

## December 2016 No. 348

# ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

## **December Meeting**

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Paul de Zylva, Senior Nature Campaigner, Friends of the Earth

## Saving Nature in the era of Brexit

What effect will Brexit have on nature and hard won environmental laws

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 7.30pm

#### In this Issue:

Diary Dates	2	Nature updates	10,11
	_		,
December meeting	2	Miller's mutterings	12
November mtg report	3,5,7	Transport comment	13
Campaigns etc	4,7	Golf course - closed	14
Waste4Fuel update	5	From FoE USA	14
Fracking stall	6	Bromley contacts	15
Fracking letter	8,13	Non-members page	16
Scobb Farm visit	9		

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

\*\*\* SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER \*\*\*

Contact details inside front cover.

Bromley's Local Plan est arrivé – Visit http://www.bromley.gov.uk/localplan

#### Diary dates:

Dec 3 (Sat) Bromley Progressive Film Co-op, 'Si Se Pierde Barcelona'

Friends Meeting House, 6pm for 7pm, shared supper

Dec 6 (Tue) Bromley FoE's December meeting: Paul de Zylva and Adeela

Warley from Friends of the Earth plus Seasonal Social

Jan 3 (Tue Bromley FoE's January meeting and AGM

#### December meeting - Paul de Zylva

In the context of Brexit, Paul will talk about FoE's Nature's Keepers work and Defend Nature campaign to prevent weakening of EU nature laws, plus the forthcoming UK Government 25-year-plan on the natural environment, implications for nature and wider environmental issues (water, resources, air quality etc) and how the government meets its manifesto pledge to improve the environment and leave it in better condition than it was found.

Adeela will update us on FoE's strategy.

#### December meeting - social

Traditionally our December meeting is a social event with shared food and non-alcoholic drink and a chance to mingle and chat.

Please telephone Sue Bocock 020-8464-5990 if you are able to bring a contribution of food. Once again we will have our time-honoured non-alcoholic punch!

**Speakers ??** Do you have any ideas for possible speakers in 2017? Please contact one of the Joint Co-ordinators if you do.

**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 18**<sup>TH</sup> **DECEMBER** \*\*\*

**by post** to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS **by phone** to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: *johnstreet@gn.apc.org*.

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons.

#### **November meeting report** – *Annette Rose*

#### Freshwater Habitats Trust

Dr. Naomi Ewald began by telling us about the Freshwater Habitats Trust. It is a national charity working in England and Wales. It is an evidence based charity so carries out research work for universities and government organisations. Only 13 staff work for the charity nationally and the headquarters is in Oxford.

The Trust is concerned with all freshwater sites and in this way it differs from organisations such as the Environment Agency which is concerned with major waterways and lakes. The trust works in partnership with other groups. An important part of its role is to lobby government and communities at a local level.

Naomi went on to tell us about the current major projects. The 'People, Ponds and Water' project is being funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. It is concerned with The River Thames right down to the smallest ponds in local woodlands. It is training people to gather data at a national level. 'Clean Water for Wildlife' aims to test samples of water to see if it is good for wildlife. To be 'clean' it needs to be low in phosphate and nitrate.

Naomi explained that water can look as if it is clean and crystal clear, but testing might show it is bad for wildlife. We were shown the test kits that can simply test for nitrate and phosphate. The Trust has 20,000 kits to give out across England and Wales.

Another part of the project is to look at the biology of the water sites. The trust is training people to survey for amphibians, plants and animals. Also, the project aims to identify flagship sites in England and Wales and this information will be given to relevant groups.

There is extra funding in the London area from Thames water so more kits are available here. There are gaps in areas that have been surveyed in our locality so our group's participation in water sampling is very useful.

We were then shown an overview of how water quality has changed over time. Habitats have been threatened by agriculture and the use of fertilizers. Fertilizers run off fields into waterways raising nitrate levels. In urban areas, sewage discharge and detergents account for higher phosphate levels. Sadly, most of our rivers and lakes have been shown to be highly polluted.

In Oxfordshire virtually all freshwater sites have been found to be seriously polluted. Scotland has fared better as it is farmed less intensively. Most ponds are at normal levels here. Wales is on the cusp of going over natural levels.

