



Apr 2022

No 411



**friends  
of the earth  
Bromley**

*Our Next Meeting*

## **Sarah Chant**

Co-ordinator of Environmental Action  
Coney Hall (EACH)

Updating us on what has been achieved and difficulties encountered since she spoke to us in February 2020

The next monthly meeting is on Tuesday 5th April at **7.30pm**. It will be a virtual meeting once again and the Zoom link for this meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89816123741?pwd=NEMybXhFYVh6TFJFS2ZLRDRBcnEydz09>

Meeting ID: 898 1612 3741 Passcode: 348254 or dial 0208 080 6592

*Our usual meetings are at 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

Everyone always welcome

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# **NEWSLETTER**

## April Meeting Participation

If you would like to attend our next Monthly Meeting, let us know either by emailing [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or leaving a message on 020 8289 1503. We will then send you details of how to join in nearer the time (details on cover.) You can either join using your computer or on a smart phone (with video or without). There is usually a phone number to dial in with other types of phone.

*If you can't attend this meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'. Do your own bit of campaigning, maybe inspired by something in our newsletters, and let us know what response you get. Or if any of the items here makes you angry, delight you, enthuse you or cause you any emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it to the newsletter editor (see contact details below.)*

### Diary Dates

**Please note that due to the Coronavirus, many events can no longer take place.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Apr (Tue) Friends of the Earth Bromley Monthly Meeting 7.30pm.** Sarah Chant Co-ordinator Environmental Action Coney Hall (EACH) returns to update us on what has been achieved and difficulties encountered since she spoke to us in February 2020. Please note that we did intend to try having a hybrid meeting this month with a live speaker at the Friends Meeting House and it also being relayed onto Zoom. However, technicalities have delayed this. Fingers crossed for future meetings though.

**28<sup>th</sup> May - 12<sup>th</sup> Jun Great British Spring Clean.** We plan to take part in the Spring Clean this year either individually or in groups.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Jun (Wed) World Refill Day.** Download the 'Refill' app to find your nearest refill shops or look in the newsletter. Support them by getting your containers refilled and reduce plastic use.

**25<sup>th</sup> Jun London Groundswell 2022.** See page 9 for details.

This is all correct when going to press, but may be updated in the next newsletter. If you need further information on any events, you can email us at [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)

**Note that there are several internet links in this newsletter which may be impractical to type into a browser. If you would like access to any of them, then please let us know and we will send you an electronic copy of the newsletter where you can just click on the links.**

## Next Newsletter Copy

Please send all your news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **midnight Friday 15th April.**

**Post:** 17 Everard Avenue, Hayes, Kent BR2 7LR

**Email:** [robert.clark9@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.clark9@btinternet.com) (please write **'Newsletter'** in the subject line)

**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.**

## **March Meeting Report**

Liam Redmond

SPEAKER - Richard Priestley - Environmentalist, writer and activist - 'System Change: What might a sustainable global system look like? Can we reverse the climate and ecological crisis?'

Richard gave an overview of the state of the climate and ecological crisis, structured along the chapters in his upcoming book. There have been five big mass extinctions in the past; will the sixth be due to humans? From 1960 – 2020, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere had risen from 285 parts per million (ppm) to 420 ppm. This level will lead to many deaths. Climate talks such as COP 26 are yet to substantially reverse this trend. The Astronomer Royal, Sir Martin Rees, has stated that this is the first century when one species can change the Earth irreversibly.

### Chapter 1: Changes to everything

This will involve changes to everything: technology, politics and economics, ideas and belief.

Epochal shift: fossil fuel age to solar age.

People may migrate to deserts for solar energy and create new urban settlements.

Individual carbon footprints:

- Abramovich = 33,000 tonnes.
- UK average = range from 5-13 tonnes.
- Global average = 5 tonnes.

A new system of taxation is needed e.g. green taxes on emitters. Economic degrowth? Richard argued he is gnostic on degrowth, along with Kate Raworth.

### Chapter 2: Politics, economics and society

Countries have seen a rise in 'pathological populism' e.g. Putin's invasion of the Ukraine.

A more sustainable model is leadership through networks e.g. a plan towards decentralisation – 39,000 communities of 200,000 persons across the globe, promoting a 'donut of sustainability'.

### Chapter 3: Energy, infrastructure and materials

Waste to be minimised along with a move to a circular economy and 10% renewables.

Richer countries are the highest CO<sub>2</sub> emitters per capita.

UK electricity consumption peaked in 2000 and is now declining. Coal is also being replaced by wind, nuclear, gas and a little solar.

OECD countries have set out plans to reach net zero, with Iceland leading the way.

Future energy:

- Floating wind turbines e.g. off Ireland.
- Growth in solar – even in Antarctica, and large possibilities in deserts.
- Agrovoltatics – solar and food production on the same land.
- Floating solar.

- Co-operative ownership of energy – popular in Germany and Denmark.

Energy storage and interconnection: pumped hydro and batteries are leading the way.

Transportation:

- Cycling minibus popular in Holland.
- Electric planes, ships and vehicles.
- A shift from private to collective ownership.

#### Chapter 4: Food, farming and biodiversity

Global meat production needs to reduce by 80%.

