

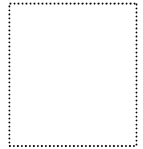


**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# September 2012 No. 297 Newsletter

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## September Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

### **Kent WildlifeTrust**

**John Bennett, Chief Executive of the Trust**

*Speaks on the work of the Trust*

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm.**

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

Contact details inside front cover.

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***Plans for waste and landfill site near Orpington bypass rejected – see page 12***

### Diary dates:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Aug 27<sup>th</sup> (Mon)</b>  | <b>Cudham Fete</b> – Bromley FoE stall  |
| <b>Sept 4<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b> | <b>Bromley FoE's September meeting:</b> John Bennett, CEO, Kent Wildlife Trust  |
| <b>Sept 14/16</b>                 | <b>FoE local groups conference</b> , Imperial College, London. See below and <a href="http://www.foe.co.uk">www.foe.co.uk</a> for more info |
| <b>Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tues)</b>  | <b>Bromley FoE's October meeting</b>  |
| <b>Oct 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>  | <b>Stall in Bromley High St.</b> 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Contact Ann Garrett for more info.   |
| <b>Nov 6<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b>  | <b>Bromley FoE's November meeting:</b> Craig Bennett, Policy and Campaigns Director, FoE  |

### FoE Conference 2012 – Sept 14/16, Imperial College, London

*(Repeated from last month's newsletter. Last chance to book)*

**Weekend ticket** (local groups) - A ticket for the weekend costs £30, and gives you:

- Over 15 inspiring speakers including Britain's first Green MP Caroline Lucas, Liz Jensen, author of *The Rapture* and Satish Kumar, editor of *Resurgence*
- Our ever-inspiring Earthmover Awards
- Motions/ 3D Proposals debate
- Master class workshops including stunt design with cartoonist Polyp
- The very latest on The Bee Cause and Clean British Energy campaigns
- ... and much more ...

#### Open Day

For the first time at Conference Saturday is open for all. A day ticket for £10 will get you:

- Caroline Lucas, Britain's first Green MP
- Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer
- Lidy Nacpil, Coordinator, Jubilee South
- Liz Jensen, author of *The Rapture*
- Fred Pearce, journalist and author of *The Land Grabbers*
- ... and much more ...

**Book via FoE's website, [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk).**

### Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER:**

**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

## August meeting report, *Graham Hemington and Sheila Brown*

### **Lifting the lid on water: How much water will we need and Where will it come from?"**

*by Richard Aylard, External Affairs and Sustainability Director of Thames Water*

#### **Introduction**

Thames Water supplies water to 9 million customers and collects wastewater from 14 million in an area that extends as far as Luton, London, Swindon and the Reading area. Water levels are still low despite the large amount of rainfall in recent weeks. The hosepipe ban imposed earlier this year brought savings of 100 million litres a day during the hot spell in May.

Although reservoirs are full, water levels in many of the natural storage basins deep below ground remain low. Since plants and trees grow and suck up much of the moisture in spring and summer, groundwater levels are not expected to recover fully until there is sustained winter rainfall that seeps into the ground.

The Company admits that it has much to do to end leaks.

#### **Where Bromley's water comes from**

The Bromley Town area is predominantly fed from the Honor Oak service reservoir, which is connected to the Ring Main. The vast majority (90%) of water in Bromley customers' taps originates in the large west London water treatment works of Hampton and Ashford, treating water taken from the river Thames. The Bromley area is resilient to localised issues due to the London ring main's ability to convey water from a number of treatment works.

To the east and south of Bromley Town the water supplies rely more on groundwater sources. The Petts Wood and West Wickham areas to the east and south of Bromley respectively are 70% groundwater fed (North Orpington, Orpington and Shortlands sources).

#### **How did the drought affect local supplies?**

Normally, groundwater levels are lowest in the period October to December and highest in the period March to April. In this year's drought, the period March to April was a 'low', followed by levels getting even lower until June when levels started to soar to a July 'high'. After this significant increase, there is a prediction of a small decrease, followed by a significant increase reaching an above normal peak in February 2013.