Naomi then gave us some examples of the effects of pollution. Maps showed the decline across the British Isles of Water Violets, the Glutinous Snail and the Arctic Charr and the major cause is water pollution.

There have been a lot of changes since the 1980s and there is no doubt that water quality has improved through treatment of sewage. /continued on pages 5 and 7

## Campaigns, Climate and Energy - Ann Garrett

#### Campaigns

A big thank you to Sam Gee for organising the stall and publicity for the Fracking demo outside Barclays in Bromley Market Square, and also to all who supported this on October 26th. It was very useful having John Catlin's wind turbine model again, and Sam's letters, cards and computer fracking questionnaire. A letter was handed in to Barclays bank manager (see page 8), but we are still waiting for a reply.

Congratulations to Annette Rose for being on the front page of the News Shopper as part of the Waste for Fuel campaign and for agreeing to report on the monitoring of the clearing process.

Thank you to Ray Watson for supporting the Bromley and Beckenham CND's anti nuclear trains demo at Bromley South Station on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – see photo on page 7. Many members of the public took leaflets and were concerned to learn that nuclear waste from Dungeness passes so near people's houses on its way to Sellafield for reprocessing. Roisin Robertson from Bromley Greenpeace and Mary Flanagan from Nuclear Trains Action Group were also there.

### Climate and Energy

#### **Paris Climate Accord**

The following official statement was issued on November 4th: 'The Paris Agreement entered into force on Nov 4th, 30 days after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total at least an estimated 55% of the total global

greenhouse gas emissions, have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance approval or accession with the Depository'.

The agreement was hailed by the French foreign minister as 'an historic turning point', but environmental campaigners War on Want and Global Justice Now are concerned that trade deals being pursued by Britain, the EU and the US will torpedo the accord. These include TTIP (which Donald Trump now says the US may not be a party to), Ceta and Tisa. They will ultimately lock countries into an unsustainable 'free market approach' that will make it harder for real action on climate to be taken.

#### El Nino Effect

The World Meteorological Organisation has said that this year is set to be the warmest year ever recorded on Earth, beating the highs set in 2015.

Data from the last nine months shows global temperatures are about 1.2C above pre-industrial levels and 0.88C above the average for 1961 to 1990. The powerful climate phenomenon in the Pacific known as El Nino, which pushes up temperatures, led to a spike in the early months of this year.

The heat from global warming will continue and many Arctic and sub-Arctic areas are at least 3C above average. The increase is due to dangerous levels of greenhouse gases.

/continued on page 7

#### Waste4Fuel Update - Annette Rose

At long last the clear up has begun on the 40 foot high rubbish dump Waste4fuel! The clear up is expected to take around 20 weeks.

The day before the trucks moved in I was able to speak to a News Shopper journalist and I gave a quote over the phone and sent a follow up email. I was pleased that he used this information on the front cover of the News Shopper on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> issue.

The quote from Bromley Friends of the Earth was 'I think it is excellent news. Residents have had a horrendous time and this saga has gone on far too long. We hope the clearance will be done with the utmost care and that as much of the waste as possible is recycled.

'The future use of the land must be carefully considered and we must make sure that something like this does not happen again in our borough.'

The article also said 'Due to the dump's proximity to Ruxley's Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the group has been pressing the EA to monitor levels of contamination and seepage into the adjacent waterways.'

The EA area manager, Julie Foley, said 'It has been a difficult journey to get to this point and we are delighted that we are seeing the first load of waste leaving the site. We will continue to monitor the site and provide advice to our partner organisations to ensure that the waste is disposed of correctly.'

A thank you is due to every-one who helped with this campaign. The residents worked hard and had to suffer all the unpleasant effects of having this pile of rubbish so close. Jan and Trish worked tirelessly and kept us in touch with what was happening. Judy helped with all those emails to the Environment Agency and lvy had a great letter in the News Shopper.

Lots of us went on a demonstration outside the site with our placards. Howard Whitehall visited from Head Office too.

The story does not stop here however. The future use of the land has still not been decided and there is a planning application submitted for another recycling centre nearby.

#### November meeting report, cont'd

Water vole and otters have reestablished but the reasons for this are due to a range of factors including stopping hunting and better adjacent habitats.

