



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**

August 2020

No 391

Our Next Meeting

‘The New Lucas Plan’

A talk by

Michael Reinsborough

Virtual meeting

Due to Coronavirus and following advice from Friends of the Earth, our August meeting will be a virtual one. See page 2 for full details.

Usually 7.30pm The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Everyone always welcome

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NEWSLETTER

August Meeting Participation

If you would like to be involved in the August Monthly Meeting, then we intend to run a Zoom meeting as we did last month. Please let us know by either emailing bromleyfoe@gmail.com or leaving a message on 020 8289 1503 and we will then send you details of how to join in nearer the time. You can either join using your computer (with video or without) or on a smart phone. Usually a phone number to dial in from any phone is issued with this type of meeting, but due to high demand this function has been disabled.

We will be hosting a speaker on the New Lucas Plan, Michael Reinsborough. He is a member of the New Lucas Plan (<https://lucasplan.org.uk>) coordinating group and a long time environmental, labour and social justice activist.

If you can't attend this meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'.

Diary Dates

Please note that due to the Coronavirus, many events have had to be cancelled

4th Aug (Tues) BFoE Monthly Meeting 7.30pm. Speaker TBC

31st Aug (Mon) Cudham Village Fair - Cancelled

11th Sept (Fri) 'The Great British Spring Clean' has been changed to 'The Great British September Clean'. Please join in with your own local clean-ups and send us a picture if you can. Details to come in the September newsletter.

This is correct at the time of going to press but obviously will be updated in the next monthly newsletter. If you need any further information on these events in the meantime, you can email us on bromleyfoe@gmail.com

If any of the items in this newsletter make you angry, delight you, enthuse you or cause you any other emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it into the newsletter

Next Newsletter Copy

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale will all be considered for publication. Please send them to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **9am Monday 17th August**

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

Email: Robert.clark9@btinternet.com (please write 'Newsletter' in the subject line)

June Monthly Meeting Report

Annette Rose

'The Story of Plastic' Zoom Discussion July 2020 Monthly Meeting

Most people on our July Zoom meeting had been able to watch all or some of the film 'The Story of Plastic' beforehand. Rob was able to show us a trailer for the film on the shared screen before the discussion.

Thank you very much to the people who contributed to our lively discussion. It isn't possible to report the whole discussion but here are some of the major viewpoints that were covered and some of the key points reinforced in the film.

Recycling

The film clearly showed how problematic the whole area of recycling is. Many plastics get contaminated; many types cannot be recycled because they have multiple layers or are not a type

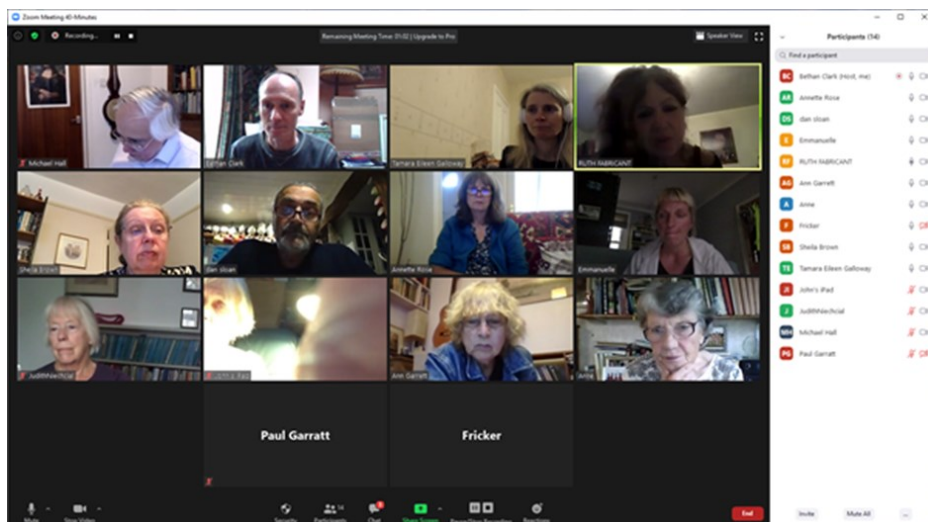
that can be recycled. Most can only be recycled once before degrading. At one processing plant in India the workers had 83 types of separation between plastics to contend with. Workers are on very low pay. The UK and other countries have spent many years sending our recycling to China but this has now stopped and waste is piling up. The film showed some of the very poor recycling facilities in India and Asia where the workers are exposed to hazardous and toxic chemicals.