#### **Water stress in England and Wales**

The whole of the South East of England east of a line between Hull and Bournemouth has experienced serious "water stress" (i.e. insufficient rainfall). Elsewhere 'moderate', 'low' or 'not assessed'. Surprisingly, London actually receives only half as much rainfall as Sydney or Florida. The driest month of the year is February.

#### **What does the future hold?**

Thames Water water resource plan is based on a population increase of 1.7 million from 2007/2008 to 2034/2035. Projections are:-

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 2007/2008 | 8.5 million   |
| 2034/2035 | 10.2 million. |

*/continued on pages 4 and 6*

## August meeting report, *continued*

So an increase of 1.7 million (of which 1.3 million in London and 400,000 outside).

The London Plan has a housing target of 32,210 new homes per annum for the lifetime of the Plan (up to 2031).

### **Where does the water go?**

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Measured household demand | 12.2% |
| Unmeasured                | 39.9% |
| Measured non-household    | 19.8% |
| Leakage                   | 25.6% |
| Other                     | 2.5%  |

### **How much do we use?**

The aspiration is 130 litres per person per day but the actual is currently 162.6 litres. The greater the number of persons in the household, the greater the efficiency; a one person household uses 210 litres whereas an 8 person household uses 110 litres per person.

A Desalination Plant has been commissioned at a cost of £150 million and can deliver 150 million litres per day. Under the terms of agreement for this plant, it must be powered by fuel from renewable sources and is currently using bio-diesel from continental Europe. It processes brackish water from the Thames but, because of the high cost of operation, it is only to be used when there is severe drought.

### **Leakage: “We’ve made good progress”**

Since 2006 Thames Water has reduced leakage by 26%, hit six successive targets, replaced 1,300 miles of ageing mains and developed new technologies. Thames Water is

committed to an investment of £660 million between 2010 and 2015 and is proud that London’s leakage is now at its lowest level. The legacy of chronic under-investment in underground infrastructure (much of which was created by the Victorians) is being addressed and leakage is down more than a quarter since the 2005-2006 drought, making the situation a lot more resilient.

However 34% of London’s mains are more than 100 years old, leading to higher leakage rates than the rest of the industry: leakage = 25% of distribution input against the industry average of 22%. London experiences 300 bursts per 1,000 km of pipe (industry average 180). The pipes corrode on the outside because of the clay they are in. Some pipes were affected in the Blitz and patched up at the time but not replaced.

### **Making water efficiency easy**

There is a “Waterwisely” website which gives customers information on how to use water wisely and was available to give advice during the recent drought.

When a meter is installed, the customer has two years’ grace before being invoiced on the basis of water used. The target is that 80% of us will have meters by 2035. Leakage is highest in council-owned flats.

In 2007 Thames Water carried out water efficiency trials to measure the impact that installing water efficiency devices had on domestic water use.

*/concluded on page 6*

## Transport info – Ray Watson

### **On our doorstep...**

Stories are circulating that Biggin Hill Airport wants to have its lease changed to allow increased hours of operation. For those residents and groups like Bromley FoE this is familiar territory, recalling 12 years or more of battles to prevent the airport expanding. It is said that talks with London Borough of Bromley, who are the head leaseholders, have already begun.

If the airport's behaviour in past years is a guide, then it is likely that increased hours will not be the only commercial advantage the airport operator will seek during negotiations. All of which spells danger for the tens of thousands of Bromley people who live under the flight path. Safety questions apart, more noise in the early morning and late at night will not be welcome.

Given the huge impact that would affect the borough's residents, any negotiations about the lease should be made public so that the people can have their say. Bromley FoE would join them in opposing any loosening of the current lease.

### **Almost on our doorstep...**

Gatwick Airport has produced a Master Plan that looks ahead to building a second runway in seven or so years. Needless to say, the pressure group Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign has punctured the claim in one simple stroke: it says there is just no space on the airport to accommodate such a plan.

It also calculates that additional noise would be worse in 2021 than they were in 2004 even though planes are generally quieter. Hardly progress!

### **Nearly on our doorstep...**

Closer to home, Redhill Airport has submitted another application to its local councils for permission to expand operations there by changing its runway from dirt to concrete. It follows the rejection in May of its earlier application.

