



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**



*September 2015*

*No. 333*

# ewsletter

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## September Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

### **Air pollution in Bromley – worse than you’d think**

*Tom Chance*

*Tom will talk about his citizen science project, measuring levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution in the Crystal Palace area*

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – 7.30pm**

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER\*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

***Airport expansion – please act now – see page 9***

### Diary dates:

Aug 31 (Mon)	Bromley FoE stall at Cudham Village Fete
Sep 1 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's September Meeting: Tom Chance on Road Traffic and Air Pollution
Oct 6 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's October Meeting
Oct 24 (Sat)	Fracking Campaign Stall in Bromley
Nov 3 (Tue)	Bromley FoE's November Meeting: Fracking re-visited

### September meeting – Tom Chance

A hundred years ago Crystal Palace was marketed as the 'fresh air suburb', but today high levels of traffic and congestion leave most main roads in Bromley with over the legal limits. Tom will also talk about some of the solutions, including a local campaign to 'clean up the buses'.

### An appreciation from Paul Enock

As I was leaving the Meeting House after Judy, Dan and Rob's presentation of historic campaigns by the Bromley Group, I told Judy that I had been very 'impressed'. What I really meant to say was that I am very grateful, as a local person, for all the work that you, the Bromley Friends of the Earth Group, have done over the last 40 or so years on my behalf and on behalf of all of us - in trying to look after the best things we have.

I feel sure that if the group's traditions and achievements were known more widely, many others would be inspired to join and carry on with this essential work - unfortunately as essential now as it ever was.

**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 20<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.

**\*\*A number of articles in this newsletter have been shortened \*\***

**\*\*\*because of limitations of space\*\***

## August meeting report – Anne Clark

Wow, what a welcome for a (Jonathon Porritt) 'oldie', like me. Not all the old faces were there - some passed on, moved or just absent, but none the less very much appreciated, as was Judy, Rob and Dan's (mostly Judy's) 'turnout' of old Newsletters, articles and photographs, and more photos, of Bromley FOE's past campaigns, successes & social events.

According to a Newsletter of 1989, the editor of the Kentish Times did a talk explaining how to present yourselves as a small group, to 'save the environment'. Dan added an 8 page talk and workshop on public speaking, designing a poster and leaflets for local libraries, enabling us to speak in schools.

There had been quiz evenings, and a Green Consumerism presentation at FOE National Conference. Eventually, various campaigns about air quality, and a "Don't Choke Bromley" day in the High St. (2006) led to the Council and Councillor Duncan Phillips striking a relationship with the group ....

A great success before the idea had really taken off, was for us to recycle cans at Locksbottom (Farnborough Hospital Car Park), monthly, in 1989, using a homemade can-crusher but quickly replaced by loaning a larger version as the public became more enthusiastic. 20 tons of steel and 8 tons of aluminium was collected in a 426 metre long 'stream of cans' and our 'Can Cake' was reported in the press. It was sold and a cheque was given to the hospital for use of their car park.

In 1992, National FOE had a "don't throw it away" scheme and in 1993 Karl helped our group in a "no packaging" campaign. Rob became a recycling campaigner with Simon Grant who sadly died, and FOE organised a sponsored walk and raised money for a tree in High Elms, and a needed compost bin at Yalding organic gardens in his memory.

There was pressure on the Council to sign a "green" charter and the group was invited to attend a monthly meeting, Agenda 21, and eventually an Urban District Planning document was discussed and formed.

FOE's social outings included visits to Corris in Wales where CAT were experimenting with alternative power, Yalding Organic Gardens, a barn dance, and many fete stalls and High St. stalls; the CUE building at the Horniman museum.

Many campaigns educated the public - before the days of Facebook - like Stop the Desecration of the Rainforest, the Third World Debt, careless use of pesticides etc. We brought to light the misuse of certain hardwoods which caused some furore.

An inflatable chainsaw was brought to the Library gardens as was a digger to Hayes common to make our point when they wanted to put in a new road scheme there and that got as far as television news.