Incineration

Incineration plants churn out toxins into the local environment causing harm to populations. Incinerators drive the need to feed them with more and more plastics and these are not the answer.

Fracking

The link was shown between fracking and the production of plastics. New pipelines are being built across America to move oil to the coast and ship to



Scotland to be processed into the pellets that plastic items are made from. Fracking is harmful and damaging to the environment as we clearly saw in the film.

Who is to blame?

Much of the recent focus in the media has been on clean-up operations in our seas and in the environment but does this get to the root cause of the problem? Often the consumer is blamed for the pollution. But who is ultimately responsible? Often South-East Asia is blamed for the pollution in our seas. The film showed how this is very much a Western problem. We have sent our waste there for many years. There has been aggressive marketing by the big petrochemical companies to grow the demand for plastics. They have brought to the market a range of hard to recycle plastics and multilayer pouches.

The Future

So how can we tackle these problems? The film talked of 'Extended Produce Responsibility'. Individual corporations need to take responsibility for any product they produce. We clearly need to ban single use products wherever we can.

Further discussion

More discussion on the film can be found on You Tube. Search for 'The Story of Plastic at Mill Valley Film Festival'.

Some of our points from the discussion on Zoom.

Members of our group felt that we

badly need to have plastics that are properly biodegradable. It needs to be easier to identify which of our plastics are compostable or recyclable. Some products are advertised as recyclable but in practice they are not, for example coffee capsules. Powerful lobbies are working to protect the interests of the big petrochemical industries. There are some examples of good practice in some other countries such as Norway, and in zero waste cities. The companies should be made to pay for disposal and clean-up operations. We need strong international legislation.

What can you do?

The Action guide that came with the film suggests the following.

Take Action

'Break Free From Plastic' is calling for corporate responsibility and is pushing for public policy that puts human and environmental health above corporate profit. There are multiple active campaigns that you can support. Visit 'The Story of Plastic' website to find an active campaign near where you live or near to your heart: www.storyofplastic.org/take-action

Join the 'Break Free From Plastic' Movement

Learn about the work of 'Break Free From Plastic' members from around the world, find a group active in your region, or get support starting your own initiatives in your community.

Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth's Plastics campaign

continues to work hard on getting legislation through parliament to phase out many single-use plastics. See the areas they are working on at: friendsoftheearth.uk.

Your views please!

You may have been able to see the film but were not on the Zoom meeting or you may like to add to the conversation even if you did not see the film. We would also like to hear how you are cutting down on your use of plastic. Do please send your ideas and comments to our editor to get your voice heard in the September newsletter.

If you would like to see some of the makers and participants of the film discuss the subject and offer some positive views on the struggle with plastics, then take a look at the following video:

<https://youtu.be/RxlnNgIhHOs>

Second Half

Sheila Brown

Fracking/Horse Hill

Drilling has stopped as the oil has been polluted by water. John Catlin is in contact with the Horse Hill protest group and will probably visit again.

Ann spoke of the decision to halt fracking. It was agreed that the public were now much more aware of the fracking threat.

Great British Spring Clean

Our Spring Clean in Petts Wood was cancelled due to the Pandemic. I have had an email from Keep Britain Tidy to say that they are planning a Great

British September Clean between 11th and 17th September. We can have a private clean-up with up to 6 people we know and also pledges to do individual litter picks. I propose we do a clean-up with 6 people on Friday 11th September in Petts Wood and also ask our membership to do individual clean-ups near where they live. We could aim to get everyone to send in photos of themselves with the litter that they have collected.

Nature

Bill Priestley wished to alert us to the Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillar, a hairy, furry caterpillar (which has barbed stings at the end of the hairs that are highly poisonous) which is now present in woodland in the area, for example Tugmutton Common. It can drop from trees. If a dog swallows one, the poison is likely to kill the dog.

Outings and Walks

Sheila mentioned a walk through Lamorbey Park, Sidcup leading on to a river walk. Sue and John had been to Norwood Country Park at Elmers End and suggested this for a future outing. Former member Janet Ambrose had been instrumental in getting this country park set up and had led a walk there some years ago.