Sustainable farms e.g. set between lines of trees.

Arable crops are not always sustainable – not if air freighted.

Rewilding e.g. Instituto Terra, Knepp estate can create biodiversity.

Landscaping – more food on smaller areas e.g. supermarket roofs.

Direct Air Carbon Capture and Sequestration (DACCS) – least effective way to capture carbon.

#### Chapter 5: Regional geographies

We need a move from 16 unequal countries to 2,000 co-operative communities.

#### Chapter 6: What we can do

50 years of lifestyle choices and lobbying have made little progress.

Green Party Councillors have grown from zero in 1974 to c. 450 in 2021.

There followed questions:

In response to the question *“What role will solar play in transportation?”*

Richard replied : Solar panels cannot transport large numbers of people in vehicles yet. Green hydrogen and batteries are more likely to play a role in aviation. Air transportation will ultimately need to be rationed, in an ecological, socially just society.

Synthetic fuels may also replace hydrocarbons. Global shipping is easier to electrify than aviation – dirty ‘bunker diesel’ can be replaced with batteries or hydrogen. Maersk is replacing its ships with methanol.

*“What can be done to reduce carbon?”*

Richard is strongly in favour of carbon taxes, globally co-ordinated. Investment is needed in home insulation. Income taxes should also be increased on higher earners, and a global limit imposed on wealth and earnings to prevent the creation of trillionaires. Taxes can be combined with a universal basic income (UBI). Artificial intelligence (AI) will make people redundant. In politics, Steve Bannon and Rees-Mogg have argued in favour of poverty and extreme inequality, whilst Farage has consistently sided with despots. AI has the tendency to exacerbate human tendencies. John P. added that non-renewable resources should be taxed.

Richard can be contacted for pre-registration for his book at:

Email: [richardjpriestley@hotmail.com](mailto:richardjpriestley@hotmail.com)

Website: <https://www.richardpriestley.co.uk/>

## Second half report

Several Bromley FoE members held a vigil ahead of the Council Meeting on 28th February, but were not successful in persuading the Council to vote for a 'climate emergency. Ann put on record her thanks to all who attended. The petition to declare a climate emergency was rejected. The New Shopper has reported that Bromley Council has aiming for zero emissions by 2027, however this is misleading as it only refers to their own 1% of emissions. Ann mentioned that Living Streets and XR may take further action against the council.

Sheila talked about the Greener and Cleaner in Bromley and Beyond (GCBB)'s Green Hub opening on 11 March on the first floor of the Glades (by Waterstones) and its Library of Things, where customers can rent items of equipment rather than buying an expensive item which spends most of its time unused, eg power drills. They are also planning a workshop to produce reusable gift bags, and people who sew are invited to join. Volunteers should contact Parisa Wright, GCBB, if they wish to volunteer. Ruth added that the hub is positioned in the Glades to attract those who may not have strong ecological interests. See their press release on page 6.

Sue mentioned a meeting with 40 persons from Fresh Air Bromley, regarding smells and air pollution from the Waldo Road refuse site. See report on page 12.

## System change campaign:

Ruth highlighted that people can still send in comments regarding the Walnuts development in Orpington. Sheila added that Gareth Bacon MP opposes this development. Tamara said that central government continues to exert pressure on local councils to increase housing. If the Areli development is rejected, the Council could be pressurised to allow developments elsewhere including the Green Belt. Other practical locations for housing people include converted shops and offices being, and empty homes in London being utilised. A unique position following the pandemic. The Maplin site development has been rejected, however proposals for the Churchill Quarter and Ethelbert Road are coming.

John mentioned that the Civic Centre has empty offices, and some have been converted to flats. Ruth added that in Beckenham some shops have been converted to flats.

## Nature:

Anne C mentioned that Sevenoaks Wildlife reserve are continuing to improve and modernise the visitor centre.

Diana highlighted that she is looking for places to plant trees, with Well Wood in Coney Hall a possible site. John added that the City of London land may be suitable and suggested contacting their Ranger on Hayes Common. Ann recommended Diana Hurd's presentation on How to Plant Trees is worth considering.

Ruth spoke about the RSPB Bird Watch that took place from 27-29 January, and invited members to report their sightings to her; she will then report in the next newsletter.

#### Walks/outings:

Sue and John are investigating a weekend trip to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth, Wales with possible accommodation at the Corris Youth Hostel, run by former Bromley FoE member Mike Parrish. Rail fare from Bromley South would be £98 per person, journey would take 4-5 hours, with accommodation at £80 per night. Would people be interested in this?

### Refit Your Home

Robert Clark

On 17<sup>th</sup> February I attended a webinar (online seminar) entitled Retrofit in Bromley & Beyond. This was organised by Greener & Cleaner in Bromley & Beyond and had an impressive line-up of speakers.

Hosting the event was South East London Community Energy, an organisation offering advice and services relating to energy efficiency. The webinar was a partnership between GCB and the SELCE programme Future Fit Homes.

Apart from speakers from SELCE Cllr Will Harmer spoke briefly and well as an Orpington resident who has converted his home to a next to net zero carbon abode.

