially as they promoted our Food Chain campaign. They were very helpful in getting our cards signed, particularly as it relates so clearly to ensuring that the Government should stop spending taxpayers' money on factory-farmed meat and improve the quality of both human and animal feed, and is also encouraging people to eat less meat.

Viva have expressed their thanks for linking with them. Their next stall is on Oct 3rd - opposite Caffe Nero in Bromley High Street precinct, 11.00am to 3.00pm and they will continue with the Food Chain campaign.

### **Transport info - *continued***

who make over 100,000 journeys a year. Think of that in terms of CO2 emissions saved! So Britain and Bromley alike have much to do to change attitudes to cycling. But at least the Penge and Hayes groups have made a start.

### **It's our money...**

Quote from the Office of Fair Trading: 'Our investigation has unearthed a range of evidence that suggests the market for local bus services is often not working as well as it should and may be resulting in high prices for bus users. The OFT goes on to quote examples of bus companies carving up the market between them.

As the bus industry receives a whopping £1.2bn of public subsidy annually, the sooner the OFT tells the Competition Commission to find out who is cheating us taxpayers the better.

## Friends of the Earth conference – Andy Atkins’ opening remarks

This was given by the Executive Director, Andy Atkins, who was suffering from a cold and in danger of losing his voice.

He said that FoE was all about winning campaigns and building a strong long term movement for change, having an increasing impact in this uncertain climate. The local groups network was fundamental to FoE.

This was not the year that he expected, and a difficult year for FoE. It has had to react sharply to avoid problems, resulting in less growth where more had been planned. The change process had been initiated, a painful period for the organisation.

He said he hadn't seen a year like this since the end of the Berlin wall and the cold war. It has shown that unfettered capitalism cannot save the planet. Whatever the outcome of the Copenhagen summit, it is a wonderful opportunity to discuss issues.

He paid a tribute to staff for support through this period, with some staff taking voluntary redundancy.

Examples of the success of various local branches were given, Andy said that he gets regular evidence of the power of local groups. An example of this was a meeting that he was invited to by Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment. This appeared to have been initiated by the success around the country of various local groups opposing Incineration. There was also evidence of national campaigns having effect elsewhere in the world.

He said that FoE were bringing out new ways of sharing information and communicating with local groups. We needed to keep mind on the vision of a healthy planet and a good life for all. The threats were climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Four areas that need discussion are:

- How local issue campaigns can be supported better.
- How we can keep members/helpers, what can FoE offer at these times when people are feeling stretched.
- How can we keep campaigns on track when their context keeps changing.
- How do we make the best use of our resources.

FoE has an excellent track record of winning campaigns. Our strengths are:

- An excellence at analysis, and formulating probable and potential solutions.
- A grasp of systems and political reality and how to win.
- An ability to communicate this to a wide audience.
- An ability to form broad coalitions.

There is important stuff coming up - Copenhagen in December, Elections, UN year of Biodiversity - food chain fortnight, Get Serious, demand climate change.

## Friends of the Earth Conference – Earthmover Awards

Each year at Conference awards are made to celebrate the achievements of the local groups network, and the build-up forms an exciting and inspiring part of the weekend. This year the final awards were made at an evening “Oscar-style” ceremony.

**The Campaign or Project of the year** recognises a group for an outstanding campaign or project, making life better for people by inspiring solutions to environmental problems. There were five very strong contenders.

Caerphilly ran a successful ‘no plastic bags campaign’, taking the message of refuse, reuse, recycle into local schools where they gave a series of workshops. They successfully applied for a grant to purchase 10,000 Fairtrade cloth bags to give out in schools and organised a logo competition and are currently planning a bag-free day.

Barnet and Enfield ran a mass cycle ride of 159 cyclists to raise awareness of sustainable transport and highlight the health and social rewards of cycling as well as environmental benefit.

Despite only forming in 2005, High Peak Friends of the Earth was instrumental in setting up the first community owned hydro electric scheme in the UK. This was the result of a sustained, concerted effort, showed tenacity and commitment and will benefit the whole community. [Full report on this project next month.]