Social Media

Emmanuelle reported new followers on Twitter and Instagram and has done updates for us on here. Thank you to Emmanuelle for keeping this active for us.

Planning

Ann drew attention to the development threat of a theme park at Swanscombe Marshes. Paul Garratt will report in the newsletter and at the next zoom meeting.

Bromley Civic Society have reported that two storeys can be added on to already existing blocks of flats without planning permission. They are challenging Bromley Council about this.

Sheila and Ann wrote an objection letter about the new Bradwell B nuclear power plant proposal, which will have a serious impact on the local environment in Essex. The letter will be available in the August newsletter.

Future Speakers

A decision has been made to postpone Professor Frank Kelly until we are back in our meeting room. Until then, we will continue using Zoom.

Ann is hoping to organise a speaker about The New Lucas Plan for our August meeting.

Conclusion

Rob Clark was thanked for organising and hosting the zoom meeting.

Press Correction to July 2020 Issue of BFoE Newsletter

Paul Garrett attended the July virtual meeting but had difficulties clarifying his position on local cycling routes due to technical issues. He asked us to clarify.

Page 3 2nd column

Cycling.

The July lines are a misunderstanding or re-interpretation of what I tried to say. I did not put it in writing after the meeting.

I personally don't think an **alternative** is required to the proposed cycle track. The route is from Ormonde Avenue to Crofton Lane, part way before cycling along Crofton Road, perhaps with a dedicated lane, to the rail station and Orpington High Street. To Crofton Lane there is a walking path with a pleasant tree barrier to the A232 Crofton Road. Near the rail station is an elevated area on the upper corner of York Rise behind a brick wall. Plans for housing had been submitted. I objected to that proposal citing that the site hides a buried WW2 air operations centre with, likely asbestos lined, tunnels. I submitted an **alternative** could be a cycle hire operation, which would be lighter. The Bromley Plan consultation result was published with a standard response to say that ground conditions would be considered.

GCCB Community Face Mask Sewing Project

Passed on from John Bassendine of Darent Valley & Sevenoaks FoE

Hi lovely people! GCCB is launching a mask sewing project. The aim of the project is to sew fabric face masks for the community as new laws enforcing the wearing of face coverings come into play on public transport and in indoor spaces.

We need volunteers to help cut up fabric and elastic, distribute it, sew masks and collect and deliver them.

The masks will be distributed to vulnerable people and key workers first (we're partnering with food banks, schools and community groups). All volunteers will also be allowed to keep a set of masks for themselves and their family. Any additional masks will be offered to our members for a modest donation to recoup costs.

Please use the form below if you are happy to volunteer your time for this much needed project. <https://forms.gle/Ums8amCqYsdeoYQJ6>

We will be running demos and workshops virtually to start with and have created an easy to follow face mask tutorial (double cotton layer with insert for filter): <https://drive.google.com/.../17LNA9UtpEKRZk1YceOffkiRZX.../view...>

We have applied for funding to help us

run more workshops and be able to buy sewing machines which we can lend to our members. More to follow on this in the next few days.

Heat Pumps

You can help with a project on heat pumps - a very important technology we need to clean up one of the biggest sources of carbon - heating buildings. They make a big difference in our fight against climate change.

A heat pump 'harvests' ambient heat stored in the ground, using buried pipes, and uses it to keep buildings warm - instead of burning fossil fuels.

You might already be aware of our Powering Parks project - working with Hackney Council to install heat pumps in parks. We've shown this plan works. The idea is ready to go nationwide, cutting council energy bills, and tonnes of carbon emissions.



On July 5th Bromlëy FoE supported local XR climate action on Plaistow Green in Sundridge Park

But there's a problem.

The government is planning to remove support for large-scale heat pumps - scuppering plans to roll them out in parks, and elsewhere. We need to be speeding up climate action - this will slow it down.

A final decision is being made round about now.

A coalition of organisations that will be affected by this decision are getting together to campaign on this. They're challenging the government to pause and re-think their plans for future support for large-scale heat pump projects.

We need your help to bring the government to the table.

Contact your MP about this.