Have a look at the event here if you're interested.

<https://youtu.be/j7y1NMwR9e8>

### Bromley Green Hub Opens!

Press release:

'The Hub' from Greener and Cleaner Coming to Bromley's The Glades

The Hub from Greener and Cleaner, hosting a Library of Things, is coming to The Glades in Bromley. Founded by Greener and Cleaner, a local volunteer-run charity, the community-powered hub will be an exciting and engaging space for people to come and learn more about how they can help protect our environment. The Library of Things will also help Bromley residents to save and reduce waste by affordably renting out useful items like carpet cleaners, sound systems and sewing machines.

Thanks to funding from Bromley Council and support from local charity Greener and Cleaner, Bromley's Library of Things will offer over 30 useful household, DIY



and gardening items for residents to borrow for as little as a few pounds per day. Residents will be able to reserve items online ready to collect from a self-service kiosk in the Hub, at The Glades shopping centre in Bromley, a short walk away from Bromley South Station.

The Glades is at the heart of the Bromley eco-system and is committed to their role in helping Bromley become greener and more biodiverse by being zero to landfill and working towards their long-term goal to be carbon neutral by 2030. In 2019 they made use of a previously disused area to create their Green Roof which received a Green Apple award and won The BIG Biodiversity Challenge in 2021.

Staffed by Greener and Cleaner volunteers, the Hub will also be used to host events, workshops, talks and local meet-ups, encouraging people to share practical skills like DIY and repair with others in the community. The Hub will be a vibrant community space where people can learn new skills, find information and advice, and borrow things to encourage a sharing economy.

Greener and Cleaner was founded by Parisa Wright to facilitate community



engagement and local action in response to the climate crisis. Becoming a charity in 2021, this is their first Green Hub to launch, the organisation hopes it will become a Blueprint for other shopping centres and high streets.







Parisa said:

“We strongly believe that everyone doing one small thing, however imperfectly, is better than no one doing anything, and we want to create a space where everyone feels encouraged and supported

to take a small step towards a greener lifestyle. And we know that receiving information from people who are on the same journey is often more impactful than words from those in power.”

Library of Things was founded by Emma Shaw, Rebecca Trevalyan and Sophia Wyatt in 2016. Inspired by similar projects emerging in cities like Berlin and Toronto, this women-led social enterprise launched its first self-service kiosk in Crystal Palace in 2018.

Library of Things is now open in five locations across London. Over 5,000 people have now borrowed items over 10,000 times, preventing approximately 40 tonnes of items from becoming waste and 88 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Through its partnerships with product manufacturers Bosh, Kärcher and STIHL, councils and community groups, Library of Things is creating an alternative ‘circular economy’ – helping to transform neighbourhoods into low-waste, community-powered hubs.

Emma Shaw said:

“We’ve had lots of interest in Library of Things from Bromley residents and organisations – so we’re excited that they’ll soon be able to borrow quality items like Bosch drills, Kärcher pressure washers and STIHL hedge trimmers for a few pounds per day. This is an important step for Library of Things, as we expand our work to create a community-led circular economy in neighbourhoods across London.”

Keen to support residents in leading more sustainable lifestyles, facilitating area-wide emissions reductions and



addressing climate change, Bromley Council is funding the initial setup costs for the Library of Things, within the Hub.

Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, Executive Councillor for Environment said, "We are very pleased to provide the initial funding for The Library of Things in Bromley and are excited about the impact it could make. For those of us who realistically only use a drill and other household items on rare occasions; it will avoid the expensive need to purchase the item and crucially lessen the environmental impact of unnecessarily manufacturing and transporting them too. Many of the household items which will be available to hire would previously need to be purchased, with the item then taking up much needed space in our homes, deteriorating unused and eventually being thrown away. This wasteful approach to resource use has a detrimental environmental impact and is an approach we are keen to assist residents in moving away from."

*You'll find the Greener and Cleaner Hub, with the Library of Things kiosk inside, at The Glades Shopping Centre with step free access, and ample parking for transporting bulky items.*

## Groundswell 2022

Tickets now live!

Groundswell is our flagship programme of regional events for activists and the theme this year is "From the climate frontlines to climate justice".

In May and June, we'll be holding our in-

person events in Bangor, Birmingham, Bristol, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Peterborough and Pontypridd. You're welcome to join whichever event suits you best, regardless of where you live.

These one-day events will bring you inspiring speakers, along with an introduction to getting involved in Friends of the Earth's new climate campaign. You'll also get the chance to join practical workshops to step up your campaigning and mobilise people from different parts of your community.

By the end of the day, we hope you'll feel energised, and have a deeper understanding of how we can campaign for a safer future for everyone.

We'd love you to join us to help build the movement to win climate justice. Take advantage of our limited offer and book yourself a half price early bird ticket.

We all deserve the right to a healthy environment and a fairer world for future generations. Join us to build a groundswell of action for global climate justice.