The owners say the new plan will reduce the amount of hard area by 25 per cent and also that noise will be reduced by changing approach routes. They also promise better public transport links.

This will be familiar to those, including Bromley FoE, who have opposed expansion at Biggin Hill Airport. The phrase 'opening the flood gates' comes to mind. Fortunately, residents in the Redhill area and environmental groups will oppose the development.

Following a period of consultation a decision will be announced in November.

### **On the road**

FoE has always believed that sooner or later motorists would end up paying for their use of the roads. Given the strength of the motoring lobby, Prime Minister Cameron made a pledge before the election that tolls would apply only to new roads. Not so now.

*/continued on next page*

## August meeting report, concluded ++ Transport info, concluded

### August report, concluded

Metered customers in the BR5 and BR8 postcodes were part of this survey.

A plumber approved by Thames Water installed water efficient devices (e.g. dual flush retrofit devices, tap aerators, reduced flow showerheads) and water consumption before and after was monitored.

Interestingly, the pre-trial water usage of participants was 122.9 litres / person / day against the area average of 154 l/p/d, indicating that these customers were already using water wisely. On average, customers were found to have a 7.9% measured reduction in their water use as a result of the audit and retrofit.

### Water resource planning

Planning towards 2040 needs to take into account population growth, climate change, and the total cost (not just bills but environmental, social and economic cost), limiting leaks and increasing water efficiency.

However, at the end of the day we still need more water.

- 1) We need to capture and store more water, in reservoirs and underground storage in what are called “confined aquifers; one is already operational in North London.
- 2) Large scale water transfer It is not efficient to move water over large distances and the idea of a water grid will not work. Large amounts of water tend to be available when they are not needed, and when there is heavy rainfall the surplus is lost running out to sea.
- 3) Re-using and re-treating.

### Transport info, concluded

The Transport Secretary Justine Greening has announced that tolls will apply to the busy A14 road to help pay for a plan to improve a 20-mile section of the route.

The A14, one of the most congested roads in the country, links the M1 and M6 in the Midlands with the Eastern England ports of Harwich and Felixstowe; it has an unenviable accident record.

The road improvements will include building two ‘free’ roads parallel to the A14 for local traffic. However, past experience shows that lorries change their route to such roads rather than pay a toll fee.

The move is opposed by environmentalists like the Campaign for Better Transport who argue that a raft of sustainable measures are still up for discussion, including better public transport and expansion of rail freight, while the charity Sustrans said the project is hardly a solution to congestion and will result in more concrete, more pollution and more traffic.

Frustratingly, these arguments are repeatedly rehearsed to little or no avail whenever road congestion is debated. Tolls, however unpopular, have their place in the solution – note the success of the London scheme – by driving traffic off the road, but building more and more roads does not.

## Raglan and after – Annette Rose

This Summer I retired from my teaching post at Raglan Primary School after 20 years. I will miss many aspects of the post but I know it is time for me to begin a new chapter in my life.

I was lucky enough to combine my special needs teaching with my interest in caring for the environment. Raglan has had a long history of environmental work and is one of the original 'Green Flag' schools which means we continue to maintain high standards in several areas of environmental work and meet the criteria required by 'Eco Schools'.

For many years I supported the skilful teachers who were responsible for Eco work in the school and began to take on my own projects. One of these was Christmas card recycling. This was in the days when there was no doorstep collection for paper so it was a worthwhile project supported by the Woodland Trust. We collected many thousands of cards over a number of years, every one of which was counted by pupils and it really got the recycling message home. We won many awards including the Bromley Environmental Awards.

Six years ago I took over responsibility for Environmental Education throughout the school. My job has included running a weekly Eco Club, leading half termly meetings of our eco committee, making sure our Eco standards have been maintained and continue to improve, being responsible for Environmental Education teaching in the curriculum and planning and organising whole school Eco events

such as 'Green Weeks'. Green Weeks have been times when all pupils have been included in a range of exciting Eco activities and Bromley FoE have been very helpful on these occasions.