Miller's Mutterings

Chris Miller

What a welcome relief to have steady rain after a dry May with only 1mm. We had 47mm in June which has benefited the cereals. The rain came too late for the barley because to protect itself, all the energy goes to the main stem and not the tillers (side shoots). The wheat and the oats are at a later stage so coped better.

We passed the Red Tractor inspection and as mentioned last month this was completed by video call. The inspector asked for a few more documents to see other than the ones we had scanned and emailed, and then Peter walked around the farm showing him the spray shed,

filtration system, temporary grain storage etc on camera. It may be the way this inspection will be carried out in future; although we have a lot of scanning and emailing to do, it does save time. The inspector did mention that they would possibly do a random visit to the farm from time to time just to do a spot check, especially to see the storage whilst being used, grain safety.

We purchased a new fertiliser spreader in May. This machine, although made by the same people, takes fertiliser spreading to a whole new level. The inbuilt computer can weigh the fertiliser as it is being spread enabling you to apply exactly the correct amount. One of the reasons we have gone over to this, is we are in a nitrogen vulnerable zone. We never used to be but we are now! There are very strict rules about how much nitrogen, potash and phosphate we are allowed to apply and at what times of year. The new spreader enables us to meet all the new criteria that we have to adhere too. Obviously it is very expensive but we sold the mower as we are no longer growing grass for hay. (Hay making is too stressful at our age).

We took our moisture meter for its annual calibration, obviously at a distance, which passed. As the name says, it measures moisture in the grain giving us an idea if the cereal is ready to

harvest. The grain does not store for long periods above 16% without being dried, so we try and cut around this figure if at all possible. We have to advise Weald Granary, our grain storage facility, of the amounts of cereals

we predicate to harvest each year. This has been tricky, firstly we didn't have any winter cereal due to the rain and then the spring cereals because of the dry! The UK normally produces approximately 15 million tonnes of wheat, the predication this year is 9 million tonnes. The first year in a long time that we will be a net importer of grain. Worldwide, Spain is going to produce a much larger barley crop than normal but Russia and the Ukraine are experiencing drought conditions on their spring wheat. All topsy turvy.

Although we had plenty of cowslips on the Chelsfield Green earlier in the year, there has been a lack of orchids. Some yellow rattle and purple clover has appeared, but everything else quite short. I did see sainfoin or holy hay, which I don't recall seeing before.

Another swallow did arrive later making our total 4 and they have had three young so far. It's wonderful to see the fledging swallows weaving around the farm.

A slightly different weather quote this month.

A rainbow can indicate the approach of either good or bad weather, depending on the time of day it appears. A sun dog, in nautical language, is a small rainbow near the horizon.

A dog in the morning

Sailor, take warning

A dog in the night

Is the sailor's delight..

Rainbow at morn,

Good weather has gone

Rainbow after noon,

Good weather comes soon

Food Preparation and We Are What We Eat

Ann Garrett

There has been much concern recently over raw meat preparation and its link to infecting people with Covid - 19. This is particularly worrying for meat market and abattoir workers in countries throughout the world.

In the USA, a June 29th report identified that at least 36,561 meat packing, food processing and farm workers had tested positive for Covid - 19 and that 116 of those workers had died.

More research is needed into big meat companies, so that stricter health and safety measures can be put in place to protect both workers, commercial buyers and consumers.

Another interesting investigation by the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has identified that one in six Americans fall ill every year from the food they eat. In Britain it is one in twenty-eight.

Food quality, standards and security are likely to become flash points during the final negotiations between the the UK and EU.

Any future trade deals need to ensure that food standards are maintained. There are real worries about any trade

deals with the USA given the poor record of the industrialisation of American farming. There has been a marked disregard of animal welfare, and the impact of fertilisers and chemicals [many banned in the EU] on food standards. The US produces low-grade, low-cost food in ever-increasing volumes, with booming exports mainly in less well developed countries, that cannot afford to be too discriminatory.

Trade deals with the EU would, therefore, be a lot safer with its stricter food monitoring processes and laws.

Synthetic Foods - Part 3

Peter Gandolfi

Fake meats

There is an awful lot of money to be made from faking meat.

While Quorn can claim, with some justification, that it more or less invented fake meat.

The mycoprotein patents for the core technological process have now expired in the EU, so any company can manufacture mycoprotein legally using the previously patented processes, providing they do not call it by the Q word.