MARINET was a finalist with its Marine Reserves Campaign and success in

raising MPs’ awareness of the issue of marine conservation and their Early Day Motion, EDM337, was signed by a total of 225 MPs, making it the 11<sup>th</sup> most signed EDM of the last parliamentary session.

The winner of the group was Manchester for its “Clean Air Now” campaign and a bid for £3 billion towards improving public transport from the Government’s Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) which required the introduction of a congestion charge for Manchester. This would have gone towards an integrated transport system of trams and buses across Greater Manchester.

They built alliances with other groups, used the media to bring the message to a wide audience and used humour to capture the media and public imagination, always delivering a positive message rather than negative campaigning. Stunts included a popular World Toilet Day action (“Don’t throw £3bn down the toilet!”) and their 8 ft squirrel mascot (“Turn down £3bn – you must be nuts”) grabbed media coverage.

The congestion charge campaign became highly political with vested business interest, and when this went to a local referendum, it received a resounding NO vote. Despite losing the referendum, the campaign was still judged to be a great success, having established the Clean Air Now coalition and links with other organisations, stimulating ongoing discussion about sustainable transport

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## FoE conference – Earthmover Awards, *continued*

and bringing the environmental argument to centre stage. The group is now working with Greater Manchester Council at the highest level and helping prepare Manchester's Climate Change Action Plan.

**Spreading the Word** recognises a group which has communicated powerfully and creatively to widen awareness of environmental issues and solutions.

Birmingham's creative approach to campaigning included a Buy Nothing day with a Santa parade, bringing the message that Christmas does not need to be about over-consumption, their Flyagra campaign and spoof website opposing an additional airport runway in a humorous way and getting 1000 signed postcards, 20's plenty campaign promoting a 20 mph speed limit throughout the city, and a stall at Glastonbury publicising the Food Chain campaign and getting cards signed.

Leicester were nominated for their communications strategy and regular media presence. The winner was Penistone with their energy project encouraging the local community to think positively about saving energy.

They had a low energy light-bulb display at local events, went into schools giving assemblies, craft fairs with a draught excluder snake, a local Christmas Tree decoration festival with a low energy bulb decoration, made kits available for measuring energy consumption, supported a local wind farm, and held a public meeting about renewable energy. Their message is

“get out there – be seen and involve the whole community.”

**Friend of the Earth** recognises an individual who has demonstrated a deep commitment to Friends of the Earth. There were eight finalists, but the award went to David Longthorn from Hull for his work improving biodiversity and wildlife areas of the city and his tree planting along a local watercourse, involving local schools in tree-planting campaigns, and his involvement in Hull FoE's scheme collecting organic garden waste for composting and his daily involvement in such projects, which have generated much publicity.

Leeds won the **Group of the Year** award for successfully developing into a strong and sustainable group focused on furthering Friends of the Earth's vision and aims. They were down to only two members and pulled back from the brink with currently 15 active members and an average attendance of 10 at their fortnightly meetings. Initiatives included reactivating former members, a new website, Google discussion group and a quarterly newsletter. They have built coalitions with other local campaign groups, shown *The Age of Stupid* film and played a key role in a range of community campaigns.

Watching the presentations of all the finalists is truly inspirational, with groups working at the local level on a huge variety and range of initiatives. There is so much enthusiasm and motivation out there. This is definitely one of the highlights of Conference.

## Highly Protected Marine Reserves – Last Call

Marine scientists and experts in marine conservation urge us to create Highly Protected Marine Reserves (HPMRs) as the only way to halt the severe collapse in fish stocks and marine biodiversity. They are tested and proven, and exist in all major maritime countries except the UK.

HPMRs can be thought of as National Parks in the sea. They prevent **all** extractive and exploitative activity, such as fishing, dredging for marine aggregates and drilling for oil. They are agreed globally to be the best way to get our seas back into shape.

MARINET has been trying throughout the passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill currently before Parliament to get HPMRs included on the face of the bill. We want it to include

- highly protected marine reserves
- scientific criteria as the primary means for identifying and designating marine conservation zones

- establishing reserves covering a sufficient area of the sea to enable economic and social uses of the seas to be environmentally sustainable.

