



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**



October 2017
No. 358

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:
email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

October Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

The Woodland Trust – Protecting our Woodland Heritage

Professor Alan Aylward

Tuesday 3rd October – 7.30pm

Founded in 1972 to save and extend woodland – particularly native and ancient woodland – the Trust has planted 40 million trees. Alan will talk about future plans and what is going on locally in Kent and Surrey including a World War I memorial wood. PLUS Traidcraft stall with the usual fairtrade foods, chocolate, stationery and gifts and an early chance to preview Christmas items.

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER*****

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates:

Oct 3rd (Tue)

Bromley FoE's October meeting: Prof Alan Aylward from The Woodland Trust plus Traidcraft stall

Oct 28^h (Sat)

Clean Air / Fracking Campaign stall: Bromley Mall, 2pm Queens Gardens for photo, 2.30-4.30pm Bromley Mall (see below and page 3)

Nov 7th (Tue)

Bromley FoE's November meeting: plus Traidcraft stall

Dec 4th (Tue)

Bromley FoE's December meeting: Winter social, quiz, and all the usual seasonal fare

Clarification re October campaign stall

This is to clarify arrangements for our October stall. This is NOT on 14th October as listed in Diary Dates in the September Newsletter but on Saturday 28th October. The stall will focus on the Clean Air Campaign and on Fracking. It will run from 2.30 – 4.30 pm at our usual location in The Mall.

However, we are using this occasion as a “photo-opportunity” for the Clean Air Campaign and would like as many of you as possible to join us at 2 pm in Kentish Way by the Children’s Playground at the start of Queen’s Gardens in front of the area where the new restaurants have been created.

As a group we are concerned about the air quality in the playground beside this busy traffic artery. After taking photos here, we’ll walk through to The Mall for 2.30 pm start of the campaign stall. Please wear your "Clean Air" t-shirt if you have one.

Re-User Item [3]

2 green canvas Bukta hawk 2 person tents. One with fly sheet. Donation to Bromley FoE. Buyer collects. Chislehurst. E R Greenwood. 01689 897394

Disclaimer: *Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth*

Next Newsletter - copy details

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by ***** SUNDAY 22ND 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

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

The Mall Precinct Campaign Stall

Many thanks to all who have signed up for this for October 28th - really grateful. We will be combining the Clean Air Action Day campaign with anti fracking and gathering at the children's playground by the Leisure Centre in Queen's Gardens, Bromley at 2pm for a photo shoot. This is before the stall in The Mall Precinct from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Climate, Energy and Transport

Wind Energy Boost

Off shore wind costs have tumbled to an all time low and sparked fresh calls for ministers to 'scale up' investment in renewable energy projects. Prices for new wind farms are the lowest ever following the latest auction for contracts awarded to developers.

Subsidies have fallen 50% since the last round in 2015 to £57.50 per megawatt hour for projects delivered in 2022/23. Under the contracts, companies bid for a 'strike' price they will be paid for the energy generated. Those who submit the lowest bid secure the deal.

It means that the price of offshore wind has now dropped well below that of nuclear - the new Hinkley Point C power plant secured subsidies of £92.50 per MWh.

Caroline Lucas, the co-leader of the Green Party, has stated that the price drop should be the 'nail in the coffin' for new nuclear and urged the government to commit to off-shore wind technology so that it becomes the 'backbone of British Energy'.

Nuclear Power

Japan is about to dump more radioactive water into the Pacific. Every day for some 6 years, some 300-400 tonnes of radioactive water have washed through the remains of the 4 nuclear reactors destroyed during the Fukushima disaster in 2011.

Now TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) have stored some 800,000 tonnes of it in large tanks and there is a danger that this could soon be released into the sea. This would be disastrous and lead to more high levels of radioactive pollution in the Pacific.

Transport

Problems of Cobalt Mining and Electric Cars

There is a worrying human cost in the Congo cobalt mines that clean energy campaigners haven't considered or are unaware of. 40,000 children are working in the mines checking for cobalt.

Toxic red dust burns their eyes and they run the risk of skin disease and deadly lung conditions. For just 8p a day children are made to check the rocks for brown streaks of cobalt - the essential ingredient for the batteries that power electric cars. Motor manufacturers buy the cobalt from the impoverished Congo, and the switch to green energy vehicles has led to a great surge in demand.

A smart phone battery uses more than 10gms of refined cobalt and an electric car needs 15kg (33lbs).