There are now a number of technologically sophisticated fake meat rivals emerging from places such as Silicon Valley. A few examples are mentioned below – there are others, many others.

One company, 'Beyond Meat', uses pea protein among its many ingredients. In addition, it contains beetroot juice extract to imitate it bleeding a meaty red colour. Yummy.

The "Impossible Burger" uses protein from soy and potatoes, plus a variety of fats and binders. It is distinguished by its trailblazing use of soy leghemoglobin, a vat-grown, genetically engineered form of the heme iron found in the root nodules of soya bean plants. Impossible Foods says this novel ingredient gives the Impossible Burger its 'bloody', meat-like taste and colour.

Other companies are looking at 'cultured meat', where animal cells are grown in vitro. You may have seen the first cultured burger produced some years ago.

These are not really "fake" meat, but rather can be considered "no death" meat.

Some companies claim to be able to bring lab meat to the market in the short term, but as cultured meat is not yet available, it is yet to be seen if consumers will accept cultured meat, as an alternative to 'real' meat.

Happy birthday to Surfers Against Sewage!

Judy Palmer

I noticed recently that our fellow grass-roots NGO, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), celebrates turning 30 this year. Not as old as Friends of the Earth, but doing fantastic work all the same!

Apparently the organisation began life in Porthtowan Village Hall, Cornwall, in 1990 and now have their HQ in St. Agnes, just up the road from the village hall, and looking out to sea, naturally.

They started campaigning against the sewage found in the sea, and I well remember the publicity surrounding this way back then. Just think, in the early 1990s only 27% of England's bathing waters passed the Bathing Water Directive's minimum standards. This rose to 98.5% by 2016, and SAS deserves a big pat on the back for helping the country achieve this.

SAS has also been instrumental in raising awareness of the fight against plastic in our oceans and they describe throwaway plastic pollution as the 'new sewage' – 12 million tonnes of marine litter and plastic enter the oceans every year; such a horrendous statistic.

We might not live in a coastal area, but we still need to raise awareness of this issue, don't we, and continue to urge people – please dispose of your rubbish responsibly! Remember loose rubbish gets blown around, then it may land in a water course and get carried out to sea. *(And I am trying very hard not to vent my frustration at seeing the TV coverage a few weeks ago of the rubbish on the beaches.....)*

Local Anti-Fracking Group Celebrate the Government's U-Turn!

Ruth Fabricant

"Fracking is over, the government has 'moved on'."

Members of Bromley Against FrAcking were delighted to hear these very welcome and long-awaited words from our energy Minister, Kwasi Kwarteng.

Bromley against frAcking is a non-political pressure group, founded in 2013 by a group of local environmentalists:- Ann Garrett; Roisin Robertson; Ruth Fabricant; John Catlin; Karen Wheller and Steve Cope. Karen introduced a facebook page for the group and Karen and Steve designed the banner.

In 2013, very few people had heard of fracking. Members of Bromley Against FrAcking have lobbied MPs, campaigned in-town centres throughout the borough and leafleted door to door, informing the public of proposed sites. Ann Garrett and John Catlin also campaigned in Lancashire and Surrey.

Members oppose fracking due to its severe health risks to both humans and wildlife, and are adamant that fossil fuels should stay in the ground if we are to avoid more catastrophic climate change effects.

Anti-fracking groups all over the country will be celebrating!

Fracking Update

It's excellent news that the UK government have now said that fracking won't take place here, much to the jubilation of community activists. The main reasons are the dangers to land and residents near the fracking sites and worries about earth tremors. The fact that the price of oil is being reduced is also a catalyst. (See Ruth Fabricant's article on Bromley Against Fracking for further info)

However drilling for oil continues at Horse Hill, two miles from Gatwick and



we will be monitoring developments there.

There is also news that America's fracking boom is beginning to flounder as global prices and demand collapse.

The US shale industry, based mainly in the Permian basin area, was expected to deliver a record high oil production this year - 4.8 million barrels per day in fact. The financial crash threatens to change the face of the industry. A number of fracking projects in the US heartlands has already fallen by two thirds, as oil producers struggle to find buyers. The Covid -19 pandemic looks likely to ruin many small prospectors.