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## High Elms Orchid Bank – Tamara Galloway

I really enjoyed my visit to the High Elms Orchid Bank, back in June, with some of the Bromley park rangers. The High Elms Orchid Bank is a chalk grassland bank, which is a very important resource for biodiversity.

The Common Spotted Orchids there were certainly very common! They were pink with dark purple spots, and some of them were fairly large. There were a few Tweyblade Orchids, green with their characteristic “Twey” (two) leaves at the base.

There was a very rare Man Orchid, a tall green spike, called a Man Orchid because behind each little green flower is a tiny set of arms and legs.

Mixed with the orchids were Oxeye Daisies and dark purple Milkwort.

I asked why it was called Milkwort, since it was dark purple. I was told that “wort” in a plant name means it has curative properties. (I found out later that this is often, but not always, true. According to the Naturalist Newsletter, “wort” comes from Old English “wyr”, which just meant “plant”. It’s related to the word “root”).

There were a few Fly Orchids, which looked like a burgundy fly had settled on them. There were even some Bee Orchids, appearing to be pollinated by a burgundy bee. We had to pick our way carefully through the field in order not to step on any of the orchids.

Finally, there was a Butterfly Orchid, looking like it was covered with little white butterflies.

## August meeting report, *continued*

A well attended walk & demo gathered at Oxleas Wood, when that part of Shooters Hill would have been demolished if a certain Thames river crossing had been made. Through public awareness, Bromley FOE helped put pressure on the powers that be to give us a safer world in the future for the young generations, even though it seems we still have to fight today, environmentally, to keep our lovely world.

Our group must be pleased with its successes. Joining in the Newbury bypass protest (showing the government hopefully, that it’s no use covering our island with concrete), checking the likes of Esso, Shell & Tesco when they

fall out of line, Slowing down the use of peat (the National Trust being one of the first to curb its use) as it won’t last forever.

Backing the use of low energy light bulbs, unleaded petrol, and careless use of pesticides in our everyday food. (Diana & friends certainly made the supermarkets take note).

We saved the Holwood estate from being built on at Keston, saved Blackbush Shaw for the Woodland Trust at Cudham, enjoyed a very successful 'Bike to the Future' rides in Bromley Carnivals, promoted the now common waste recycling & thoroughly enjoyed dressing up in gorilla suits etc.

## **Bore Place – Its Wind Turbine** (*Annette Rose*) and **Visit** (*Ann Garrett*)

### **The Wind Turbine at Bore Place – Annette Rose writes:**

Several of us went along to the Bore Place open day. It was a very interesting day and my first visit there. I was impressed by the range of facilities, the impressive organic gardens and the educational work that takes place.

There was an opportunity to go on several guided tours with different themes. One of the tours I went on was to view the wind turbine. Our guide walked us through the farmyards to the site of the turbine. It is a small one and they would have really liked to get a larger one but they were unable to get the planning permissions needed. There were also some objections from a nearby tennis club who didn't want to be able to see the turbine from the courts.

So although the output of electricity is small, it is serving an important educational use and school parties often visit to learn about renewable energy.

### **Some facts and figures**

It was commissioned in 2012. It is a twin bladed downwind turbine 18m hub height with a 13m diameter blade. The constant speed rotor is 56 rpm. If the winds get too high, it has to automatically shut down to prevent damage from overheating. This happens at 55 mph.

The total cost of the installation was nearly £67,000 with a large part paid for through various grants including lottery funding. Commonwork investment was £7,000. The annual

generation of electricity is estimated at 12,000 kWh. It saves 14 tonnes of CO2 being emitted each year.

### **Wildlife**

I asked if birds ever flew into the blades. This has not been a problem at all. However, sometimes crows and magpies like to pick at the workings and have caused a breakdown a couple of times by pulling out wiring. The turbine has been carefully placed away from the hedgerows to avoid wildlife corridors and bat navigation aids. Cows feed happily in the field around it.

The lifespan of the turbine is 25 plus years. I am sure it will have a very useful educational purpose in that time and will help towards the farms aim of becoming a low carbon emissions site.