One aspect I won't miss is maintaining the recycling of the 14 materials we collected in school! This meant supervising the packing up and arranging collection of materials such as ink cartridges, CDs, mobile phones etc. and in some cases, taking bags to local recycling centres.

Every two years an eco assessor from Eco Schools visit to check that our standards still meet the criteria to keep our Green Flag. This has meant a great deal of record keeping and gathering of evidence. I have been proud to take the school through 2 of these inspections which we have passed with flying colours.

Although it was hard work, and at times challenging to fit it in with my class teaching, the role felt very worthwhile and the feedback from pupils was very positive. I hope very much that some pupils will take the Eco message into their secondary schools and beyond.

The story does not end there as another teacher has taken on the role and I am hoping to continue to support her by visits into school from time to time and I am sure the school will go from strength to strength as one of the leading Eco Schools in Bromley.

## **A bank without money?** *Graham Hemington*

Bromley FoE member Graham Hemington has challenged Orpington MP Jo Johnson to give wholehearted support for the development of the Government's Green Investment Bank, which is being launched to support environmental projects.

He wrote to Mr Johnson asking his help to change legislation to ensure the bank is equipped to support a low-carbon economic recovery, arguing that the Bill to establish the bank needs to be strengthened to give it 'the impetus and mandate to build a clean, green economy'.

The letter went on: 'The Bill needs to ensure that the Green Investment Bank is successful from the start. The legislation needs to be changed to make it clear that the bank will be allowed to borrow from the capital markets from day one. It is this power that can help the bank bring billions of pounds of private investment into the green economy.'

'The definition in the Bill of what constitutes a green investment also needs changing to ensure that it cannot be used to invest in high-carbon infrastructure and technologies.'

'Without these changes, the Green Investment bank is neither Green nor a Bank. Please use your vote to ensure that the Bill creates a Green Investment Bank worthy of its name.'

Graham also quoted the case of the German equivalent of the Green Investment Bank that over three years had lent 24 billion euros to improving energy efficiency in homes alone,

supporting jobs, cutting carbon emissions and boosting the economy – 'we need the same in the UK'.

In his reply, the MP said the UK would be the first in the world 'to create a bank dedicated to the greening of the economy'. He claimed that it was already capitalised with £3 billion and could mobilise an extra £15 billion of private investment by 2015 when it will be able to borrow in capital markets subject to the public sector debt falling.

'The government has worked hard to ensure that it will be a sensible bank so it is entirely reasonable to defer its ability to borrow until it has first consolidated its expertise and developed a credible track record.'

Graham found this reply unsatisfactory and wrote to Mr Johnson: 'Having contacted my friends in Friends of the Earth, my main concern is when, if ever, the bank can borrow. The bank is, quite simply, not a bank if it is not borrowing'. He pointed out that the German equivalent green bank invests a third of its 70 billion euros investment money in energy and climate projects.

He added: 'Some politicians are pushing the message that the Green Investment Bank is being delayed in borrowing until it gets a track record, but the truth is that it is being delayed until 2015 and then only when the national debt is declining. At present it is at the whim of the Chancellor, who can keep putting off the date for giving the bank the necessary borrowing powers if he wants.'

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Our next Bromley High Street stall is on October 27th outside Caffè Nero if fine and near Argos in the Mall Precinct if wet, from 2.30 - 4.30 pm We will be carrying on with The Bee Cause and Clean British Energy campaigns.

## **Climate and Energy**

### **Coalition cuts cash for wind farms**

Ministers announced on July 25th that subsidies for onshore wind farms will fall by 10%, dealing another blow to the government's intention of being the greenest government ever. Energy Secretary Ed Davey said the amount diverted to encourage more turbines will be cut from 2013 - 17.

This is bad news - the government is destroying opportunities for green growth and jobs. FoE head of campaigns Andrew Pendleton, has stated that Ed Davies has won the battle over wind subsidies, but at what price? He has also criticised his 'fuzzy rhetoric' on clean British energy.