So how bad is the problem? Although we know that there are no undamaged rivers in England and Wales, we do not know about the nutrient levels of 99% of smaller ponds, streams, ditches and other freshwater habitats. The water testing survey will be the first time that we have looked at the whole of the freshwater system.

/concluded on page 7

## Barclays Fracking Stall on October 26<sup>th</sup> - Sam Gee

Friends of the Earth, SumOfUs, People and Planet, 350.org and Frack Free Ryedale teamed up to run a week of action from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> October, to target Barclays Bank over their funding of fracking in Ryedale, North Yorkshire. Barclays owns 97% of fracking company Third Energy, who were given planning permission to frack in Ryedale in May this year.

As part of this week of action, Bromley Friends of the Earth ran a stall outside Barclays Bank in Bromley on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. We talked to people about how Barclays is involved with fracking and other fossil fuels. We handed out leaflets, got people to sign petitions and write postcards, and of course John Catlin's wind turbine and solar-powered radio proved very popular with the public.

At the end of the day, after we had packed up our stall, we handed in a letter to the branch manager from Bromley Friends of the Earth, asking them to do all they can to influence Barclays to pull out of Third Energy.

This week of action saw more than 90 actions across the UK, including one on the 29<sup>th</sup> October outside the Barclays Branch in Piccadilly Circus, which reached national media and resulted in Barclays deciding to close the branch, to avoid reputational damage.

If you have a Barclays account, and decide to close it, make sure you write to them to let them know that you are doing so on account of their fossil fuel investments – the more financial pressure they receive, the more likely they are to change their ways.



## November report, concluded +++ Campaigns photo

November report, concluded We then had an opportunity to try out the kits in preparation for our testing of water in the local area. There are separate tubes for testing phosphate and nitrate. The timing is important before comparing the colour of the water to a colour chart.

#### Questions

We were able to ask questions throughout Naomi's presentation. Various questions were asked including whether our tap water is safe to drink although it shows high levels of nitrate and phosphate. We were reassured that our bodies are not affected by these levels. However, tap water is not good to use in ponds as it is harmful for wildlife. Another question was whether bodies of water can recover themselves. The answer is

they can but may take two years. Underwater plants and reeds will help the process.

We finished with giving out kits to some of our volunteers. Results will be sent back to Judy Palmer before being returned to the Freshwater Habitats Trust

As there is considerable interest in helping with this project, we have requested more kits for our group so it is not too late if you would like to help.

Further information can be found at freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/cleanwater

If you would like to volunteer to test water, contact Judy on bromleyfoe@gmail.com or speak to Judy or Annette at the next monthly meeting.

## Campaign info concluded - Nuclear train campaigning



Ann Garrett, Roisin Robertson, Mary Flanagan and Ray Watson campaigning against the transportation of nuclear waste through Bromley South Station on Nov 12th 2016. They represent Bromley and Beckenham CND, Bromley Greenpeace, The Nuclear Trains Action Group and Bromley Friends of the Earth.

## Letter re Fracking handed to Barclays Bank

This is the letter referred to in Sam's article on page 6. We want to express to our concerns that Barclays is funding fracking in the UK, and to ask you personally to try to exert your influence to help ensure Barclays doesn't frack North Yorkshire – or anywhere else.

Fracking endangers people, children and future generations – in the water we drink, the air we breathe, the stability of the ground our houses and feet are on, the earth's temperature, flood risks and nature more generally in the UK and beyond. As our local branch manager, we'd love you to pass these concerns onto the appropriate person and to do all you can to influence "the powers that be" to stop this damaging venture.

Barclays owns 97% of fracking company Third Energy, which plans to drill in Ryedale, North Yorkshire, 19 wells— some close to people's homes. The company was granted legal permission in May (despite 99.2% of local people who responded to the council's consultation opposing it) to frack at one site this year — but the decision is currently subject to Judicial Review and there is still widespread local and national opposition to the plan.

Fracking in this beautiful area of the country carries a wide range of risks including:

 Groundwater contamination from the chemicals injected into the ground and extracted as part of the fracking process – many have been identified as known or probable human carcinogens and

- may find their way into our drinking water.
- Higher flood risks (they've already increased – you've seen the news!)in an area renowned for its pristine rivers.
- Health risks from increased traffic levels, air pollution and noise, impacting on mental and physical health.
- Damage to local jobs

   largely in agriculture, tourism and fishing.
- Increased greenhouse gas
   emissions from the further
   extreme extraction of dirty fossil
   fuels and their subsequent
   combustion how is that going to
   help with our climate crisis and the
   international Paris Climate
   Agreement targets?