Find your nearest event: [https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/groundswell-2022-grassroots-campaigning-event?dm\\_i=78W4,45BC,1GQKID,GOVN,1](https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/groundswell-2022-grassroots-campaigning-event?dm_i=78W4,45BC,1GQKID,GOVN,1)

*The date for the London Groundswell is 25th June.*

## The Big Garden Birdwatch 2022

Ruth Fabricant

This ran from 27-29 January 2022

Thank you to those of you who had the



Picture: Kari Sylvester

### Winter Storms

Storm Eunice batters town and countryside with full force  
like a mighty eagle flapping its titanic wings  
as she crosses the country on her relentless course

She plays game with dustbins, menacingly tears roofs apart,  
uproots trees, overturns lorries, topples pylons to the ground  
The O2 is opened to the sky in sudden shock  
Foamed-filled waves pound promenades with thundering sound

An hour of explosive punishment, then Eunice passes on to other lands  
More gentle winds follow her, sounds of sirens fill the air  
An eerie silence follows, the land is shredded like ribbon strands

Ignore more unnerving evidence of climate change,  
then many Eunices will batter for years to come  
Storm Franklin isn't far behind

Act before it is too late and Eunices will lose their power  
Then ours and other lands with great relief will flower

Ann Garrett [ Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 ]

time and interest to participate in this year's Birdwatch and share your results with fellow members of Bromley Friends of the Earth. The aim is to compare birds observed across the borough.

ANN CLARK lives in the Elmstead Lane area of Chislehurst.

Ann commented "I saw more birds this year as opposed to last, when neighbour's food must have been tastier than mine! Ann noticed 3 Starlings, 2 Great Tits, 2 Coal Tits, 2 Long Tailed Tits, 2 Crows, 1 Magpie, 4 Wood Pigeons, 5 Feral Pigeons, 2 Rock Doves, 1 Greater Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Blackbirds, 1 Robin, 8 Sparrows, 2 Dunnocks, 2 Parakeets. "Not bad for my hour this year, I must say", remarked Ann. Having visited Ann's amazing garden, I am not surprised! Ann also saw a red Admiral butterfly, early on, which she thinks must have just come out of hibernation. The first butterfly Ann usually sees is a yellow Brimstone butterfly flitting over her garden in spring.

ANNETTE ROSE lives in Petts Wood. Annette observed birds in her garden for an hour on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Annette noticed 1 Great Tit, 1 Blue Tit, 1 Robin, 1 Magpie.

SUE BOCOCK lives in the Bromley Town area and observed 1 Robin, 1 Blue Tit and several Wood Pigeons. Sue has an elderly but still agile cat and feels this has deterred birds from her garden. For this reason, Sue and John do not encourage birds into their garden with bird seed.

RUTH FABRICANT – I live in the Beckenham/Shortlands area and was

able to keep part of the weekend free for bird watching, which was relaxing and enjoyable. For this special weekend I put out extra bird seed, peanuts and fat balls, which I also do during bad weather. I have two cats, which only go outside when I am at home, and 'the hunter' wears a soft collar with loud bell when he is outside! I am listing birds I observed during one hour: -

1 male Blackbird, 1 Robin who visits daily, 1 Great Tit, 3 Long Tailed Tits, 3 Parakeets, 1 Magpie, 1 Dunnock which is another daily visitor, 1 Wood Pigeon, and 1 Jay which started to visit daily due to extra bird food I put out. During the Bird Watching Weekend, I saw 3 Robins together on a neighbour's bush.

I have not seen the Greater Spotted Woodpecker for some months, possibly due to a neighbour's tree being cut down. I still have its legacy of a large circular hole drilled in the trunk of my damson tree!

Squirrels visit regularly, and a fox every evening and sometimes during the day. I saw a Bumble Bee during the warm spell in February, and three Bumble Bees together this morning, 11<sup>th</sup> March. Three days ago I was delighted to see blossom on the top branches of my damson tree, which was recently declared dead by my regular tree surgeons! My 2 year old grandson has enjoyed touching the soft furry buds of our magnolia tree which is now starting to flower.

Can we alert friends, family and neighbours that it is an offence to disturb nesting birds; tree surgeons are obliged and prepared to postpone a job if a live nest is seen in a tree to be

lopped. Two years ago, I checked procedure and you was told that anyone disturbing nesting birds can be reported directly to the police, and do not have to go through the RSPB.

Has anyone seen badgers? I have heard they have been seen in the West Wickham and Hayes area. It is an offence to block the entrance to the lairs of foxes or the dens of badgers, if there are cubs.

Happy bird and wildlife watching to you all for the rest of the year!

## **Waldo Road Air Quality**

Sue Bocock

John and I attended a meeting in the parish church on Friday 4th. February. It had been organised by the Lib Dems and Fresh Air Bromley. The latter is a community group set up to monitor pollution levels in the borough of Bromley. Forty residents attended and many issues were raised. The Civic Amenity Site (Waldo Road) had become increasingly smelly, despite the fact that actual tonnage had been reduced. Some residents couldn't open their windows or allow their children to play in their gardens.

Julie Ireland (Bromley Town campaigner for Lib Dem's) felt that something had changed in the site management. More transparency was needed from. Veolia.

Beckenham campaigner, for the Lib Dems -Chloe-Jane Ross, also a member of Fresh Air Bromley called for more action to monitor and act on air quality. Fresh Air Bromley have their own network of 16 air quality monitors in addition to Bromley Council's single site.