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September meeting report – Annette Rose

Dr. Nikki Gammans ‘The Plight of the Bumblebee’

Dr. Nikki Gammans is the manager of the Short-haired bumblebee Project carried out by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. We were reminded that it is four or five years since Nikki gave her last talk to our group so it is a good time for an update.

Nikki began by explaining that there are 3 types of bee - solitary, honey and bumblebee. These have evolved from wasps.

Solitary bees

There are 230 types of solitary bees. They do not make a colony. This includes leaf cutter and mining bees. The females lay eggs in lawns, sides of buildings, in wood etc and then seal them in. The adults emerge the following year. Different bees visit different types of flowering plants and some only visit one type.

Honey bees

Honey bees are domesticated and were introduced to Europe. There are 8 to 12 types worldwide and only 1 in Europe. They form complex societies, and produce honey, bees wax and royal jelly.

The queens live for about 5 years and have no pollen baskets and don't forage. They will swarm when the queen leaves the hive when she will take 2000 to 5000 workers with her. Usually the queen is usurped within 2 to 3 years.

Bumblebees

There were 27 types of bumblebees in the UK. Now 24 are resident. In early Spring the queen emerges from hibernation and starts a new nest. When she has found a good nest site she will collect lots of pollen and rear her first batch of eggs. These eggs become female workers. The process is repeated throughout the Summer with the queen rarely leaving the nest. Towards the end of the Summer the queen produces male offspring along with new queens which leave the nest to find a mate.

Only fertilized queens will survive over winter by hibernating in the ground ready to emerge and establish their own colonies the following year. Cuckoo bumblebees lay their eggs in host nests. Bumblebees are different from honey bees in that they do not do a waggle dance. Some can live in cold climates and even in snow.

Value

Bees pollinate 84% of our high value crops and 80% of wildflowers in Europe. It is estimated that they contribute 800 million to the UK economy.

Problems

Our bees are declining in numbers due to a number of problems. Climate change is also having an impact on our bees. Honey bees are susceptible to diseases such as the Varroa mite. In the last 60 years we have lost 97% of our wild flower meadows where the bees feed. There has been intensification in farming methods so there are less wild flowers.

Since the 1990s pesticides called neonicotinoids have been used on farms. It is delivered in a seed coating which means the chemical is distributed throughout the plant and is in the pollen and nectar. Studies have shown that these have negative impacts on bees. Due to this combination of problems 32% of the UK's bee species are threatened and 7 are on the BAP priority species list.

So what can we do?

Gardens are natural corridors and very valuable. Years of cultivation mean that many plants found in British gardens such as pansies and begonias are of no value to wildlife. Making good choices when choosing plants for your garden can help. Foxgloves, alliums, herbs and wild roses are good for bees.

We can put 'bee hotels' in our gardens and bird boxes for nests. These ideally need to be south or south east facing. In the countryside we need flower rich borders and pasture rotation.

Kent is special!

Kent is the best county for rare bumblebees. Kent has a long coast line, a mild climate and it is near to continental Europe. Five of our threatened bumblebees can be found in Kent.

The Short-haired bumblebee

This bee is one of two UK species to have become extinct in the last 80 years. They were last recorded in Dungeness in 1988. The project has worked with farmers and landowners to improve the habitat and reintroduce these bees. Bees have been brought

from Sweden and Estonia to re-establish populations. They have worked with the Environment Agency to improve wild flower meadows. Cutting has been reduced to twice a year which increases the numbers of wildflowers.

In particular, the aim has been increase early foraging plants for when the bees emerge from hibernation. Knock-on effects from the project have been an increase in numbers of other bees including brown-banded carder bees. The environments created are good for all wildlife including birds and bats.

We then had time for questions and more flowers for bees were recommended. Paul de Zylva gave us an update on the latest research findings on neonicotinoids which are giving us a clearer picture of the harm they are doing. Now decisions have to be made about whether the ban should be widened or extended.

Bromley Odeon / Picturehouse

Bromley FoE were delighted to learn that Picturehouse, which now has the financial backing of Cineworld, has taken over the cinema in Bromley North (Empire and before that Odeon) and is proposing sympathetic redevelopment. Bromley Friends of the Earth has written to support their planning application.

"Bromley Friends of the Earth group is very pleased to support this planning application.

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Chinese Garage +++ Bromley Odeon cinema *cont'd*

Response to Chinese Garage planning application – *Paul Enock*

I write as a representative of Bromley Friends of the Earth, who object to the proposed changes.