Barclays' stated purpose is to "help people achieve their ambitions - in the right way." **Fracking is the wrong way.** 

Trying to stop fracking is not a case of just a few environmentalists – this is widespread opposition, particularly at a local level (99.2%!), but also up and down the country, with people and several large NGOs standing up to frackers and their investors.

You would not tolerate this sort of risk to your family and friends, your home, your health and our climate – so please play your part to support society and democracy.

We know that there is rising energy demand, but more fossil fuels is not the answer – we just don't need or want such destructive energy.

/continued on page 13

#### Scobb Farm visit - Rob Clark

On 16th October about 10 of us gathered at Scobb Farm near Goudhurst. Although the name suggests a farm we were soon to find that in fact the area was a mix of woods and clearings.

David Scott and his wife who own the land first planted many of the trees back in the 1990's based on permaculture principles. It has become rather free growing in the intervening years but they are enacting firm plans to bring the woods etc back to a manageable and productive state.

Half of the area is to be used for general produce such as apples for cider or juice and various types of coppiced timber. The other half of the land, David suggested, should be managed by the community, perhaps having some animals (goats) to graze and areas for camping, meditation etc.

We were taken on a tour all around and finished by gathering some apples and crushing them in David's apple press (see photo below). The juice was shared around and we all agreed it was the freshest and best we'd drunk probably because of the amount of time we'd waited and the effort we had put into producing it.

Also passed around us were a few samples of mead which I gather were delicious and David let us sample his bottled cider.

It was really interesting to see how many uses a wood has and how many different products and sources of income you could get from it. We thank David and Margaret for their kind invitation and time.



#### Nature Updates – Judy Palmer

#### Water pollution kits

Many thanks to Paul, Bill, Sam, the two Johns and Ruth, who took away the freshwater pollution kits to test at various sources of water local to them. It will be interesting to see the locations they have tested and what the results show. I know that Bill was taken to two sites at Ruxley Gravel pits – the protected site which is adjacent to the notorious Waste4Fuel site in Orpington – so they will be interesting to read!

We have some more kits now, which will be distributed soon. If you would like to participate in this scheme run by the Freshwater Habitats Trust, please do let me know.

**Bee Count 2016** – the final count has been revealed as 383,759 and if you go to *www.foe.co.uk* you will find all the stats which were gathered.

#### Briefly though,

The top five spotted bees in May & June this year were: 1.White-tailed bumblebee 2.Honey bee 3.Early bumblebee 4.Tree bumblebee 5.Redtailed bumblebee.

And the top 5 plants which the bees loved were: 1.Cotoneaster 2.Lacy phacella 3.Ceanothus 4.Buddleja 5.Wisteria.

This is the quote featured with the information:

"Bees are beautiful, fascinating and inspiring insects and we need as many people as possible to contribute to the Great British Bee Count to help us better understand how they are faring in 21st Century Britain. Be warned –

you may become obsessed with their amazing lifecycles and behaviour!" - Steven Falk, author of Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain and Ireland

3 year anniversary of the Neonics ban - December 3<sup>rd</sup> marks 3 years since there was a neonic ban in the UK but with the ban being reviewed next year, it's time to make sure the Government knows exactly what we want them to do. We are hoping to take a photo of us all at our December meeting with a poster promoting the petition calling for a permanent ban on neonics which FoE will post on social media.

If you haven't already signed the petition, please take a moment to do so - https://act.foe.co.uk/act/join-generation-saves-our-bees.!

Nature Habitats Directive – Friends of the Earth have heard that the European Commission is close to announcing that the Birds and Habitats Directives – the crucial nature laws that protect sites and species – are 'fit for purpose' and need better enforcement not changing. Let's hope this is true! But in the meantime there is a site in N Ireland which is under threat.

The Northern Ireland Government have allowed a road to be constructed through the landscape that inspired the poetry of Seamus Heaney, despite other routes being available. If it goes ahead the road will also go within 100m of wetlands of international

/continued on next page

#### Nature Updates – continued

importance at Lough Beg – wetlands that should be protected by the EU nature laws. The road would also go directly through fields used by one of Ireland's biggest concentrations of Whooper Swans – a protected species.