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### **Visit to Bore Place – Ann Garrett writes:**

Several of our group supported the Sevenoaks stall on July 12th at Bore Place in North Kent (see Annette's article for details.) My task is to write about the Commonwork organisation which organises events there.

Commonwork was founded in 1976 as a response to a disconnection within individuals, between people and their local and global communities. This leads it said to lack of responsibility to the natural world, its exploitation and to unsustainable living.

As a result Commonwork set out to offer people an opportunity for change

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## Nature Update – Judy Palmer

### **Extract from the Tugmutton Grassland Report from the Tugmutton Friends Group AGM**

*(where our Bee World is)*

Sue Holland thanked everyone for their help in the Grassland area as it is quite difficult to maintain. She stated that it is lovely to have areas of meadow and woodland encouraging wildlife and many varieties of plants. Bluebells were seen in the area for the first time this year.

Brambles and nettles are being cut back to control their growth. The hedge line along the allotments has to be protected from brambles which are cut back every winter. The majority of the wild plant seeds are annuals. There is a need to reduce the number of grass species through weeding.

Sue showed photos of the Cinnabar caterpillar on Ragwort. Although Ragwort is poisonous to grazing animals this is not an issue for the grassland as of course there are no grazing animals there.

However she wants to keep it under control and the caterpillar helps with this by eating the Ragwort. Sue also showed photos of the Cinnabar moth which, as it is a daytime moth, can be seen in the grassland area.

Sue stated that Pipistrelle bats can be seen in the area. She hopes to be able to do a bat walk in due course. There are lots of insects, butterflies and bees to be seen, the latter aided by the four hives on the allotments which are doing well.

### **Defending Nature's Laws**

To recap on the recent EU action request: in July Friends of the Earth had an on-line action request in the UK and Europe asking people to respond to the EU consultation on defending Europe's Natures Laws which ended on 24 July.

These laws are under threat as governments wish to weaken them as they are seen as a block to economic progress and business 'needs'. The campaign team were hoping half a million people would sign – and the total was over that – 520,325, so many thanks to all who responded to reach this great figure!

This digital tool was very effective working across countries and other partners to tell the EU that people do care about nature, and there will be more follow up work planned for this year and into next.

*(Admin request – please contact Judy (see back pages) if you wish to be included in the campaign email updates which are sent out.)*

### **Save our Waters**

This is a new branch of nature campaigning. Friends of the Earth are part of a coalition of 16 organisations working as 'Blueprint for Water' ([blueprintforwater.org.uk](http://blueprintforwater.org.uk)) who are striving to 'Save our Waters' – rivers, lakes and streams in particular, because:

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## Nature Update – *continued*

- The Government is working on the river basin management plans this year and we need to show them that work is urgently needed to achieve the Water Framework Directive objectives.
- In the UK just 21% of surface water bodies are considered to be in good ecological health. This equates to 17% of rivers, 23% of lakes, 18% of estuarine water bodies and 52% of coastal waters.
- Less than 1% of the UK's entire river length and only a small proportion of wetlands are formally protected.

### **Lush Charity Pot weekend**

What a friendly bunch of people the staff of Lush Bromley are! Our group was lucky enough to be the nominated charity to receive the proceeds of sales (minus VAT) of their Charity Pot (a tub of moisturiser) over the weekend of 15/16 August.

Judy, Ray and Annette were in store at times over the weekend to join in the fun. The staff all wore Bee Cause T-shirts and some of them wore the wings and antennae head bands which Friends of the Earth had loaned for the occasion. There were copies of bee booklets and information on how to create Bee 'n' Bees for customers to take with them.

The Lush staff posted photos of the event on their Instagram feed for those of you with access and we have pictures on our Facebook page too. The staff we chatted to are all very environmentally aware and the company has a strong environmental

ethos. We hope to have a staff member from Lush along to speak to us at a monthly meeting soon which should be interesting.