### **NASA scientist's opinion on heat waves**

It has been reported in early August that top NASA scientist James Hansen has said that relentless heat that has affected the world in recent years is so rare that it can't be anything other than man-made global warming. His research suggests that the odds of such temperatures occurring from the 1950s through to the 1980s were less than 1 in 300. Now the odds are closer to one in 10. He has affirmed that this is not some scientific theory but that we are experiencing scientific fact. The evidence is in the increase in extreme heat, drought and heavy downpours.

Global warming sceptics have generally responded by saying that it's impossible to say whether single events are caused by global warming. However that position has been shifting in recent months as other studies have concluded that climate change is happening right before our eyes. This is clearly evident in the following article.

### **Summer Arctic sea ice could vanish in a decade**

Sea ice is disappearing in the Arctic at a far greater rate than previously expected according to data from the first purpose-built satellite launched to study the thickness of the polar ice caps. Preliminary results indicate that 900 cubic kilometres of summer sea ice has disappeared from the Arctic Ocean over the past year. The overall rate of loss is 50 % higher than originally predicted, and scientists have reported that methane plumes are now appearing in many areas, and are causing rising sea levels. These facts are known to FoE members, but it is important that there is publicity in the national press.

### **Bank without money, *continued***

'That's the over-riding objection, namely that there is no guarantee this will ever come about unless it is in the legislation.'

The MP replied to this in a letter of six paragraphs, every one of which except the introductory paragraph was almost word-for-word the same as his original reply.

## Super Plants – an alternative to GM – Peter Gandolfi

As we speak, the US is having its worse drought for over 50 years and is expected to produce 35% less food than usual, with serious impact on the worlds food supply.

Genetic modification (GM) is one solution to produce plants that need less water, and has great promise in certain areas, but GM is costly in time and money to bring to market, and there are reasons to be wary of GM promoted by big business. We should not believe it is the answer to all plant breeding, there are other solutions.

One solution may be with using the combination of the species of fungi, bacteria and viruses that live in the root systems of all plants. In exchange for nutrients, these microorganisms help the plant take up Nitrogen from the soil and protect the plant from factors such as disease, drought and heat.

Russell Rodriguez and colleagues from the University of Washington in Seattle in 2002 were studying a grass that grows in the geothermal springs in Yellowstone park. They found the when the grass seeds were sterilised to remove the fungi that grow inside the plant, the grass could no longer grow at high temperatures. They then found that if they transferred the fungi spores from the heat tolerant grass onto normal wheat seeds, the wheat could then tolerate much higher temperatures. They also found the plants needed 50% less water than usual.

Likewise other fungi etc from a salt tolerant grass, and a strawberry plant

growing at high altitude were transferred to rice plants, which were then found to be able to tolerate salt and cold. They also needed less water and grew larger than normal rice plants.

While GM involves switching on metabolic pathways one at a time, which is a very costly process, the fungi appear to activate them all in one go.

Field trials have shown that rice sprayed with *Trichoderma* isolated from dune grass, allows the rice to grow in salty environments and at colder temperatures and initial results show treated plants can give 35% more yield than untreated plants. A second field trial using corn is underway in Michigan.

Lab tests suggest that these other microorganisms do not harm the plant in wet conditions, in contrast to drought tolerant GM plants that often do poorly in wet conditions.

Another approach is that rather than isolating individual species of fungi, it may be more effective to use the whole microbial community by mulching up the roots of drought tolerant plants and growing crops in this.

The UN has a goal to double food production by 2050, and with droughts becoming more common perhaps this approach is an alternate one to using GM exclusively.

## Thorium is "not a silver bullet for the nuclear industry"

A press release, from the office of Jonathon Porritt states: "A new Briefing, authored by Oliver Tickell, explodes the idea that nuclear reactors using thorium as fuel might provide a viable alternative to reactors using uranium.

"This claim has become something of a rallying cry for those who recognise that conventional nuclear technologies are in terminal decline — including a baffling number of environmentalists who have come to believe that thorium could provide some kind 'silver bullet' solution to the nuclear industry's woes. They are deluded.

"This Briefing ("Thorium: Not 'green', not 'viable', and not likely") is the latest in a series of Briefings issued by Tom Burke, Tony Juniper, Jonathon Porritt and Charles Secrett to demonstrate that there is no conceivable economic case to be made for any new nuclear power stations in the UK — using either uranium or thorium."