These monitors show whether WHO guide. lines are being exceeded or not. Every hospital, medical facility, and care home is located in an area with particulate and nitrogen dioxide pollution.

We need to reduce pollution and we need to make walking and cycling safer across the borough.

## **IPPC Climate Change Report**

FoE's key points re the latest IPCC Report on climate change key messages to communicate

1. The world is facing devastating and cascading risks from a worsening climate crisis. Climate impacts have appeared earlier, are more widespread, and have worse consequences than the IPCC has previously predicted. Climate risks are appearing faster since the last assessment report, and will get more severe, sooner than previously thought.
2. The climate crisis is already here. This isn't a future problem, this is a now problem. Millions of people are already facing the dramatic and destructive consequences of a warming world and today's report is a reality check that it's going to get much worse unless we take urgent action to cut emissions. We have already seen some extreme climate events and conditions not projected to take place until 2100. Storms like Dudley, Eunice and Franklin are set to become the new normal for communities across the UK.
3. The solutions to the climate crisis

Picture from Kari Sylvester. Beautiful sunshine this morning in Churchill Gardens - usual group - 5x Magpie siblings in background below the Egyptian geese on a rail.



already exist. This report is devastating to read, but it also tells us that realistic solutions already exist if we act now. We must urgently stop using fossil fuels and move to renewable energy. People here in the UK have been hit particularly hard by the gas price crisis because of our over-reliance on gas. We need a rapid move to cheap renewable energy to cut emissions, create green jobs and kick our expensive reliance on gas.

4. The UK must pay its fair share to support countries already suffering from the impacts of climate change. Some of the consequence of climate change to lives, livelihoods, biodiversity and infrastructure are already locked in and cannot be avoided. Under the Paris Agreement

the countries most responsible for the terrible impacts outlined in today's report have an obligation to help others deal with them through support and finance. The communities already paying the highest price of climate breakdown are those who contribute least to climate breakdown. Countries like the UK and US must pay their fair share of finance and provide support to help more vulnerable countries weather this storm.

The full IPCC Climate Change Report 2022 can be seen here: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/28/what-is-the-ipcc-climate-change-report-and-what-will-it-say>

## **Campaigns**

FoE campaigns break down as of 26.1.22. These lists are likely to change over the coming months.

### **Climate**

Divestment  
Airport expansion  
Green jobs

### **Nature**

Save our bees  
Double tree cover  
Mass extinction

### **System Change**

Trade  
Planning & environmental law  
Anti racism

### **Consumption**

Plastics  
Fishing & the environment  
Food & the environment

## ***Climate***

### **Energy**

#### **Windfarms and Fracking News**

Some good news—The Energy Secretary has approved a wind farm development off the North Norfolk coast, ruling that the need for renewable energy outweighs concerns about the effect on the landscape and other visual issues, raised by some objectors.

The wind farm will have up to a 158 turbines, and the project will generate enormous economic benefits for East Anglia, creating high quality jobs in the off-shore wind industry. This and the Norfolk Boreas off-shore wind farm which was given planning permission last December, will produce enough electricity annually to power the equivalent of 3.9 million

new homes.

Other good news is that the UK's only two shale gas wells are to be abandoned, ending more than a decade of controversy over fracking in this country. Energy company Quadrilla said that the UK Government's Oil and Gas Authority had ordered the two horizontal shale wells at the Preston New Road site, Lancashire [ where brave residents have led a long protest] to be plugged and abandoned. Environmental campaigners have called for investment in 'better greener homes' to cut emissions and energy bills.

Friends of the Earth, including our local Bromley group, have played their part in the anti-fracking campaign along with Bromley Against Fracking.

I have just heard while writing this that Boris Johnson may think of re-starting fracking due to the energy crisis created by the war in Ukraine.

Ann Garrett

### **Transport**

#### **Superyacht Emissions**

The rising fortunes of the world's billionaires during the pandemic helped fuel a record £5.3 billion in superyacht sales last year, prompting calls for new curbs on their emissions.

New figures reveal that 887 superyachts were sold in in 2021, an increase of more than 75% compared with the previous year. There are now more than 9,300 of them on the seas, worth a total in excess of £50 bn.

While maritime construction yards are keen to promote the green credentials



of many superyachts, they are major polluters. It has been estimated a superyacht with permanent crew, helicopter pad, submarines and pools emits about 7,020 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, more than 1,500 times higher than a typical family car.

The Social Sciences department of Northumbria University in a report entitled Measuring the Impact of the Wealthy, say that more financial levies are needed on the industry, as 'the damage of the superyacht is not something we should aspire to, it's something we should stop'.

Ann Garrett

### **Electric Buses**

Good news from TfL about the first electric buses in Bromley.

Bromley now has its first fully electric buses in operation. Route 160 which passes through Chislehurst between Catford and Sidcup, is now fully operated with electric double deck buses, helping to reduce tailpipe emissions. In addition, route 119 from Croydon to Bromley will begin operating with over 80 per cent of its fleet as fully electric double deckers when it begins operating on its new contract in August this year. We are also continuing to develop our plans to trial opportunity charging technology on route 358 and hope to be able to introduce new vehicles as part of this, early in 2023.