As a local civic organization which supports local businesses, seeks to preserve local community facilities and to protect and enhance the local environment, Bromley Friends of the Earth has the following concerns about the proposal.

Extension to opening hours (removal of Condition 21) would potentially allow late-night or all-night shopping at a supermarket that is very conveniently located for motorized access at a well-known local landmark with its own car parking (a facility which local shops cannot offer).

In particular, the proposed extension of opening hours, when combined with the attraction of a supermarket carrying a wide range of goods and with easy parking facilities, would act as a magnet for late-evening shopping by car for people living within a wide radius of the roundabout. This would have the following detrimental effects on the local environment and quality of life:

- It would increase noise and air pollution along the roads used by shoppers visiting the store at night.
- It would encourage people to make car journeys which would otherwise not have been made and at times when these journeys

are most likely to create a disturbance in predominantly residential areas.

- It would further discourage healthier and more community-friendly ways of shopping e.g. walking or cycling to local shops during normal shopping hours.
- By attracting more people to this predominantly residential area during antisocial hours, it would detract from the area's community atmosphere, making it more impersonal and therefore more vulnerable to antisocial or criminal behavior. This would over time further contribute to the loss of trade for existing shops.

Furthermore, adding to the already sufficient number of large supermarkets in the area will cause a loss of trade to local shops through the practice of targeted undercutting (to say this will not occur is naïve). A viable local shopping area will gradually be replaced by a row of vacant units, changing the character of the area.

Bromley Picturehouse – *cont'd*

The new picturehouse design will be a landmark building enhancing the heritage in the Bromley North Village area.

“This is also a ‘not to be missed’ cultural opportunity for people throughout the borough and surrounding areas which will provide valuable programmes and facilities, and aid local businesses.”

Nature Update – Judy Palmer

Lodge Hill Nightingales, good news!

You may remember a while ago an email was doing the rounds about a planning application from Medway Council who wanted to build 5,000 houses on a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), but that the site was a stronghold for nightingales. Well, the nightingales have won! At least for the moment.

The Council approved the application in 2014 but it was called in to central government and a public inquiry was due to take place next year. But the application has now been withdrawn. More than 12,000 people objected to the application to build on the SSSI, but apparently the Council is furious, and says it will welcome new applications to build there.

As well as the nightingales, purple emperor butterflies were rediscovered on the site this summer, and bats are known to have scores of roosts there. It is also a rare type of grassland and has an exceptional number of slow worms and other amphibians living there.

Needless to say the environmental groups, which include the Kent Wildlife Trust, are happy about the decision. Though the site is not saved, this is a smashing reprieve.

Freshwater Habitats Trust

I had some nice news from the group this month – Bromley FoE will be presented with an award later this year from the Trust! The citizen science project we have been taking part in with the water quality testing comes

to a close this month, and they wish to give us an award for being star volunteers by doing all the testing. More details should be available next month.

Beach and river clean-ups and fatbergs!

As I am writing, the weekend of 16th September is the Marine Conservation Society's annual big **beach clean-up** and over 300 beaches across the UK will be blitzed by volunteers. Beachwatch has been running for over 20 years and collects litter level data as well as rubbish from our beaches.

As we are all aware small changes can make big differences, and since the charge for plastic bags at supermarkets has been in place, there has been a 40% drop in these bags being found on coastlines.

Plastic makes up 95% of the rubbish found in our oceans and affects us all – the marine life, eco systems and ultimately our health. Let's try and remember to always take our rubbish home with us!

October sees the launch of the first national **river clean-up**, the Great River Rescue, organised by Thames21, the Marine Conservation Society, the Angling Trust and the Canal and River Trust. Groups are invited to register their river clean-up events at www.thames21.org.uk/GreatRiverRescue where they can find all relevant information.

/continued on next page

News of Orpington Priory +++ Nature Update - *continued*

Orpington Priory

V22 are delighted to announce that we have signed our lease with Bromley Council and are now the official custodians of Orpington Priory.

We have a lot of work ahead of us which must be handled with sensitivity and respect for the building and its place in the heart of the local community. This will mean that works will happen gradually and will be completed over several phases.

During the first phase of our guardianship we intend to let out those spaces that are self-contained and in a good state of repair. This meets our commitment to providing studios for local artists and creative businesses whilst bringing in revenue to help fund further works.

In later phases further studios will be created in the former library building and a community/ exhibition space. The Great Hall on the ground floor of the priory will be retained as a community space that can be opened to the public.