Sadly, vast areas of countryside have been destroyed and the environmental impact will last for years.

Fracking Song

They're fracking here and fracking there
In some of the world almost everywhere

In Queensland state it's shockingly bad
In Ohio and Utah it's unstoppably mad

The drilling rigs stretch across skylines far
The earth is scorched by the sticky black tar

The air is polluted from the chemicals used
Fresh waterbeds mingle with the toxics infused

Fracking companies say it's perfectly safe
But it's profits they're after - all part of the race

They can frack under buildings without planning permission
They'll meet residents' protests with ruthless derision

It was coming to the UK whether we liked it or not
In Rydale and Lancashire it was exceedingly 'hot'

At Horse Hill and Leath Hill they're still drilling up oil
But it's fracking they're doing - all part of 'the spoil'

Courageous campaigners have set up camps
Risking health and money - our heroic champs

Beware seismic testing - it could still come your way
It's going to be tough to keep Quadrilla at bay

They're fracking here and they're fracking there
In some of the world it's almost everywhere

Here in the UK the news is great
Fracking won't for the time being take place

The Moratorium holds firm and strong
An encouraging end to this fracking song !

Ann Garrett Ashley (June 2017 - updated June 2020)

Bradwell B Objection

This is a copy of Bromley FoE's objection letter regarding the proposed Bradwell B nuclear power station.

30.06.2020

Ref : Feedback on Bradwell B Procedure

Dear Madam/Sir,

Bromley Friends of the Earth wish to object to the above procedure on the following grounds:

There has been a serious lack of public consultation, with 10 important consultations having been cancelled due to Covid -19.

The whole process is being rushed through in order to avoid proper consultation, which is thoroughly irresponsible in relation to such an important project. There is also an undemocratic limitation involving only towns in the surrounding area.

The environmental impact on the Dengie Peninsula would be disastrous for wild life and marine life, in what is a special area of conservation.

The proposed development would be an ugly eyesore for miles around, and could affect tourist heritage visits to wildlife areas and centres in the Bradwell-on-Sea area such as the beautiful grade 1 listed ancient chapel of St Peter on the Wall.

Nuclear power is no longer needed with much electricity now being provided from renewable sources e.g a recent report highlighted the fact 19% of the UK's electricity comes from off shore wind generation and this is likely to increase in the future.

There is the extremely serious problem of the disposal of highly toxic nuclear waste, with a terrible legacy for future generations to deal with. If there were to be a leak from Bradwell B, radioactive contamination would badly affect

local towns, London and the rest of the country - eg look at the way the radio-activity from the Chernobyl disaster has affected large parts of the planet. Leaks from Sellafield have also polluted the Irish Sea and most of the Lake District and beyond.

There has been no publication of the costs of the project, and it is well known that other UK nuclear power plants are having funding problems.

Investments in renewable energies is on the increase, and nuclear power will soon be obsolete.

The land for the project is very low-lying, and would be vulnerable to flooding and extreme weather conditions due to the increasing climate change situation eg note what happened to the Japanese Dai-itchi reactor at Fukushima, where radioactive waste is still pouring into the sea, and is beginning to contaminate the oceans and will eventually affect the whole planet with a dangerous increase in cancer levels. The reactor at Fukushima was destroyed by a tsunami and earthquake. There was an earthquake at Wivenhoe near Colchester in 1884 and although a long time ago, shows potential seismic instability in the Essex area.

The whole project would be a health hazard for both the public and wildlife with the risk of nuclear contamination for years to come. Nuclear power is NEVER a safe fossil free option. Green renewables such as wind, hydro and solar power are. When will the world learn?

Yours faithfully,

Ann Garrett and Sheila Brown (Joint Co-ordinators of Bromley Friends of the Earth)

The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Draft Management Plan 2020 - 2025

Help shape the future of the Kent Downs AONB

The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape and home to some of the most enchanting countryside in Britain. The Kent Downs covers about a quarter of the County of Kent focusing on the North Downs and the Greensand Ridge, stretching from the White Cliffs of Dover to the Surrey and London borders. The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 will provide the strategy for conserving and enhancing the Kent Downs.

The Draft Plan is now available for public consultation giving you the chance to have your say before it is finalised, published and implemented. Your views will help us conserve the landscape for future generations while ensuring that today's residents and visitors can all benefit from connection with the natural environment in an amazing landscape.