### **'Possible' Report on Transport**

Possible is a UK based climate charity working towards a zero carbon society, built by and for the people of the UK. Our A Free Ride campaign aims to

protect access to reasonable levels of flying for the less well-off, whilst maintaining aviation emissions within safe limits for the climate.

This is a report which talks of how we can reduce flights without negative impacts, and crucially create more jobs.

See the report at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d30896202a18c0001b49180/t/61fab1fc6d428a739662a7c0/1643819535463/The+Right+Track+for+Green+Jobs.pdf>

## **Consumption**

### **Treaty on Plastic Pollution**

Some good news! Nearly 200 countries have agreed to start negotiations on an international agreement to tackle the plastics crisis. The plan is that plastics will have its own binding treaty alongside actions on climate change. The decision was made at a meeting of the UN Environment assembly in Nairobi. World leaders have until 2024 to agree on the plastic pollution treaty which will include elements that are legally binding. The UK government has supported the resolution describing the agreement as 'truly historic'.

Annette Rose

### **Food Waste Action Week**

There has been some good publicity around this issue from WRAP and from the supermarkets. The WRAP campaign has focused on the good use of freezers as a pause button to give consumers more time to eat the food they have bought. They have also focused on explaining the links between food waste



and climate change.

Here are my 3 food waste resolutions for 2022.

1. Monitor my fruit bowl better to make sure fruit isn't allowed to become over ripe. Refrigerate some and take out to put in the bowl as needed.

2. Plan what I will cook ahead so I know what food will be eaten next and checking the use by dates.

3. Put tinned food with the shortest best before dates near the front of the store cupboard and use these first.

Here are the 3 resolutions of a friend.

1. Keep milk in order in the fridge door in order of freshness.

2. Carefully measure quantities needed to be cooked so that waste is reduced. For example, measure out the amount of dried pasta.

3. Don't over buy amounts of fresh food so that it all gets eaten.

Annette Rose

### **The 'Ocean Clean Up System'**

Another good news story. This non-profit organisation is doing an amazing job clearing the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which you may have heard of. More than 17 million people have watched the video. Do have a look on You Tube to see it in action!

Annette Rose.

## ***Climate***

### **Impact of Ukraine War - Spring is Early - Cliffs are Crumbling**

The horrific war in Ukraine, will have a severe impact on the climate, in terms of pollution, the threat to nuclear power stations and energy supplies and the refugee crisis. While writing this, over 3 million refugees have left the country and this will increase. Pollution from rocket and missile attacks fills the air and infiltrates the soil with dangerous chemicals.

The long term effects, as with all wars, will have a detrimental environmental impact in many ways for years to come.

Wildlife experts and gardeners are reporting a series of highly unusual early sightings of flora, fauna, insects and birds, some of them weeks before they would normally appear, in a further sign that rising global temperatures are having a significant impact. There is no doubt that these shifting behavioural patterns are due to climate change.

Other evidence is the threat of coastal erosion. In Winterton on Sea in Norfolk, the Dunes café, a favourite with residents and visitors, was demolished a year ago to prevent its collapse as a result of land lost to sea and storms. This is typical of the disappearance of buildings taking place all along the UK's Eastern coast, but particularly in East Anglia due to its protrusion into the North Sea.

A 2020 report by the Committee on Climate Change, has found that 1.2 million homes are at significant risk of flooding, and a further 100,000



Many thanks to all who supported and went to the Council meeting.

A brief report of this is in the monthly meeting report on page 5.

thousand subject to coastal erosion by 2080.

Ann Garrett

## **Nature**

### **Trees In Biggin Hill**

A BFoE member, Vicki Fricker, has highlighted a series of tree clearances in the Biggin Hill area. Here is a letter I sent to the council as a result.

#### **MY RESPONSE TO BLB PLANNING APPLICATION COMMENTS AND ALSO SENT TO TREE TEAM**

The site notice for this application was brought to my attention by a local resident who was alarmed to see that trees preserved by TPOs could still be cut down.

I would like to know how such an application could be agreed in light of the Council's Tree Strategy which states that '...the Council recognises its privileged position as a custodian of this vital resource [woodland] and will seek

to ensure its protection'. While I am happy to see new trees being planted and to hear that there will be a 3 year programme to protect and water them, I feel it is vital that work is done to protect mature trees as they provide so many benefits to humans, wildlife and the planet combined. New trees are the future, but mature trees sequester much more carbon, and shelter for wildlife etc.

If branches have come down recently, it is due to the increasingly severe storms associated with climate change; and we all need to do our bit to mitigate this. One way is to preserve mature trees, as well as plant more trees. Trees can benefit from being lightly pruned and this could be undertaken instead of removal at a great reduction in cost.

Finally, if applications like this can be made and approved, then this will just lead to further breaches of the strategy and totally undermine the power of TPOs to protect this important resource.

Diana Hurd

## **A Message from Marinet**

Dear Marinet Members and supporters,

A number of newspapers and NGOs are now realising the scale of pollution in our rivers and seas due to human and agricultural livestock sewage, but also that something needs to be done straight away to tackle this. The question is: what should be done?