Government shows a failure to appreciate the seriousness of the problem and a reluctance to prejudice short term financial and other vested interests as well as a general lack of vision regarding ecosystem restoration.

Please **write to your MP** telling them you want Highly Protected Marine Reserves included in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

Visit the MARINET website [www.marinereserves.org.uk](http://www.marinereserves.org.uk) . They have a draft letter available.

### St Mary Cray Country Market

We now have our own country market – the first one in the Borough of Bromley.

The inaugural market was opened by the Mayor of Bromley on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and was very well attended. Even though in its first week, it boasted a fine variety of stalls selling a wide range of goods including fresh fruit and vegetables, plants, eggs and honey, homemade chutneys and sauces (with free tasters), cakes, refreshments.

As well as food, there were handmade greeting cards and jewellery. The market runs weekly on Wednesdays from 9.30-11am at the Vernon Hall, High Street, St Mary Cray, BR5 4AX.

## From FoE's London Co-ordinator's Update

### **Food Chain update**

The next stage in activism on the Food Chain campaign is looming. Food Chain Fortnight is 5-18 October and will be a culmination of all the great activism that has taken place over the summer. If you're signed up to the campaign you'll be receiving an action guide in the first week in September.

We're also working with local groups and Friends of the Earth Europe to present four public events featuring an amazing speaker from one of the areas in South America directly affected by soy plantations. We'll be in Leeds on 3 October, Llandrindod Wells on 5 October, Kendal on 6 October and Brighton on 10 October.

This will be an amazing opportunity to hear just how much of an impact our use of soy to feed intensively farmed animals is having on the rainforests and local communities - and put local MPs on the spot, so get these dates in your diary now!

### **Get Serious About CO2 update - Another great month for the campaign!**

The Government has agreed that councils will have new planning rules to tackle climate change, thanks to campaigning by Friends of the Earth. This means that councils must approve more green energy projects, like windfarms. Now we need to make sure these rules are strong enough to ensure climate change and community benefit at the heart of council's plans. Our new-look website launched on the 13 August, and in the following 24 hours more than 100 people signed up.

### **December 5<sup>th</sup> - The Wave**

On 5 December, Friends of the Earth activists will join others from all over the country to march and urge a fair and sufficient deal at the climate talks happening in Copenhagen at that time. We're expecting it to be the largest climate march ever in the UK: make sure you're there to join us in London, and put the date in your diary now!

### **London Forum Meeting**

The next London Forum meeting will take place on the Thursday 22 October at 6.30pm at the Blue Posts, 28 Rupert Street, W1V 7FR. This is an opportunity to network with your fellow groups in the capital, and prepare for Copenhagen activism with a skill share on creative lobbying. This is open to all London Group members and activists.

The London Action area of the community discussion forum is also now open and ready for you take part in. This is a private space on the forum for London Activists to share ideas, skills, resources and campaign ideas. It's easy to join the forum, but to get access to the private area you need to be given permission. Contact Howard or Katie (details below) with your forum username and we'll sort you out.

### **Join us in Copenhagen**

We're inviting people to come to the climate talks in Copenhagen to support The Flood action on 12 December. Find out how you can book one of the limited number of subsidised, overland travel places available to Friends of the Earth local group members - <http://www.foe.co.uk/community/index.html>.

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## Adrian Appley, DEFRA and GM crops

Bromley FoE member Adrian Appley recently wrote to DEFRA about GM crops. Here's his letter and their reply.

**Dear Mr. Benn,**

I heard you talking about GM crops on BBC Radio 4's "Today" programme and wish to express my opposition to this dubious technology. You stated that there is no evidence to suggest it is not safe but at the same time there is no evidence it IS safe and it has thrown up many problems I am sure you are unofficially aware of.

It has been my experience for many years that the unprincipled government does not give a damn for the health and safety of the general public but fits neatly into the pockets of the equally unprincipled multi nationals especially the agri-chemical and pharmaceutical industry so you will force GM crops onto us even though the majority of the public have made it abundantly clear we do not want it.