One thing the Bromley Lush store does is to donate any paper/card packaging they have to the Green Gym group at Bromley North who created the fabulous bug hotel, which we have featured before in the newsletter – the bees and other pollinators love the aroma which comes from the packaging apparently! It is collected weekly, and is a great example of product re-use.

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### **Visit to Bore Place, *continued***

by organising events and workshops for many groups as well as individuals. Their work covered social, economic, political and environmental dimensions, and still continues to do so today. There were early links with the anti-Apartheid and ecology movements.

It now offers educational visits, global and sustainable learning resources, professional development for teachers and health practitioners, and vocational placements for young people.

Bore Place is certainly very inspirational with its historic house, organic dairy farm, residential conference centre, gardens and woodlands

## MARINET - Conserving the Great Blue

**John Bassendine, Marinet & FoE activist, writes:**

"The Great Blue" is the oceans of the world. "Conserving the Great Blue" is a Marinet campaign, as set out in the first paragraph of the article. It relates to the purpose of the oceans in the natural order.

"Marinet" is a marine campaign organisation recently spun off from Friends of the Earth, dedicated to campaigning on a wide range of marine issues, as set out on its website - [www.marinet.org.uk](http://www.marinet.org.uk)

Presently the default position is that oceans are treated as an indefinite exploitable resource, and a dumping ground for waste, e.g. plastics and sewage, except for a few marine reserves where exploitation is limited. The aim of the Marinet campaign is to get the UN Law of the Sea re-written so that it incorporates a paradigm shift – to make conservation, and no longer exploitation, the default position for the management of the oceans.

Effectively, all the ocean is then a marine reserve, and all human activity licensed within that context. This requires reformulation of the basic legal principle underlying the UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and a UN administrative and enforcement capability to deliver it.

This is the proposition that Marinet have put to all the smaller coastal nations of the world, and other significant coastal nations (e.g. in Europe). This has involved contacting their London or Paris Embassies.

The response has been thin, and we have not had an invitation from any of them to discuss it further. Our assessment of this response is that it is not worth investing further in this tactic at present. It involves considerable time and some expense to go and see these people, and we only want to get involved if there is a clear opportunity.

We are now considering how to move forward strategically. Key is raising profile. One opportunity is the European Community Initiative (ECI) established by EU government where the EU has created an opportunity for citizens who can collect 1 million signatures on a subject or proposal to have that proposal debated by the European Parliament with an additional response from the EU Commission.

The advantage of the ECI is that it gives the subject political and public profile. To deliver this for ourselves, we would need to research ECI thoroughly, to have a Member giving clear direction to the project, and that Member would need to secure the support of the other NGOs so that they brought their membership on side to deliver 1 million signatures.

Another approach is the recent announcement by the UN that they are prepared to consider a proposal to create a UN Treaty that would protect biodiversity in the high seas (e.g. talks about talks, at the moment), see <http://www.marinet.org.uk/un-considers-a-treaty-to-protect-biodiversity-on-the-high-seas.html> We are looking into this to try to establish who are the prime movers.

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## Airport expansion – Please act now – Ray Watson

Bromley Council is entering a crucial period of decision-making over the future of Biggin Hill Airport – and it is crucial too for residents who have opposed expansion of the airport for a dozen years or more. And that means your help is needed.

Earlier this year, after a suspiciously one-sided consultation exercise, councillors voted in favour of allowing longer operating hours in principle, leaving exact details to be decided following the council's executive group holding discussions with the airport management. The result of those negotiations may be announced on September 9, the executive group's next meeting, or in October.

However, before decisions are made, now is the time for Bromley residents to let councillors know that they oppose expanding the airport. Here is how you can help – and please do not leave it to others.

Letters are better than emails. Either should be addressed to Doug Patterson, Chief Executive Officer, email [doug.patterson@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:doug.patterson@bromley.gov.uk) with a copy to Jo Johnson, MP, [jo.johnson.MP@parliament.uk](mailto:jo.johnson.MP@parliament.uk) or post to London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH.

Using your own words is important. Messages need not be long, but here are some topics you might like to mention:

\*\* increase in noise and air pollution – some planes maybe quieter but there will be larger aircraft too.