David Levy, Marinet's chair, has addressed this question for you in a new article on our website, and he has come up with a number of precise recommendations for you, see <http://www.marinet.org.uk/campaign-article/how-to-make-the-environment-act-deliver-on-sewage-pollution> . This article is also attached.

The solution obviously lies, in part, in getting water companies to upgrade their performance without delay. And, as the problem is equally due to sewage waste from intensive livestock animal farming, in also getting this problem and associated behaviour addressed without delay. See our evidence to Parliament on the scale and solution to intensive livestock farming, attached *Environment Audit Committee farming data*. You can also see this evidence on our website, visit: <http://www.marinet.org.uk/campaign-article/supplementary-submission-to-the-house-of-commons-environmental-audit-committees-water-quality-in-rivers-inquiry-looking-at-the-impact-of-indoor-intensive-livestock-factory-farming>

However the real solution lies in getting the politicians to do their job. MPs and local councillors pass the laws and the planning regulations which make this

possible. They therefore have the powers to stop it and, at present, they are not doing this.

It is *our* job to hold MPs and local councillors to account and to make sure that they do act to stop this pollution. David Levy's article tells you precisely what to ask of your MP and local councillors.

Therefore please find the relatively small amount of time required to contact them. This is *your* part in ensuring that things do change!

If you need additional advice, just get in touch. We would be really pleased to learn what your MP and local councillors say to you in their replies.

With our regards,  
David Levy and Stephen Eades.  
[www.marinet.org.uk](http://www.marinet.org.uk)

## **Trawl Fishing Petition**

Dear friends,

About ten months ago I started this petition against trawl fishing and the response was unexpected. We received close to 45,000 signatures, something I could never have imagined in my wildest dreams. I really appreciate your support. I am writing so long after the petition began to ask for one last favour. I am planning to finally deliver this petition in the coming days/weeks and I wanted to ask for one last push by everyone to share it and make our voice matter.

Please take a moment to share the petition (or even this email itself) to one or two friends/family. <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/ban-trawl-nets-in-the-uk-1>

Any small piece of support to get us across the finish line will help. Once again, thanks to all of you for this experience and the chance to change the world for the better.

Vittorio Patrone started this campaign on the 38 Degrees

## Supplies That Don't Cost the Earth

*This is a regular reference point for useful and practical resources, helping us to sustain the greenest lifestyles we can. These are not recommendations from Bromley or National FoE, but are just suggested by BFoE members. Any suggestions or reviews gratefully received. [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)*

### No/Low Waste or Refill Shops

*The Green Room, Station Approach, Hayes.*

**Shop is now closed.** However, the online shop is delivering household product bottle refills. <https://www.javaandchai.com>

*Alexander Stores 61 Beckenham Rd, Beckenham BR3 4PR*  
<https://www.alexanderstores.com>

*Laura's Larder, Fairway, Petts Wood*  
*Herbivore, Southborough Lane, Bromley*

**IT & Phone Repair** *Orpington IT Centre, 92 High St, Orpington BR6 0JY*  
(Opposite Aynscombe Angle)  
[www.orpingtonitcentre.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonitcentre.co.uk)

### Donate Your Tech

Clearcommunityweb  
<https://clearcommunityweb.co.uk/donate-your-tech/>

### Internet

*Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)*  
Consumer action! <https://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk>

*Peep Eyewear* revitalise vintage frames or recycle those that can't be reused. <https://www.peepeyewear.co.uk/peep-donation-address>

*If You Care* products including recycled tin foil and sandwich bags: <https://buyifyoucare.com>

*Peace With the Wild* - Household products: <https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk>

*My Green Pod* - Wide range of biodegradable and natural products: <https://www.mygreenpod.com>

*Ethical Superstore* - 'Ethical' products news and advice: <https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com>

*Green Finder* - a useful directory of environmental companies for all kinds of things <http://www.greenfinder.co.uk>  
*Naturallythinking*, Unit 2 Mill Lane Trading Estate, Mill Lane, Croydon, CR0 4AA, 020 3856 3588: <https://naturallythinking.com>

*Crowdfarming*, wide selection of directly supplied products from farmers around the world, many organic: <https://www.crowdfarming.com/en>

*Zero Waste Path*. Soaps and other toiletries made in Scotland. Handmade, vegan, palm oil free, natural, plastic free, circular, cruelty free and renewable energy.  
<https://www.zerowastepath.co.uk>

*Just Think Eco*. All sorts of eco household products.  
<https://www.justthinkeco.com>

### Bike recycling

Refurbished bikes sent to Africa  
<https://www.re-cycle.org>

### Wood

South London Wood Recycling Project.  
Wood saved from the tip at low cost. <https://solowoodrecycling.co.uk/>

## Postcards from the past

It is worth a mention that the group has celebrated other milestones in our 50 year history! When we turned 40 the News Shopper did a half page spread on the group, see pic, with apologies it is not that clear as it is taken through its protective plastic!



If anyone has a photo or two they would like to share, please send them in!

Common, the local councillors, the park ranger and our colleagues had a successful launch photo shoot.

