



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**



*September 2017*

*No. 357*

# ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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## September Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley,*

**Dr Nikki Gammans**

*(Manager) Short-haired Bumblebee Project,  
Bumblebee Conservation Trust*

**The Plight of the Bumblebee**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – 7.30pm**

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER \*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

### Diary dates:

- Aug 28<sup>th</sup> (Mon) **Cudham Village Fete**, Cudham Recreation Ground. Bromley FoE stall, 1pm to 5pm
- Sep 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sat) **Progressive Bromley Film Co-op** "We the people of Ireland" Friends Meeting House, 6 pm shared food, 7pm film (no film during August)
- Sep 6<sup>th</sup> (Tue) **Bromley FoE's September Meeting** – Dr Nikki Gammans from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- Sep 21<sup>st</sup> (Thu) **Peace One Day event**, Bromley Parish Church Rooms, Bromley FoE stall, 7.30pm to 10.00pm
- Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tue) **Bromley FoE's October meeting**
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat) **Clean Air Campaign stall**, Bromley Mall, 2pm to 4pm

### September Meeting – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

#### The Plight of the Bumblebee

A welcome return of Dr Nikki Gammans who will talk about the conservation, decline and importance of our bees; how we can help through gardening and in our countryside; and why Kent is the best county in the UK for rare diversity.

Dr Gammans will also give an update on the short-haired bumblebee reintroduction project (voted runners-up in the 2016 BBC Countryfile wildlife success project of the year)

#### Re-User Item [2]:

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 17<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 - Judy Palmer

Oh my, what a different meeting for us this month! We had a change of venue as the Friends Meeting House shut for refurbishment over the summer holidays and we moved ourselves up to the meeting rooms at Bromley Parish Church (and thank you Ann for arranging this).

It was great to see a good turn-out in spite of the move. A nice room and comfy chairs, a small kitchen annexe so tea and coffee on tap so as to speak, and cake this month (thank you Sheila!) – what more could we wish for?

Well, being a church meeting room, the area was multi-use, so we had a martial arts class one side, and bell ringing practice on the other! The ambient noise wasn't too bad as it happens, but it did mean we had to have the windows shut for most of the evening – speaking over the lovely sound of bells was a little bit of a challenge.

The evening was a Do-It-Ourselves one so it was quite varied. We had two speakers, one of our long serving members and a former group member on a visit, so a big thank-you to Janet Ambrose for sharing with us the down-to-earth humour in her poems (and good luck with the book!) and to Graham Hemington for the enthralling story of an incident in Africa back in the 1950s.

Our Graham helped set up the telecom system in what was then Tanganyika in Africa in 1952, and had some adventures along the way. Once his colleagues had to leave him alone at

the camp site for 2 days when the food and supplies were running low and he had to negotiate with the local tribal chief to hire help to move the camp – how's your Swahili now Graham?!

Anyway, to ensure all the forms for the payment to the helpers were all correct, Graham had to get thumb prints from everyone, in triplicate, with carbon paper and ink. What a mess, I think, sums that up! His colleagues did eventually return to him – 5 days later, bringing him back bacon and eggs for his breakfast.

And yes, he had wildlife encounters along the way, but that is a tale for another day.

As our tea break was in the same room, we had a shout-out quiz at the same time, based on the theme of 'Summer', to get our minds active for the next section of the meeting.

The second half of the evening was a discussion on how to be campaign SMART!

Our Clean Air campaign is just taking off now and Paul, our lead on the campaign, has lots of data compiled – so how can we use this to bring about an objective in the campaign, and which objective are we aiming for?

Judy outlined how the acronym SMART worked – Specifics, Measures of success, being agreeably Achievable, Realistic & relevant in a Timeframe – and asked everyone for their thoughts on Specifics.

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## Report on walk to Camley Street Natural Park – Anne Clark

Another of John and Sue's interesting walks took place on a lovely sunny day and alighting at Kings Cross underground station, after tussling with fancy hats & dressed-up youngsters in town for the Gay Rights celebrations, we crossed the wide concourse (admiring the new station roof) and checked our route on the visitor board, noticing plenty of bicycle pick-up points.