"The Briefing highlights the many drawbacks facing thorium reactors, including

- the very high costs of technology development, construction and operation;

- marginal benefits for a thorium fuel cycle over the currently utilised uranium / plutonium fuel cycles;

- serious nuclear weapons proliferation hazards: the molten salt reactor (MSR) technology promoted for thorium could be used to produce fissile uranium and plutonium at very high purities well above ordinary 'weapons grade';

- the danger of both routine and accidental releases of radiation, mainly from continuous 'live' fuel reprocessing in MSRs;

- the very long lead time for significant deployment of MSRs of the order of half a century — rendering it irrelevant in terms of addressing current or medium term energy supply needs.

In issuing the Briefing from Oliver Tickell, Jonathon Porritt commented: "Advocates of Thorium as an alternative fuel for any future nuclear reactors are simply clutching at straws. It's fantastical to suppose that a government that can no longer justify the massive waste of tax payer's money involved in conventional nuclear power is going to sign up to a huge new R&D programme into 'an alternative' that would be just as costly, just as complex and just as irrelevant in terms of meeting this country's pressing, low-carbon and energy security objectives".

### Re-User Column [3] Don't throw It away - Reuse It!

Computer table  
Needs to be collected.  
3' 4" wide x 2'1" deep x 2'1" high

Walking boots – size 8 – New  
Unisex, waterproof, lightweight leather  
and fabric  
Donations to Bromley FoE

**Contact Anne Clark, 020-8289-8483**

## FoE's Change Your World - Buzzing about the BEE Cause

The Bee Cause is taking off everywhere. From medieval fairs to jubilee lunches, you're involving hundreds of people. The word on the street is that passers-by are excited we're working on bees. Catch up here.

Your stalls are helping the public understand the problems and how well Friends of the Earth is positioned to push for solutions. Solutions like urging David Cameron's Government to adopt a National Bee Action Plan.

And it's not just stalls. Groups have organised Bee Walks in Hackney and Tower Hamlets, Southampton and Eastleigh and Camden And you're already planning more. The Telford group plans to invite local stakeholders to a Bee Breakfast, focussing on land management in the borough.

Film screenings are also popular. More than 90 people attended Wanstead and Woodford Friends of the Earth's free screening of Queen of the Sun. This was after the local newspaper promoted the event featuring group members dressed as giant bees.

The Norwich group welcomed over 200 people to a public meeting. Speakers included broadcaster Bob Flowerdew and representatives from the local beekeeping association, organic group, Wildlife Trust and wildflower plant company — all chaired by a farmer and BBC Radio Norfolk presenter.

The Waltham Forest group has been getting its hands dirty by joining forces with Walthamstow Village in Bloom to

plant a wildflower meadow. It's also given a helping hand at a children's Olympic themed planting event.

The Rugby group has created a bee meadow and is ploughing ahead with its Local Bee Action Plan. Members are building relationships with the council, schools, garden centres and the allotment associations. They've been swarming around town recruiting new campaigners and have planted seeds on verges.

### **Waste site victory!**

Protests by residents and Bromley FoE have led to Kent County Council dropping plans to create a waste and landfill site on its border with Bromley near the Orpington bypass. The scheme would have meant waste travelling in heavy lorries through Bromley borough and north Kent villages. The council said that they had listened to residents' concerns and would kill off the scheme because of its affect on Green Belt areas.

Appeal date: A planning inspector will hear arguments next month [September] about a plan to use about 70 large lorries a day to transfer building and other waste to Cherry Lodge golf course, Biggin Hill. The scheme, opposed by residents and Bromley FoE, was rejected by Bromley Council earlier this year. Local people objected because of the disturbance that would be caused and because it would add to traffic problems in the borough's suburbs.