Big business rules the world and I can provide you with endless proof if you need it. You have already let GM in "by the back door" by allowing the importation of GM animal feed so the millions who have not had the sense to go vegetarian or vegan are already polluting their unhealthy bodies with the GM curse. I would never believe anything DEFRA stated unless I knew it was true.

The only way we can feed the rapidly expanding population is by enforced birth control but, of course, continents like Africa seem totally incapable of comprehending this and as such are

doubling their numbers every 30 years. Does the world need that?

I have explained this to do-gooder interferers like Oxfam, War On Want etc. but they do not listen. I desperately hope you folks eventually do or we do not stand an earthly of surviving much longer, but I am not holding my breath on that issue.

Yours fed up with the present losers in government,

**DEFRA's reply**

Dear Mr Appley

Thank you for your email of 10 August to Hilary Benn about GM crops. I have been asked to reply.

Ensuring GM crops are safe for human health and the environment remains our top priority. The Government therefore supports the existing EU controls which require proposed GM products to undergo a detailed case-by-case risk assessment. As we showed with the farm-scale trials programme, we have no intention of agreeing to the commercial cultivation of GM crops in the UK unless it is clear that the environment will not be compromised.

However, we need to keep the issue in perspective. The reliable scientific evidence that has been accumulated over the past ten years or more supports the view that GM crop technology is not inherently unsafe, and that currently approved GM

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## Adrian Appley's reply from DEFRA, *continued*

products can be considered as safe for human health as their conventional counterparts.

It is also right, we believe, to look at the potential for some crops in some circumstances to help developing countries improve their food security. Although the current generation of GM crops does not give an intrinsic yield benefit, they may increase production indirectly, for example by reducing the level of pest damage. In addition, new types of GM crop are being developed with traits such as drought tolerance and disease resistance. If these work and are used responsibly, they could help alongside other improvements to make agriculture more efficient and sustainable, especially in areas of the developing world where growing conditions are difficult. Given the pressure on food prices and food security, we should keep an open mind and look at the issues fairly, based on the evidence.

We are not calling for GM crops to be grown in the UK as some reported. We just want a rational look at the science. As regards public opinion, there is no question of GM crops being forced on anyone in the UK. Any GM products that secure EU marketing approval will have to be clearly labelled, so that people will be able to decide for themselves whether or not to use them.

You can find out more about GM crops on the DEFRA website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/index.htm>.

## **From the London Co-ordinator's Update – *continued from page 12***

### **Position on the BNP**

Friends of the Earth has developed an organisational position on the BNP and has produced guidance for local groups on how to follow it in your campaigning, including how to deal with coming across BNP officials in your activities. If you're running Get Serious it will be sent to your campaign coordinator soon. If you're not and would like a copy sent to you, contact your Network Developer or Jill Andrews, the Activist Information Officer via [localgroups@foe.co.uk](mailto:localgroups@foe.co.uk).

### **Leading to a Greener London**

The Mayor's July document "Leading to a greener London - An environment programme for the capital " sets out initial proposals ahead of consultation on his Climate Change and Energy Strategy later in the year. Existing targets to cut CO2 by 60% from 1990 levels by 2025 and to provide 25% of London's energy from decentralized sources by the same date are re-iterated, but despite welcome plans on home retrofitting, low-carbon zones and a green fund, transport plans are weak and, as the London Assembly point out, there's insufficient detail to see if the measures proposed will reach the targets.

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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

### Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Secretary:

Ray Watson 01959-571566  
*email – raywatson@iclway.co.uk*

### Treasurer:

Ivy Smith 01689-872642

### Press Officer:

vacant

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Outings organisers:

John & Sue Boccock 020-8464-5990  
*email – johnboccock@hotmail.com*

### Walks Arrangers:

*temporarily vacant*

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

### Newsletter Editor:

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

### Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

### Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

### Campaigns –

### Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details below

### Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352  
*tamaragalloway@yahoo.com*

### Bromley FoE web site:

[www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)

Peter Gandolfi  
*famgando@hotmail.com*

### Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

### Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson or Sheila Brown on the numbers shown above.

### Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

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

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

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

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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, 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, Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email [raywatson@iclway.co.uk](mailto:raywatson@iclway.co.uk).

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £8 annual subscription. I also enclose a donation (optional) of ..... To help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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