Quick refreshment was had opposite in the carefully restored "German Gymnasium" - now an award winning restaurant - built in 1864 for the first Olympic Games where we admired the beautiful Victorian ironwork upstairs and not only had our drinks and free chocolate, but the waitress kept topping up our glasses with iced water - we must have looked thirsty!

We continued our walk through converted goods areas, old granaries, coal yards and gas holders, over the lovely Regents Canal, round a pavement fountain area where children ran between the different squirts of water (Granary Square).

There was a lovely mix of old and new architecture, with plenty of space at the moment for people to walk their dogs, picnic and a space opposite the visitor centre for outdoor theatre / giant screen where people were sitting watching Wimbledon.

There was a converted coal office, and coal truck rails left in the new pavement area reminding us of the past and gasometers built into flats.

More grass and trees, and then we arrived at an "urbanist" area with organic cafe, bee hives and allotments in skips and turning on to the canal, where barges used to unload but now get hired out for parties etc.

We walked along a temporary pontoon to Camley Street Natural Park (Mayor Livingstone asking for it to be kept as a wildlife 2 acre area where children can dip their nets etc. learning about nature) and where we replenished with an ice cream.

There are plenty of view points along the way with gymnasiums, market places and all sorts of things planned and I only hope that they don't ruin the vast area, filling in with too many tall buildings which will overshadow the green spaces too much.

The Visitor Centre runs guided tours (020 3479 1795) and I was very impressed. Thanks Sue (John was at home unwell that day).

### **August meeting report – continued**

We had lots of suggestions and eventually a target to work to, which will be discussed by the campaigners later. This was then followed up with our usual campaign and news updates and finished with a round of thank yous, and a room to be tidied up, and cups to be washed up.

## Climate, Energy and Transport – Ann Garrett

### **Campaign Stall**

There will be a stall with Bromley Against Fracking in the Mall Precinct, Bromley on Oct 28th from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. We plan to have pollution leaflets as well as information on renewable energies.

### **Climate, Energy and Transport**

#### **US Climate Change Report**

Scientists behind a new report on climate change fear that it will be suppressed by the White House because it contradicts Donald Trump's views on global warming.

The draft paper from 13 US government agencies shows that recent decades have been the warmest for 1,500 years and that the average temperature in the US has risen rapidly since 1980.

In the study, the scientists say the Paris Agreement by almost 200 nations, including Britain, is key to keeping climate change at manageable levels. One of the main findings is that humans are largely to blame for climate change.

The report found that even if humans immediately stopped emitting greenhouse gases, temperatures could rise by 0.3C within the next century. It states that the projected rise is as much as 2C.

Such an increase could result in longer heatwaves, more intense rainstorms and the more rapid disintegration of coral reefs.

### **Arctic Ice**

Climate change may be driving more aggressive polar bears to areas where people live, with lethal consequences. With ice freezing later and thawing earlier, the bears can't stock up on seal meat for as long and move into more populated areas.

Dr Todd Atwood, a wildlife biologist at the US Geographical Survey, and his team looked at 150 years of records and found mainly hungry males, killing 20 people and injuring 63. Polar bear attacks are rarer than black bears, which killed 63 people between 1900 and 2009 in North America alone.

### **Fracking**

The fracking company Cuadrilla are about to start drilling in Lancashire, and the local community will now be subjected to 24 hours of noise 7 days a week. This is a fracking project that local people don't want and have objected to during many months of campaigning.

Before fracking can start the Secretary of State for Energy, Greg Clark must sign Cuadrilla's planning consent application (see FoE website to sign petition opposing this.)

Millions of acres across the country are in danger as a result of possible fracking, when we should be converting to renewable sources much more rigorously. People power has already stalled Cuadrilla in several places, but we need to support communities in keeping up the pressure.

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**Siobhan Gee writes:** I attended Basecamp for the first time this year. My son Sam and husband Hilary went the year before and were keen for the whole family to come as they had had such a great experience.

The arrangements before the camp were really good. We were given a lot of information about all the different travel options and what we would need to take with us. There is the option of a coach from London or coaches from the station in Sheffield to the youth hostel. We opted for the latter as we wanted to visit my new nephew in Sheffield before base camp.