\*\* proposals at present would permit a 27 per cent increase in operating hours.

\*\* the airport would operate from early in the morning to late at night.

\*\* concern over further Green Belt land usage – the airport's management recently bought a farm adjoining the airport.

\*\* safety considerations – air accidents have occurred at or close to the airport.

\*\* additional traffic on already busy local roads

Now is the time to act. Please send your email or letter ASAP.

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### **MARINET – Conserving the Great Blue, *continued***

Deborah Wright, the author of our booklet, is currently talking to publishers about an expanded version of *Conserving the Great Blue*. The existing version is available on our website - [www.marinet.org.uk](http://www.marinet.org.uk)

Conserving the Great Blue and its principles are at the centre of Marinet's work at the present time. They clearly identify and represent the values and objectives towards which we are working.

We continue to need the support of our Members, both financially and practically. Membership is only £1 - Bromley FoE and Sevenoaks FoE are members. Individual memberships are also welcome and enable Marinet to keep members informed on marine issues.

## Bob Neill MP on Food waste sent to landfill

Ann Garrett wrote with her concerns to her MP Bob Neill (Bromley and Chislehurst) last June requesting information on the government's strategies for dealing with the vast amount of food which is wasted to landfill. Here is his reply.

Thank you for contacting me about food waste.

Preventing food waste is an objective the Government is working on, together with WRAP, food retailers and industry. I am pleased that Parliament had the opportunity to discuss the issue recently in a Westminster Hall debate.

My Ministerial colleagues have backed several rounds of the Courtauld Commitment, a voluntary agreement to limit waste, which 90 per cent of the food manufacturing and retailer sector have signed. As a result, domestic household food waste has already been reduced by 21 per cent, and food waste in the supply chain has reduced by 8 per cent. The process has also

seen the amount of redistributed surplus food double between 2011 and 2013.

Separately, a voluntary agreement within the hospitality and food services industry was launched in 2012. Over 170 signatories and supporters have signed up to an ambitious set of targets both to reduce the amount of food waste they produce, and to manage surplus better by recycling and sending food for anaerobic digestion to produce energy.

The Government also continues to work closely with the food industry to help retailers forge closer links with redistribution charities across the whole supply chain.

Like you I was interested to hear about the new French policy of requiring supermarkets to donate food that would otherwise go to waste to charity. While I am not aware of any current plans to replicate it in this country I will be monitoring the situation as it develops.

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### **Unwanted village residents find a new home – Peter Gandolfi**

Following on from the article a couple of months ago on how to make a home for Bumble bees, and knowing how Bee friendly Bromley FoE members are, there is another way – Put up a bird box!

A Chelsfield village resident recently found that a bird box in their garden had gained some unusual residents, in this case, tree bumble bees.

The bird box was on the side of a shed, at head height, with their flight path crossing a garden. The bees sometimes objecting to people getting in their way, they had to go.

The problem was where to, as they had to be moved further than their usual foraging distance, to avoid them recognising landmarks and finding their way back to their old home, which of course was not now there.

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## Closed Loop recycling rises again – Peter Gandolfi

You may remember some time ago that Bromley FoE organised a visit to the Closed Loop Recycling plant at Dagenham, the only plant at the time in the UK that recycled HDPE plastic used in milk bottles, back to the food grade plastic to make into more milk bottles. This was a most interesting visit and showed the possibilities of full recycling. The capacity of the plant was expanded recently to handle 55,000 tonnes of plastic bottles.

The firm has recently been having problems, due to the drop in the global price of oil – which had led to a fall in the price paid for recycled polymers, making recycled plastic more expensive than that of the virgin polymer.

The company has been involved in talks with dairies and retailers, seeking assurances that they would not turn away from commitments to source recycled polymers. A climb in the value of oil recently has offered some hope,

although it was too late to prevent Closed Loop from entering administration. Closed Loop Recycling has now been acquired by Dubai-based investment firm Euro Capital.