The Draft Plan was prepared before the Covid-19 pandemic and it will be important to consider how it should respond to the crisis. The consultation questionnaire provides the opportunity for you to tell us any key considerations you think we should take into account.

Further details and the draft plan can be found at: https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/kentdowns_aonb/consultationHome Consultation closes on 7th September.

Local Groups Update

From FoE Local Groups News

Our grassroots network is made up of incredible local groups. Each month, we'll showcase a few of these, their key successes, and some top tips from Friends of the Earth staff on how they can keep thriving.

Moving online during Covid

The last few months have been challenging. COVID-19 has affected us all in different ways, but during this time our network pulled together to support our communities and fellow campaigners. Over 40 local groups moved their meetings online by using Zoom. This allowed them to keep in touch during lockdown.

It's also led to lots more collaboration between groups. For example the West Yorkshire network is supporting Leeds Friends of the Earth's airport campaign and Chester Friends of the Earth are working with two regional Climate Action groups to organise an event. Many groups have also agreed to hold regular regional Zoom meetings to keep this close collaboration alive. The New Forest Friends of the Earth coordinator had this to say about using Zoom:

This is a really positive outcome. For us

as a rural group it really works to meet each other online. We want to do it after lockdown too.

Campaigning

The pandemic didn't put a halt to the amazing campaigning local groups normally do either. Leeds Friends of the Earth have been working closely with a community group to make exciting progress in their campaign against airport expansion - 4 Leeds MPs now oppose the plans.

There's been lots of work done on active travel too. Our Manchester group have been petitioning Grant Shapps over implied zebras, our Ipswich group have been encouraging their council over road adjustments, and Liverpool Friends of the Earth are engaging with their Metro Mayor on cycle lanes. Their efforts have led to the Assistant Cycling Commissioner for Greater Manchester calling the plans 'the best active travel plans in the country'.

In West Cumbria the local group and Climate Action group are working together against the proposed Cumbrian coal mine. And Chester Friends of the Earth collaborated with another community group to host a Virtual Eco-Fair over 3 days, with almost 300 people attending.

Black Lives Matter

The recent protests against police brutality and systemic racism have brought racial injustice back into sharp focus. As a climate justice organisation, we must be vocal about our support for the Black Lives Matter movement and work to-

wards a future where there's climate justice for all, especially those who are most impacted and least responsible. Some local groups are doing great work on this.

Cardiff Friends of the Earth are holding an Environmental Equality Panel Discussion this month, our Bude group attended a local solidarity event, and our Hackney & Tower Hamlets group are supporting efforts to save an Afro-Caribbean women's shelter. Oxford Friends of the Earth also released this statement which is well worth a read. If your group has done anything similar we'd love to hear about it.

There can be no environmental justice without racial justice.

50 Years of Green History

A special shout out to Oxford Friends of the Earth who took the time during lockdown to develop a chronicle of the environmental movement over the past 50 years. Get in touch with them if you have any suggestions to add.

Campaigns

Planning Monitoring Team

Climate, Energy and Transport

Ann Garrett

Government failing on Climate Crisis

Government advisers have published a report which is critical of the nation's inadequate response to the climate crisis. The Committee on Climate Change says that more needs to be done to tackle the issues of overheating

homes, flash floods, loss of biodiversity and the other threats posed as the planet dangerously overheats.

No part of the globe is going to escape the crisis and the UK must be prepared to tackle the inevitable threats of rising sea levels, coastal erosion, flooding, heatwaves and epidemics.

The UK is due to host the critical UN climate summit conference next year, but its credibility as a climate leader is now under threat.

The Silvertown Tunnel

A new report claims that the £1.5 billion tunnel should be dumped in the wake of 'unprecedented changes' to transport across London caused by the pandemic, as cycling and pedestrian rates soar.

Investment is a huge problem, with a looming recession and the government having to reconsider its financial priorities.

Funding has been one of the main points made by the Stop The Silvertown Tunnel group, and of course the potentially serious pollution impact of increased traffic on the local environment.

The group will continue to challenge the project which has been highly controversial. Much money has already been wasted on the long planning processes.