We arrived at Losehill Hall Youth Hostel to find a beautiful setting and a really friendly welcome. We set up our tent and went to explore. We had already been sent the programme and events had already started. Sam had planned a full timetable of activities and my 2 younger children were keen to join in with the kids' programme which was run by very enthusiastic and fun people. Hilary and I had planned to attend a combination of talks, walks and laughter yoga!

The food was plentiful and good, the people were friendly and the evening dancing great fun. The workshops I attended were inspiring and informative and everyone I met was interesting and interested. We all felt like we had had a great time and had new ideas about how to be better Friends of the Earth. I would strongly recommend all FoE supporters to give Basecamp a go! You will pick up new skills, make new friends, learn many things and have fun in the process!

## **Climate, Energy and Transport** *(cont'd)*

### **Clothing with Solar Cells**

According to a Dutch designer Marina Toeters we're wearing clothes that are technically out of date and missing a sustainable trick.

Working with researchers in renewable energy she has developed a Solar Cell jacket that can charge mobile phones. Her designs have evolved so that her garments are embedded with Solar Fibre, a flexible photovoltaic material. The designs are tailored to look great as well as trap sunlight.

### **Electric Cars**

Given the poor state of London's air the proposed ban on diesel and petrol cars from 2040 is to be welcomed. BMW plan a new electric mini and Volvo have pledged that every new model will be offered with electric propulsion from 2019, and motor industry generally has been gearing up for the new changes.

While the motor industry has been working hard for the transition, the crucial electric car charging infrastructure lags far behind. There are concerns that clusters of plugged-in vehicles could see one per cent of the country experiencing unplanned voltage drops. The good news is that electric car batteries will do 120- 130 miles and some go much further.

## Report on Whitehall Fun Day

### **Annette Rose writes:**

We had a good day at Whitehall Recreation Ground at their 'Fun Day' organised by the Friends group. It is held annually for the children finishing school that day. The weather was breezy but fine. The event seemed to be on a smaller scale this time.

Thank you very much to the people who helped with transport and on the stall- Anne C, Ann G, Sheila, Paul, Bill, Steve, Ivy.

We had plenty of customers for our Green quiz in which children were asked to answer 10 questions to find

out how green they were. It was a good opportunity to chat with them about things such as whether they walk to school.

They were rewarded with Save our Bees and Clean Air stickers. For the younger children we had tree collages for them to make.

Overall, there seemed to be fewer people there this year although we had a few interested adults with some who asked for info about our monthly meetings. We got a few Bee Cause cards and Clean Air cards signed too.

### **FoE stall (and members) at the Whitehall Recreation Ground event on July 21st**



## Electric Car Give and Take – Rob Clark

We heard on the news recently that there was a concern about what the impending increase in electric car use would have on the country's electricity supply. There are around 100,000 electric cars on the roads of the UK at present, but this is set to rise substantially over the coming years.

The popularity of this once 'alternative' technology does pose a problem, one that I thought obvious and could see coming some years ago. If everyone had electric cars then how would they be charged when we are struggling to build power stations to supply our current level of consumption.

Introduction of LED lights and more efficient household appliances has cut electricity consumption, but the 'lights out' scenario threat put forward by those in favour of nuclear power stations was fast approaching anyway.

Mostly due to forward thinking and lack of investment in alternative power sources. This was well before any thought of the problem that an increased take up of electric cars posed.

I also read a rather interesting alternative in the newspaper. It spoke of car-to-grid electricity, a method of charging car batteries up during slack periods, but then taking some of that power back into the grid again when the car is idle, in times of electricity peak usage.

This seems to make sense because one of the problems with electrical generation is the fact that you cannot easily store it.

Usually during peak times another part of a power station is fired up to meet the demand and the power is used as it is generated. It cannot be stored anywhere for later use. But, car batteries seem to be an answer, albeit a small part of the answer.

An example of this might be a car which returns home after work at around 6pm in the evening. The battery is only half charged by then and the owner plugs it in to charge it up for the next day. This time of day is normally a peak with people cooking evening meals, lights turned on and TV being watched.

The suggestion is that some of the cars battery power is sucked back into the national grid to help out with this increase in demand. Once the demand is over, late at night, the car starts to charge again ready for the next day.

The suggestion is, that to motivate car owners to donate power back in this way, a payment should be made to them for their cooperation. In the same way that you pay for each unit of electricity you use, the car owner could then be paid for every unit they sell back.