We will continue to keep you informed about developments as they take shape. We are very much looking forward to working with members of the local community to make a success of this fantastic building's future.

Kind Regards,

Katie, Katherine and the V22 Team

Nature Update - *continued*

Thames21, together with the Zoological Society of London, is launching a new citizen science project called **Outfall Safaris** with a river Ravensbourne training day later this month.

We asked at our September monthly meeting if anyone would like to volunteer for training for this project, and Paul R, John C and Richard C put their names forward - well done to them. Hopefully next month we will have an update on how the project in more detail.

They will be trained to collect data on a mobile app and upload it which will help create a detailed picture of the current state of this catchment. The data will be passed to the Environment Agency and Thames Water so helping these organisations check if there is any severe pollution in the river which needs immediate investigation. The volunteers will just need to walk along the river, and maybe in it, collecting the data, during October.

Did you see the news that Thames Water has been dealing with a monster **fatberg** in one of the London sewers? They say it is 250 metres long and weighs 130 tonnes and will take 3 weeks to clear – yuk! Luckily it was found before it caused any flooding.

Workshop on Social Media – Paul Enock

Presented by Ian Goggins, FoE's Digital Activism Specialist, the workshop looked at using social media strategically. Ian stressed that you shouldn't try to do all your campaigning on one channel (e.g. Facebook or Twitter), but should pick the appropriate channel for each battle. At the same time, it would be over-ambitious to attempt to maintain a presence on every channel.

Once you have defined your campaign goal and target audience, the choice of media channel will depend on the use you wish to make of it. Ian distinguished six different uses of social media:

1. **Amplification and promotion**

- This involves promoting an event or pushing awareness of an issue, taking it beyond your own channels to get influencers involved. You may decide you are better off talking to people who have a bigger audience than you and persuading them to take up your message. Here you should make your content consistent and easy to share.
- Example channels: Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube

2. **Recruitment and audience building**

- This involves growing your email list or your social media following. (Don't forget to keep reminding people to follow you.) Use your own channels heavily and have consistent topics so people will have a clear idea of what your

interests are. Do not include dispersive contents which individuals may follow, but will not build up a group following. Keep your content easy to understand.

- Example channels: Facebook groups, Snapchat, Meet Up, Instagram
- ### 3. **Pressure**
- This may involve pressuring a local councillor or a local business. It is important to remember that social media may contribute to changing a person's mind, but it will not do so alone. Here you should use channels that will make the message visible to the target or to an audience that the target cares about. Volume matters. Often a Twitter campaign can put a public face on behind-the-scenes campaigning (e.g. FoE's recent campaign to stop garden centres stocking bee-harming plants).
 - Example channel: Twitter
- ### 4. **Attracting traditional media attention**
- Journalists typically use Twitter to find breaking stories, so this will help draw attention to a local scandal or ongoing event. It's a good idea to follow local journalists and find those who specialise in your kind of story. Use the hashtags they might be following. But don't message journalists constantly; they'll probably block you.
 - Example channels: Twitter, Facebook page
- /continued on next page*

Bee Breakfast in Jubilee Country Park - Annette Rose and Judy Palmer

On June 3rd Bromley Friends of the Earth held a 'Bee Breakfast' in Jubilee Country Park. On a lovely warm sunny day we set up near the picnic area and invited passers-by to participate. Also, people on a Wildflower walk organised by the Friends group were able to stop by.

First up was a quiz which consisted of ten foods for people to decide which of them needed bees. The obvious ones that need bees were the honey, strawberries and fruit yoghurt. People discovered that tea doesn't need bees as it is made from leaves. Porridge is made from oats which is wind pollinated. We hope we got the message across that a lot of the variety in our diet would be lost without bees and action to protect them is essential.

Next our visitors were offered a variety of tasty breakfast foods which we only have due to our pollinators including bees. On offer were fruit cereals, fruit juices, blueberry muffins, fruit salad and homemade honey cake.

We also told people about the Great British Bee Count which was running at the time. In this nationwide annual project, the public are asked to upload their sightings of bees on a free app that they can download. This year there were more than 300,000 bees spotted!

We also provided some further information on how Friends of the Earth is working to protect our bees. They are seeking to get the government to continue a ban on a group of pesticides called neonicotinoids that have been shown in studies to be harmful to bees.

Social Media workshop - continued

5. Monitoring

- E.g. you could monitor statements made by your local MP or set up alerts on particular subjects. This is a useful way of learning the language being used for particular issues and therefore to formulate useful hashtags.