Please don't forget that you will find lots of information on the national Friends of the Earth website – www.foe.co.uk – and in the Tree Campaigns section you will find short video interviews with the broadcaster Dan Snow who is helping spearhead the campaign. Fascinating stuff!

Even though the Bee Cause is not a prime campaign issue with us now, there is a section on the site with lots of information, plus the chance to get a Bee Saver kit to help you encourage bees to your garden. There may well be a national pollinator strategy

Nature/Trees

Judy Palmer, Annette Rose

I noticed in one of the posts on Facebook this week, from the Woodland Trust, that Sheffield have announced they are halting the felling of healthy trees. And about time too eh?! The city lost more than 5,000 of its trees because of their policy. The Trust praised the local residents who have worked for eight years to get to this victory for democracy.

in place now, but bees still need our help. And as this pandemic has shown us – a thriving natural habitat is vital to the country and our health and well-being.

E-Facts for the Month

Peter Gandolfi

Geothermal energy is used in over 20 countries, with the United States as the largest producer of geothermal energy in the world. The US also hosts the larg-

est geothermal field, known as “The Geysers” in California. This geothermal field is spread over 117 square kilometres and has 22 geothermal power plants, with an installed capacity of over 3.5GW.

It appears that there is enough heat in the Earth’s crust to provide all the world’s present energy needs through geothermal energy for several millennia.

The Earth’s core contains billions of times our present energy needs and its use at our present energy needs would outlive our sun.

Cotton accounts for 2.4% of the land planted for crops, yet uses 24% of all the agricultural insecticides sold each year.

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

Internet

www.greenfinder.co.uk - a useful directory of environmental companies for all kinds of things.

Naturallythinking, Unit 2 Mill Lane Trading Estate, Mill Lane, Croydon, CR0 4AA, 020 3856 3588: <https://naturallythinking.com/>

<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/>

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

Facebook

Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond) Consumer action!

Hayes Life Freebeecyclers There may be something similar in your area.

Low or Zero waste Shops

While some of these shops are not specifically low waste, they do supply food loose or in large packs, thus reducing waste.

Wickham Food Centre (WFC) opposite M&S West Wickham.

Bromley International Food Centre, 237-239 High St, Bromley BR1 (opposite the Bromley Picturehouse Cinema)

The Turkish Food Centre (TFC) opposite the Catford Bus Depot in Bellingham.

South London Shop Without Packaging (SWOP), 7 Burnt Ash Lane, Lee.

Carnivore and Herbivore Shops in Southborough Lane, Bromley near the library.

Crystal Palace Food Market, Haynes Lane, SE19 3AN. Facebook - ‘The Store Cupboard’.

Apps

Karma and TooGoodToGo. Both allow you to purchase spare food from local restaurants at short notice and at very reduced prices.

Reuse

If you have any items that you no longer need and that could be of use to someone then please let us know and we will publish them in the Newsletter. Alternatively, you could bring them along to our monthly meeting and put them on the table in reception. Any donations to BFoE from sales will be greatly appreciated.

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

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer:

Sheila Brown

Press Team:

Ann Garrett

Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown

Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 0208 290 0485

Merchandising: Anne Clark

Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 07414 920920

Newsletter Production:

Dan Sloan

Instagram and Twitter Admin:

Emmanuelle Coetzee

Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689 820469

Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

Web Site & Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi, Mary Ingledew

Refreshments

Mary Ingledew, Sylvia Chance

Meeting Reporters:

John & Sue Bocock, Anne Clark, Annette

Rose, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown - further volunteers for this team would be welcomed

Campaigns (Contact via group email)

Nature/Trees:

Diana Hurd, Judy Palmer, Annette Rose, Tamara Galloway, Ruth Fabricant

Anti Fracking:

Ann Garrett, John Catlin

Plastics:

Annette Rose, Sheila Brown, Emmanuelle Coetzee, Ruth Gardner, Judy Palmer, Ruth Fabricant, Viv Gardiner

Climate:

Sam Gee, Ann Garrett, Tamara Galloway, Ruth Fabricant, Judy Palmer (liaison with Climate Alliance)

Planning Monitor: Tamara Galloway, Ann Garrett

Newsletter Editor:

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503
robert.clark9@btinternet.com



Bethan Clark

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.

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?

.....

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 or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.