This sounds like a really interesting idea especially if they generate their own electricity from solar panels anyway.

If the car owner lives in a flat or a house with no driveway then alternative scenarios will be designed for them, I'm sure.

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## Miller's Mutterings – June – Chris Miller

We're a bit behind with Miller's Mutterings, so there are two in this edition of the newsletter. Hopefully we'll be back on an even keel in the next couple of months.

Rain, rain wonderful rain. We were so pleased to receive a decent fall of the rain and warmer nights. This has helped our cereals no end as patches of wheat and the grass for hay were starting to die.

Perhaps a little more during the night, which wouldn't upset most people, would be appreciated but we are thankful for whatever we get. The recent sunshine and higher temperatures have helped too.

The frost did burn some of the awns on the barley but hasn't done any lasting damage fortunately. The leaves on some of the Hawthorn trees were burnt by the frost and wind, which is very unusual. Quite a start to the summer!

The picture is of oak apple galls on one of our trees. I have seen them later in the year when they are all brown but never like this all spongy and coloured.

They can be found on oak twigs where the female has laid her eggs in the leaf bud. Inside the gall, there are a number of chambers, each housing a larva, which eats its way out. There is an Oak tree over on the green, which is literally covered in them. Perhaps Steve Fuller knows more about these.

The trials on the spring barley last year have thrown up some interesting results. There were three varieties sown at three different seed rates and had three different amounts of nitrogen applied.

One variety, Irina, showed no difference in yield from any of the three trials of that variety. Planet, on the other hand, showed consistent yield increase from the amount of seed and the amount of fertiliser and Propino did best of all with high seed rate and high fertiliser but still made a malting sample which is what it was all about. Good beer.

You will notice the plants in the footpaths going yellow and dying. This is because Steve recently sprayed the crop in the path off to ensure that they meet statutory requirements as laid down by law. You may remember a couple of years ago we were fined, as they didn't quite measure 1 metre wide.

A few more swallows have arrived together with house martins and it is lovely to hear the swifts screeching overhead too.

*Calm weather in June sets the corn in tune.*

## Of Plastics and Bees – *Judy Palmer*

### **More Watery Plastics news**

There have been a number of news articles this summer about plastic pollution, as more statistics are made available from various studies. Apparently US scientists have calculated the total amount of plastic ever made in the last 65 years or so, which is roughly how long it has been around, at 8.3 billion tonnes.

In fact there is so much plastic now it will eventually show up in fossil records. As the microbeads, fibres and fragments take so long to break down, they will become known as 'technofossils' possibly forming their own layer in the sedimentary rock which is used to chart the history of our planet – what a legacy to leave behind!

Luckily there are people and organisations that do care about our marine pollution – from organisations which travel across many seas gathering data for marine research to try and understand how the plastic is distributed across the oceans, to all the beach clean-up crews and to fishermen who wish to see cleaner seas again.

In fact there are thousands of Spanish fishermen who are working with a clothing company to help turn the plastic they find in the sea, into fabric.

They collect the rubbish from their nets into large bins on board the boats, then deliver the bins to the port and the company, Ecoalf, collect the bins.

The contents are then broken into chips, then pellets which are then eventually spun into thread. What a good way to recycle and re-use!

Up on the Scarborough coast the RSPCA is turning their hand to beach clean ups too. This is because the seal colonies along this stretch of coast are being affected by the rising tide of plastic washed up there. It's a combined effort with the council, the local Sea Life Centre and dozens of volunteers all lending a hand. The poor wild life suffers from a prolonged and painful death ingesting our plastic waste.

### **Bees & Neonics**

the European Commission will be voting in October on whether to extend the current neonicotinoid ban to all crops (at the moment it only covers crops that are attractive to pollinators). And then early next year it is expected that they will vote on whether to make the current ban permanent. Therefore, pressure needs to be applied to ensure that our Minister for the Environment, Michael Gove, understands how much the public desires that he votes for the extension and then make the ban permanent!

I am hoping we will have a poster or two at our September meeting which we as a group can sign, which will then be sent to Mr Gove, in a book of other signed posters, together with thousands of signatures on a national petition asking for a complete ban.