Managing Director Chris Dow, said: “We are delighted that Euro Cap has come on board. The number one priority for us and our investors is to continue to support the Dairy Road Map in the UK. In the last eight weeks, the industry has shown real commitment to recycled HDPE content. This deal offers the potential for the supply chain to meet this obligation of 30% recycled content, but this will only happen if the retailers enforce this through the whole of the supply chain.”

As part of the sale, Closed Loop Recycling has been renamed Euro Closed Loop Recycling. All 120 jobs at the plant are set to remain. Euro Capital has pledged an ongoing investment program to support the business.

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### Unwanted village residents find a new home, *continued*

A foster home was offered by a long time FoE member in Petts Wood, and one evening once they had all gone in, their entrance was covered with mesh and the box carefully taken down, and in the morning moved to their new home, above head height on a tree and away from any trouble.

Tree bumble bees, (*Bombus hypnorum*) first arrived from the continent about 13 years ago. They have now spread throughout England,

Wales and as far as southern Scotland.

Unusually for a bee, they nest in tree hollows and find bird boxes very suitable. The British habit of putting up nest boxes for birds has led to a population explosion of the tree bumblebee.

The bee has been widely welcomed in Britain because native bees, including honeybees, have been in decline and there are serious concerns about lack  
*/concluded on page 13*

### **Fracking**

According to a government survey published on August 5th, support for fracking has fallen. Only one fifth of people now back it - the lowest level of support since the quarterly public attitude survey by the Department of Energy and Climate Change first quizzed people on the issue in December 2011.

Overall, 28% of people are opposed to fracking, with 46% expressing no opinion either way. Opposition was higher among people who said they knew about fracking, with 54 % of those who are well informed about the process opposing it, compared to 32% backing it.

Greenpeace head of energy has said : " the government's own survey shows ministers' priorities on energy are at the polar opposite of what the British public wants"

### **Greenland's Ice Sheets**

An urgent attempt to study the rate at which Greenland's ice sheets are melting has been launched by NASA. The aim of the six-year project, is to understand how fast the world's warming seas are now eroding the edges of the vast icecaps.

Greenland contains large reservoirs of ice, which if melted would raise the world sea levels by more than 6 metres.

The project will include a four year programme involving the release of more than 200 robot probes from NASA's specialist fleet. These will measure sea water temperature and depth in the area in detail.

The results will contribute vital information towards knowledge on climate change progression.

### **Nuclear Power - Fukushima**

It is now 4 years since the triple meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. 120,000 people remain evacuees. The Japanese government has just announced that they will stop paying compensation in 2017 to those evacuated from contaminated zones with up to 50 millieverts per year of radiation, putting enormous pressure on them to return.

As well as people suffering radiation sickness, wild life has been severely affected. A study of goshawks by the Goshawk Protection Fund has found that goshawks hatching rate around Fukushima reduced from 90% in 2011 to 67% in 2013.

Meanwhile 92 out of 92 swallow's nests that were tested contained caesium in the mud the birds used to build them . As a result baby swallows in these nests will have received a hefty dose.

Testing for food contamination is happening less often, so the overall percentage figures look much better. This is part of a serious cover-up by the authorities, which is taking place to placate public anxiety.

## Dates for Diaries from FoE's Activism Team

This is just a quick note to ask you to put some key dates in your diaries and to share them with your groups and networks.

We think this autumn could be one of the most vibrant few months of people power we've seen for a while – both at Friends of the Earth and beyond.

**Between 12 and 27 September**, you can take part in The Bee Cause fortnight of action. Invite your MP to a bee-friendly event or activity and help secure a commitment from the Government to step up and protect our bees. As we approach the first anniversary of the National Pollinator Strategy being published there'll be a new pack of campaign materials and top tips on how to get the issue of pesticides on your MP's radar.

**On Saturday 10 October**, we invite you to take part in an international day of climate action. Friends of the Earth will be focussing on fighting fracking and in particular putting national pressure on Barclays who are funding the company that wants to frack in Ryedale, North Yorkshire. But it's also going to be a massive moment for the climate movement more broadly – with demos planned on TTIP, the 3rd runway at Heathrow, at proposed fracking sites, as well as actions around the world happening at the same time. There'll be a whole host of activities you can get involved in all across the country with whichever climate battle is most relevant to you and your area.