6. Coordination

- Use a channel that everyone will use consistently.
- Here privacy/security may well be an issue so example channels are Signal and email @riseup as well as Slack, WhatsApp and Facebook groups.
- For extra high-security, advice is available from: [Surveillance Self Defence](#) and [Tactical Technology Collective](#) (web links)
- If you just want to get people to do things, email remains the most effective method. But obviously, emails will access only people you know already. Research also shows that the younger a person is, the more likely that person is to ignore an email.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to the Friends of Jubilee Country Park for making us so welcome and for helping us to have a successful day.

Miller's Mutterings for August – Chris Miller

The hay has been cut but phew what a tense time. Firstly, the weather seemed set fair, we needed a clear four to five days without rain to make hay, but then the forecasters predicted heavy rain in four days time so we didn't make it. The rain didn't come so lost a week there. Decided to cut the following week and blow me down it rained the next day.

The damper grass was made into haylage, borrowing a friends wrapping machine and then the sun shone so made hay with the rest. We made only about 2/3rds of the amount we made last year.

Hay, haylage, silage? Haylage is grass is grown and cut in the same way as for hay but it is left to dry for less time, ideally it has approximately 30-40% moisture content. The bales are wrapped straight after baling and are compressed to approximately two thirds of the original size, which aids storage. Natural fermentation preserves the grass as haylage and it has about 90% the feed value of grass.

Haylage can be thought of as highly nutritional hay that does not have dust and spores present and horse haylage is not the same as silage. Silage is a fermented, high moisture feed, cut before the seeds are set and only wilted before being baled. This is usually only given to cattle not horses.

The barley is ready to be cut but we are waiting for a window of settled weather, the rain so far has only knocked down a little of the standing crop so hopeful that any further rain won't do any damage. The wheat is due about mid August to be cut. The peas will have to be

desiccated this year before harvest because the growth has been so uneven due to the cold and dry during the growing season.

We don't expect a heavy yield this year but we'll get what we can. Cover crops. Owing to a change in farming practice by our friends over the channel, we have now to be even 90% the feed value of grass. Haylage can be thought of as highly nutritional hay that does not have dust and spores present and horse haylage is not the same as silage. Silage is a fermented, high moisture feed, cut before the seeds are set and only ilted before being baled. This is usually only given to cattle not horses.

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Cover crops. Owing to a change in farming practise by our friends over the channel, we have now to be even more environmentally aware, so this end, we have to grow cover crops on about 10% of the farm. This is a tri mix of oats, phacelia and radish, which will be sown directly after harvest.

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Miller's Mutterings for September - Chris Miller

St. Bartholomew's Day was dry and clear. Well, we can look out for a good autumn then!

Not one of our better harvests this year. The barley was the first to cut but unfortunately due to the dry weather in the spring, the plant only produced one or two tillers (side shoots) meaning the crop was about only 2/3rd of what it should have been. Both of the wheat varieties seemed to cope with the dry much better and we have had a good crop.

This year we grew, what we call biscuit wheat and all the various criteria were met. It gets a bit technical regarding proteins, moisture and hagerberg's targets but I won't bore you with all of that. The heavy rainfall on the Wednesday in the middle of August washed quite a lot of goodness from the wheat but it still made the grade.

We won't talk too much about the peas because they were a disaster. What with the dry spring, late frost and pigeons, the crop didn't really stand a chance. 2" of rain on the ripe crop finished them off completely and we couldn't even gather a pea straw crop for the deer!

It didn't start too well when Pete discovered the lateral tilt on the combine wasn't working. After a long investigation, he discovered that mice/rats had chewed some of the wiring in the header. We do start up the combine during the winter to clear any vermin but the header is not attached to the machine and stored separately and cannot be run.

As this was the first winter without any farm cats this may be the reason but hopefully now that we have a new batch of cats this will not happen again.

The machine still worked but Pete had to keep adjusting the header manually, slow and laborious on our undulating fields. During the rainy spells over a couple of weeks, the problem was eventually fixed with help from a John Deere mechanic.

We had a hairy moment this harvest when returning back from one of the fields across the A224.

The boys entered Church Road to find cars parked right along the kerbside in front of the church and beyond. Steve was driving the tractor towing the header with Pete in the combine behind. They realised that they couldn't get through with the combine and Pete had to do a 50-point turn in Church Road. Obviously traffic was coming from both directions and trying to squeeze round them. Well you can imagine the scene.