## FoE press release on Bee-harming Pesticides

Government must ban bee-harming pesticides as new research shows risk to bumblebee extinction

The government must act to permanently ban bee-harming pesticides says Friends of the Earth as new research from Royal Holloway University released in August suggests that neonicotinoid pesticides pose a risk of bumblebee extinction.

The research showed that queen bees exposed to neonicotinoid pesticides were 26% less likely to be able to start a new colony.

Friends of the Earth is urging the UK government to back moves in the EU to permanently extend current neonicotinoid restrictions to all crops – and commit to keeping any ban post-Brexit.

Responding to the research, Sandra Bell, Friends of the Earth nature campaigner, said:

“This new study comes hot on the heels of the largest field trials of neonicotinoids showing harm to honey bees and wild bees.

“It also follows new evidence of how these pesticides leak into the environment and turn up in wildflowers posing further risk to bees.

“It is clear that use of these chemicals on any crop poses a risk to bees and other wildlife. The Government has repeatedly said it will follow the science – how much more science does it need before it acts to protect our precious bees?

“Michael Gove must put his support behind a comprehensive ban on neonicotinoid pesticides across the EU and continue the ban in the UK post-Brexit.”

*Did you know that Bumblebees are less able to start colonies when exposed to a common neonicotinoid pesticide, which could lead to collapses in wild bee populations, according to new research ?? More info in the Editors' Notes to this press release.*

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### Electric Car Give and Take – cont'd

Wherever they charge their cars during the day or night power may be sucked back if it is a peak time. Whenever the car is plugged in the grid knows who the owner is anyway so that they can be charged, so it will be easy to make payments back to the right person for 'returned' electricity.

With the first 'reasonably priced' Tesla model 3 being sold at the end of July we should see the start of a sea change in the electric car business.

A new 340 mile range Nissan Leaf is reported to be unveiled in early September normalising these vehicles even more. Technology should take a large step forward and electric cars may well become mainstream earlier than we ever imagined.

Let's see what the next year or two brings us, I will watch with interest.

## Sainsbury's response to Fair Trade issue

24 July 2017 - Thank you for contacting us about our Fairly Traded pilot on tea and the very important issue of how best to support our farmers, growers and their communities across the world.

Firstly, you may be surprised to hear that I'm pleased so many of you have signed this petition. It shows the strength of feeling that exists for businesses to source ethically and sustainably. I also welcome the opportunity to respond and set the record straight.

At Sainsbury's ethical and sustainable sourcing has always been, and remains, at the heart of our business. We believe we have a responsibility to our farmers, their families and communities to provide them with the very best long-term support to build strong and resilient businesses and continuously improve their quality of life.

And we don't just say this. We act on it – day in, day out, by always listening to our farmers to understand their views and concerns and by always seeking to stay ahead of issues and develop new approaches where we believe they will create positive impact.

Major concerns for our farmers today include the increasing impact of climate change on their crops, intensifying global competition, geo-political uncertainty and being disconnected from the end market for their crops. These are severely affecting their businesses and communities and put their quality of life at risk.

In response to these escalating concerns we announced a new pilot project in May, called Fairly Traded, a trial which involves working closely with our tea farmers and their communities in East Africa to see if we can together better address these issues with a new approach – an approach that remains based on the 10 principles of Fair Trade but builds on existing models.

The pilot approach will deliver the same or more financial benefits as those offered under the Fairtrade model, including an absolute guarantee of the minimum price and matched level of social premium for farmers to invest in their businesses and communities – but crucially, it also provides new benefits, such as long-term commitments of up to 3 years as well as access to enhanced data, information and expert support on the ground – tailored to their individual needs.

If you would like to know more about how Fairly Traded works just visit <http://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/disc-over-more/fairly-traded>

But also please allow me to directly address the questions and concerns raised by this petition:

Firstly, we're not making any more money because of this change. The pilot will be cost neutral and, if anything, will cost Sainsbury's more to operate. Our customers will also see no change in the price of tea. However our farmers, their families and communities will see significant extra benefits and support. And that's what truly matters.  
*/continued on next page*

## Sainsbury's response to Fair Trade issue – *continued*

All of our farmers involved in the pilot are wholly supportive. They can see the potential benefits of the combination of increased funding and additional support that our scheme will provide. If you see criticism of the pilot from farmers, I can assure they are not farmers who supply Sainsbury's and as such are not farmers involved in the pilot scheme.