Cast your mind back to 2013 please, and think bees! It was in April that year that we launched our Bee World on Tugmutton Common. The photo was taken at the official launch when, together with the Friends of Tugmutton

This bee world was one of hundreds created across the country during the FoE Bee Cause campaign, and we organised bee walks and stalls, gave talks and held 'bee breakfasts' to promote the creation of these vital





habitats. Our bees are still under threat, so all spaces, large or small, created to promote biodiversity are still vital today.

Does a particular image come to mind when you say 'Newbury by-pass'? Will it be a road and traffic, or trees and protestors? I choose trees this time, as between January and April 1996 in among all the mayhem of the protesting against the building of the by-pass, nearly 10,000 mature trees were felled to make way for the new road.



Friends of the Earth was one of six environmental groups supporting the protestors and some of our members took part in a large rally held around this time, as shown in the photo. The other pic is one of part of the camp, and the hanging hammocks strung up in the trees.



ical books, programs and events.  
NEXT PUBLICATION DATE JULY 15th.

## WATER CHECKS BY FOE.

The United-Nations conference on the human environment is over. Is this a great political movement towards a new understanding of the Biosphere, or just another flop? In 1968 a U.N. report stated that if current trends of air pollution continued, human beings would begin to die off within 20 years. A lot of influence that outspoken report had. (I would be surprised if you had even heard about it.) It seems that it is still up to us citizen to keep a check on our water and air supplies for the future.

With these thoughts FOE are launching a campaign to check up on all rivers and water supplies in and around the London Borough of Bromley. Over the next few months water tests will be taken and results published. (Let us just hope that they are favourable.)

FOE would be very grateful of any help that is forthcoming in both information and action.

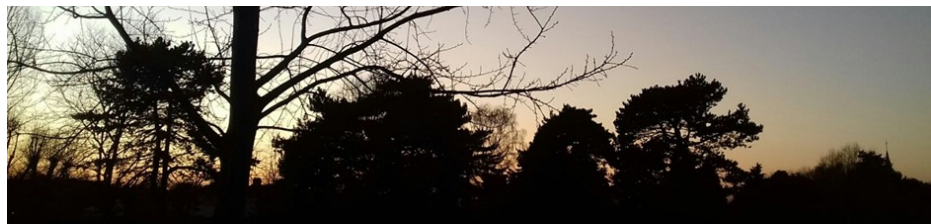
Look at the piece taken from the very first edition of a Bromley FoE newsletter and note we were checking our water way back in 1972. Then

bring that forward to 2017, when lots of our members took part in the Freshwater Habitats Trust project taking samples, complying with test conditions, from many water sources within the Bromley Borough.

We were awarded a Certificate for that later on!







## List Of Roles

Everyone can be contacted via the groups email address: **bromleyfoe@gmail.com**

### **Acting Co-ordinators/Mentors:**

Sheila Brown 01689 851605

Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295

### **Treasurer:**

Sheila Brown

### **Press Team:**

Ann Garrett, Annette Rose

### **Programme Organiser:**

Sheila Brown

### **Outings Organisers:**

John & Sue Bocock 0208 290 0485

### **Merchandising:**

Anne Clark

### **Membership Secretary:**

Dan Sloan 07414 920920

### **Instagram and Twitter Admin:**

Emmanuelle Coetzee

### **Admin Team:**

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

### **Bromley Environmental Network BEN Reps:**

John Pavitt, Judy Palmer

### **Web Site & Technical Support:**

Peter Gandolfi

### **Meeting Reporters:**

John & Sue Bocock, Anne Clark, Annette Rose, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown, Tom Coling , Ruth Fabricant, Michael Hall, Liam Redmond - further volunteers for this team always welcome.

### **Refreshments**

Pending due to no live meetings

### **Newsletter Production:** Dan Sloan

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503

robert.clark9@btinternet.com

**Campaigns:** You can join one of the campaign teams at any point if you are interested. Just contact us via our main email address or speak to one of us at a meeting.

*Campaign leads in bold - specialisms bracketed*

### **Campaigns Administrator:** Judy Palmer

### **Climate:**

#### **Ann Garrett**

Sheila Brown

Ruth Fabricant

Paul Garratt

### **Nature:**

#### **Diana Hurd** (trees)

Paul Garratt

Judy Palmer

### **System Change:**

#### **Tamara Galloway** (Planning)

Ruth Fabricant (Anti racism)

Ann Garratt (Planning)

John Pavitt

### **Consumption:**

#### **Annette Rose**

John Pavitt (Food)

Emmanuelle Coetzee (Food)

Sheila Brown (Plastics)



## Non-members Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth (BFoE) then hello to you. 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 acting co-ordinators Sheila Brown or Ann Garrett (their details are inside the back page of this newsletter.) Alternatively you can come along to one of our 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, on the right going down. 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 (\*delete as appropriate)

I would like to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my annual subscription (£8 single/£15 couple/family.) I also enclose a donation (optional) of £..... to help towards the work of our local group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Phone No: .....

Email address: .....

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

.....

**Bank Details:** Name - Bromley Friends of the Earth A/C - 06342260 S/C - 77 91 48

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 [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.