## FoE's Change Your World - Clean British Energy – Switching Successes

To celebrate the launch, we awarded Clean British Energy CBEs to statues of key figures in British history, including Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Alf Ramsey and Charles Darwin. Thanks to all the local group members who took part in this. You can see the photos in our Flickr gallery: <http://bit.ly/N9DSie>

### Islington

Islington Friends of the Earth recently attended its local council's Climate Change Partnership meeting. The partnership is designed to work with businesses in the Borough to encourage them to be more sustainable. The group gave a presentation about the Clean British Energy campaign. They showed how easy it is to switch to Ecotricity or Good Energy, and the benefits that could bring to the businesses.

### What could your group do?

Now's a great time to encourage businesses and organisations in your area to switch to a green energy supplier. We've got new resources available in the library on the campaign hub. These include guidance to use when approaching businesses and organisations, and how to persuade them to switch: [www.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs)

### Photo exhibition

As part of the campaign, we're organising a photo exhibition for politicians and the public. We'll see just how popular and effective renewable energy is - and we'll be making the exhibition available later this year for local groups.

So have a think about any opportunities in your local area towards the end of this year to host an exhibition like this. Is there somewhere locally where it could be held, like a library or community centre? Could you invite your MP and the local media along? How else could you use it to help your campaigning?

### Keep in touch with the campaign

Keep an eye on the campaign hub for the latest updates, as well as new resources. You can also post any questions you have, and hear what other groups have been up to as well at [www.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs)

### Development scheme opposed – Site L, 1 Westmoreland Road

Bromley FoE has sent an objection to a major development planned for a site at Westmoreland Road opposite the multi-storey car park. It calls for a tower block varying from four to 11 storeys high. We argue that it would dominate and overshadow surrounding buildings and would also interfere with the protected view of the Keston Ridge. We urge caution in accepting the proposal because it may well set a precedent for the height and bulk of other blocks which may be proposed for other areas of the High St and surrounding roads.

The proposed building would comprise a 110-bedroom hotel, 49 residential units, 592 sqm of retail space and 41 car parking spaces and cycle storage.

## World Development Movement – some events they're involved in

### **Making a movement: skills, tools and networking for the fight for global justice**

Saturday 1 September, Bristol

An informal day-long gathering for WDM local groups and anyone interested in grassroots campaigning with WDM. A chance to meet with other WDM group members, share experiences and come up with ideas and solutions for effective local campaigning. Those new to WDM activism are equally welcome.

The event will cover these areas:

- \* WDM campaigns; where next
- \* How to grow your group using the web
- \* Skill-sharing and action planning
- \* Screening of 'Growing Change'; a film charting the growth of food sovereignty in Venezuela

### **Nourishing a global community: food, films, music and discussion**

Sunday 23 September, Edinburgh (12noon-4pm)

Featuring films, a buffet lunch, stalls, photo exhibition and live music. Organised by WDM Scotland and others as part of the Take One Action Film Festival and featuring two exclusive film screenings: The Dancing Forest about the women of rural Togo who are taking back their food system from overseas control, and Growing Change which investigates moves towards food sovereignty in Venezuela.

*Can we eat our way to a better world?*

Following on from last year's sell-out World Food Day event, join us in Leith

to further explore Scotland's food chain and its relation to people across the globe; all centred around a fantastic world food buffet. We kick off with lunch, stalls, a brand new photo exhibition about Scotland's links with the developing world, and live music.

From 1pm we have two exclusive film screenings: The Dancing Forest (Reykjavik International Film Festival Environmental Award) celebrates the extraordinary women of rural Togo who are taking back their food system from overseas control; while our premiere of Growing Change draws similar inspiration from urban settings in Venezuela.

### **6 Billion Ways film night...**

Power hungry: the corporate control of energy and how to break it - Tuesday 25 September, London (6.30pm-9pm)

Our current energy system is rapidly running out of steam. Corporate giants have spent decades destroying communities and ecosystems all over the world to extract fossil fuels for energy use, but it is increasingly clear that this has to stop.

This evening of short films and speakers looks at some of the problems with the current energy system and explores sustainable, just alternatives from Brixton to Brazil that could provide clean energy for everyone. The latest in 6 Billion Ways' series of themed film nights, it's free, and a bar is available throughout.

*More info from the WDM website at [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk).*

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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### 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 [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com).

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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