It's also really important to state that we're guaranteeing our farmers exactly the same level of funding as the existing scheme, and we expect to increase this funding further. The way the application process has been described is also misleading. As you would expect the scheme has safeguards in place to ensure that this funding is received by those it is intended for, but it is absolutely our farmers' money for them to invest in their businesses and communities. No funding is being removed – if anything it will increase.

We've also had some questions about the Standards we are working to. These have been co-authored by leading Standards agency, SAI Global, and peer-reviewed by 50 independent experts. Our Standards will be independently audited by NSF International to the highest levels and we will publish the results annually. This goes beyond the requirements of the existing Fairtrade model.

We have been discussing this pilot with the Fairtrade Foundation for over two years and have always sought to collaborate on the development programme. Our door remains open to

our long-standing partner to further discuss working together on the pilot for the best interests of our farmers, their families and communities. We remain the world's biggest retailer of Fairtrade products.

Farmers in the developing world are facing unprecedented challenges. More of the same just isn't enough anymore. As our ambition is to go above and beyond what farmers, their families and communities currently receive, isn't it a positive step to try something new? Our pilot is exactly that, a pilot, and testing a new approach cannot be a bad thing. The work we're doing is based on 10 plus years of experience with our Farm Development Groups in the UK and through our Fair Development Fund work with Comic Relief. I would urge you to wait to see what results we can deliver before making judgments.

One final point, we do not pretend to have all the answers to the complex issues that our farmers and growers are facing. But we do have their full support to launch this trial and test what can be done to provide an even better future for some of the world's poorest communities.

I think it must be recognised that the easy choice by far in these resource constrained times would be for Sainsbury's to maintain the status quo. But, put simply, we don't see more of the same as an option in the face of the escalating challenges facing our farmers and their communities. That's why we've launched our Fairly Traded tea pilot, and that's why we ask to be judged on our results.

## Miller's Mutterings – July – Chris Miller

The crop growth has now caught up with itself and we are on target to start combining the barley by the end of July, all being well and although we need more rain, we don't want it too heavy otherwise it will knock the cereals down. Never satisfied are we. The cold and dry did affect the peas but that rain we had in May has done them the power of good and they have shot away.

You probably have seen the pods if you walk across the field next to Hewitts. Unfortunately the pigeons like them too and had been attacking them. We apologise for the noise of the guns but it was the only way to keep them from eating the pea pods. The pigeons are leaving them alone now and feeding on the barley that has been knocked down by the weather. Hay making will start any day now.

Although the frost did some damage, the crops have recovered but Steve was talking to a fruit farmer recently and he has only 40% of his apples, 20% pears and 15% plums left after the frost hit his orchards. Once that blossom has been damaged that is it.

Our old farm cats have sadly died but we are pleased to rehome some cats from an industrial estate.

The Celia Hammond Trust collect these semi feral cats and then help us establish them on the farm. We have introduced over the past few weeks two cats and hope to have their brothers and sisters by the time you read these notes. Although we feed them, they help keep the vermin under

control and stop the mice eating the twine around the bales. Trying to pick up a bale with broken string isn't fun.

The first batch of swallows has fledged and it is lovely to see them sitting on the telephone wire being fed by their parents. We have had Great Tits, Dunnocks, and Robins with their young in the garden too. A great sight. On the bird side of life, I have order a few new hens but also a new energiser for the electric fence! Hopefully this will do the trick with the fox visitors.

Just maintenance work has taken place over the past month really, as Peter went to Indonesia and proposed to his girlfriend and then Steve and I went to Ireland. When it was very hot, Steve did do some spraying at about 4 in the morning and saw deer running through the crops. There seems to be a lot more around this year.

On the green opposite the farmhouse, the yellow rattle has finished but there are some beautiful pyramidal orchids amongst the ox-eyed daisies. A lovely place to walk and of course you have that amazing view towards London too.

Not many country lore verses for July but of course we all know about 15th July, St. Swithin's Day. I do like this one about summer though:

*Swallows high, staying dry  
Swallows low, wet till  
blow.*

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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, 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.

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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, 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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