There was a lot of shunting back and forth to let folk pass the tractor and header and by this point Pete had managed to turn round and go back to the A224 and Warren Road. Some photos would have been good but I think the boys had enough to contend with.

No new flowers to report on the Chelsfield green at this time of the year obviously and I guess that it won't be too long before it is cut and cleared.

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FoE Campaign Updates

Clean Air update

The Clean Air team spent the summer planning the next stage of the campaign following the July publication of the government's very disappointing Air Quality Plan.

We're really keen to give the campaign a more localised angle, including supporting your group to directly tackle pollution within your community. We know the government's Air Quality Plan isn't anywhere near good enough, but that doesn't change the fact that most large towns and cities and many other areas have a chronic pollution problem that needs addressing.

We're working on a range of resources to help you campaign for improved air quality where you live, which we'll share as soon as they're ready. In particular we want to support people to campaign for effective 'Clean Air Zones'. We believe these can have the greatest impact on air quality.

We'll also include other ideas on what you can do to tackle dirty air in your area, including when air pollution levels aren't necessarily breaching legal limits.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the next steps for the campaign. Why not join us for a teleconference on Wednesday 4 October between 7 and 8pm to hear more and share your ideas on how we can help in your local campaigning? Register your interest by emailing Tom or calling 020 7566 1673.

Finally, we want to say well done and huge thanks to everyone who took part in the week of action in July - you can see some of your stories on the website.

Fossil Free update

The summer has been really busy for fighting fossil fuel extraction in the UK. As we wait for the verdict on the open cast mine at Druridge Bay, communities around the country have been fighting fracking and our Local Groups have been supporting them.

In Lancashire, Cuadrilla have begun drilling operations at the Preston New Road site and over in Ryedale, work is expected to start imminently. But local communities have been resisting with mass demos at the Preston New Road site and candle lit vigils in Ryedale. Across the country, people have been standing with them by asking Greg Clark, the Energy Minister, to refuse fracking permission.

This October, you can help ramp up the pressure by taking part in the Protect Our Futures: Climate Day of Action on October 14th. Friends of the Earth groups from around the world will be taking action to resist fossil fuels and call for a more just future for everyone.

You can run events in solidarity with groups across the globe and create visible pressure to show the government not to push fracking and new coal onto communities in the UK. By taking action, together we can demand a clean future and climate justice for all.

Miller's Mutterings *cont'd* & Climate, Energy and Transport *cont'd*

Miller's Mutterings for August - *continued*

This will stay growing until the beginning of January, before the land is prepared ready for drilling with a spring crop. This tri mix will mop up any nutrient left in the soil so avoiding nitrates and phosphates being washed through the soil into the watercourses.

It has been interesting this year to notice so many different species of wild flowers on the green, a few more pictures to show you. The Lady's Bedstraw has a lovely fragrance, so can only imagine the smell as it was stuffed into mattresses.

Peter is really excelling at the electrical work, he has been working on the big old barn recently and needing high ladders and the man frame on the loader to reach to the top. It is a mixture of updating and laying new cables, all under the supervision of a qualified commercial electrician of course.

The picture of Pete in a bee suit came about because the roof needed repairing but the beehives are next to the hives and Steve had already been stung. It was quite hot work at you can imagine!

No rain on St. Swithin's day this year! This month's weather offering is about St. Bartholomew's Day, on August 25.

*If St. Bartholomew's Day
is dry and clear,
There'll be a good
autumn in that year.*

Climate, Energy and Transport – *continued*

The UK's Department for International Development is donating £105 million between 2007 and 2018 towards strengthening greater transparency, and encouraging responsible activity in larger and small-scale mining to help benefit the poor workers in The Congo.

Biggin Hill Airport

A helicopter service that shuttles executives between Biggin Hill airport and central London is being expanded. The airport's Hellishuttle service operated by Castle Air, now offers a fleet of 6 Augusta Westland AW109 Grands. This expansion is based on feedback that the client users wanted a faster service into central London.

Miller's Mutterings for September - *continued*

I have been delighted to notice in the garden though a Jersey Tiger Moth and a Humming-bird Hawk Moth on my flowers. Hope I identified them correctly Lester!

Not a weather folk law but still an old saying for this month, Michaelmas Day or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is celebrated on September 29th.

*Eat a goose on
Michaelmas Day
Want not for money all the year*

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

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

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

Non-members' Section

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

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, 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.

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

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

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

Name..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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