**On 28/29 November** there will be climate marches worldwide – including Scotland and Wales on 28 November and London on 29 November. In September last year, nearly 700,000 people all over the world took to the streets in a huge display calling for action on climate change. This year - just before the Paris climate talks start - people will be coming together again to demand action from our leaders.

**And on 11-12 December** we'll be going to Paris to join the global climate movement to say a firm no to fossil fuels, and we hope you can join us. Friends of the Earth Europe are co-ordinating a joint action which we'll be taking part in on the Friday evening - a beacon of hope to help inspire us all as members of the climate movement to build the future we need. Accommodation and transport bookings will be opening soon.

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### **Unwanted village residents find a new home, *concluded***

of bees to pollinate crops. The species seems to coexist with other bees and does not appear to compete with them.

They are not normally aggressive but seem particularly averse to vibration so a nest box on a shed or anywhere near machinery can cause problems.

This bee is distinguished from other bumblebees, having a white tail as well as a ginger thorax, and is very pretty. There can be as many as 500 living in a bird box.

## The fracking page – Govt to fast-track fracking ++ Appeal from fracking team

### **FoE - Govt to fast-track fracking through planning system**

Responding to news that the Government is attempting to fast-track fracking applications through the planning system, Friends of the Earth planning adviser Naomi Luhde-Thompson said:

“Bulldozing fracking applications through the planning system, against the wishes of local people and councils, will simply fan the flames of mistrust and opposition.

“Local authorities have been following the rules. These changes are being made because the Government doesn't agree with the democratic decisions councils have been making.

“It's no wonder fracking's unpopular when even the frackers admit that it is unlikely to cut energy prices. It also threatens house prices and the environment of local communities and will cause more climate change.”

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### **Jenny and FoE's fracking team - Ask the Government to respect Lancashire's democratic decision to say no to fracking**

We stood side by side this summer with Pat and Barbara and other people from Lancashire to say no to dangerous fracking.

Over months of decision-making, Lancashire Council looked at the evidence, listened to our concerns and democratically made the decision to say no to fracking in Lancs.

Ask the Government to respect Lancashire's democratic decision to say no to fracking - <http://bit.ly/1LfeRk0>

It is absolutely right that the decision on whether or not to allow fracking - and risk poisoning local water supplies, devastating the local environment and scrambling for dirty fossil fuels our climate can't take - should sit with local people and local councils.

But today's Government announcement means that any councils seen as taking too long on fracking decisions or as being 'problematic' will now have this decision taken away from them. Instead the Government will be able to force fracking on communities across the country.

This is outrageous. If we let the Government overturn Lancashire's democratic decision and force fracking on them, it could open the door for them to force fracking on all of us.

Ask the Government to respect local democracy and not to force fracking on Lancashire - <http://bit.ly/1LfeRk0>

As if this wasn't enough, any minute now we're expecting the Government to open up of huge swathes of the country for fracking with a new licensing round. We need to stop fracking in Lancashire to stop fracking everywhere.

Thank you for standing up for democracy, for Lancashire and for all of us.

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

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Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295  
*email – anncgarrett@yahoo.com*

### Secretary:

vacant

### Treasurer:

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### Press Officer:

Ann Garrett

### Programme Organiser:

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### Outings organisers:

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### Newsletter Editor:

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### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

### Bromley FoE web site:

***www.bromleyfoe.co.uk***

Peter Gandolfi  
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### Admin team:

Judy Palmer: Group emails  
*bromleyfoe@gmail.com*

Rob Clark: Facebook co-ordinator  
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Annette Rose  
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### Fundraising Officer:

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### Campaigns –

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#### Climate and Energy:

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#### Campaigner:

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Ann Garrett

#### Bee Cause

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#### Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,  
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and  
Ray Watson

#### Merchandising:

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#### Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

**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: 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.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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