If you are on Facebook, please take a moment to sign the petition - https://business.facebook.com/wwwfoecouk/videos/1246934891996745/. Thank you.

Bits of news! — The Butterfly Conservation group have a volunteer who is researching moth activity and their attractions to street lights. The study shows that moths are attracted to street lights leading to a reduction in moth activity in field margins and hedgerows which is worrying. It found that there were only half as many moths at ground level in lit locations compared with unlit ones, due to this upward attraction. The diversity of moths at ground level was also reduced in the vicinity of street lights.

This effect, measured around farm fields in Oxfordshire, could have serious implications for wild plants. Around a quarter of moths captured in the study were found to be transporting pollen from a wide range of different plants; further evidence that nocturnal moths play important roles as pollinators. If there are fewer moths around the vegetation, due to the upward attraction of street lights, then pollination could be reduced.

The study is continuing as part of research collaboration with the

Universities of Newcastle and Hull and the Centre for Ecology& Hydrology, to try to understand whether the effects of artificial lights on moths could alter their role as pollinators. The paper can be read at www.butterfly-conservation.org/science.



The RSPB was

happy to announce recently that a 25 year project to help save the endangered bird the **cirl bunting** has been successful. The bird which is a sparrow-sized bird predominantly found in Devon, has seen breeding numbers rise from just 118 pairs in 1989 to 1.078 pairs this year.

It had been threatened by changes to farming methods and hedge losses. The RSPB said the turnaround came after conservationists worked with farmers to help them take advantage of wildlife-friendly farming funding schemes.

They included growing spring barley - which after harvest is left as weedy stubble to provide seed for the cirl buntings - and planting grassed areas along the edges of field to provide insects and spiders for them to eat in the summer.

A similar scheme is underway in Cornwall with 65 breeding pairs. A great example of good collaboration between organisations.

#### Miller's Mutterings - Chris Miller

What a great end to 2016 harvest. After a good crop of peas and wheat the barley too lived up to expectations making fine quality for malting. Overall although the quantities were down, the quality was very good. We haven't heard from the RAGT the seed breeders as yet.

No need to call regarding the baled pea haulm as that too has been sold. We first heard from a power station but they wanted it in square bales and ours are round, but fortunately we now have a cattle farmer in Suffolk who wishes to buy it to feed to his cows in the winter.

We said goodbye to one of our tractors but, hurrah, the drill arrived and after another course in Cambridgeshire, our supplier representative arrived to help the boys on the first day. I had to laugh as both Steve and Pete were sitting in the tractor trying to make head and tails of the computer and the rep was checking the manual. The next day all went well with the machine besides losing the GPS on the tractor under the trees! Technology!

Now for the technical bit. The tractor pulls the drill which first cuts a slot with a disc at 7 degrees, then the seed is blown down tubes which end up beside the disc and at this point a small press wheel pushes the seed into the slot. A following wheel then pushes the soil to close the slot. A rake on the back of the drill levels the soil. A bit complicated to write down but I'm sure you get the drift.

On a good day, on the old system of ploughing and drilling (planting) we would have completed about 6 or 7

hectares and used approximately 300 litres of diesel. With the new system of just using the direct drill, we were doing approximately 20 hectares per day and used approximately 60 litres of diesel. Amazing. We have been very lucky with the weather this year as there was plenty of moisture in the ground for the seed to germinate, and some of the wheat was up in 8 days.

We all went to a ploughing match at Nonington, near Dover, which is funny, as we now do not plough, but plenty of "net working" took place and it was an interesting day out. One of the ploughmen found a bomb and carried it across to an official, who promptly call the Bomb Disposal unit. They carried out a controlled explosion. Not the normal sort of event at a ploughing match!

We heard that many farmers have not had any rain for 5/6 weeks in patches around Kent. They had planted oil seed rape at the end of August and it has not germinated. As it has not germinated by now, that crop has failed and will have to plant something else, as it needs to be a certain size before the winter. Some farmers in Leicestershire still haven't finished combing due to heavy rain! It seems as if this corner of England has had the sunshine.

You will notice that a couple of the fields have not been worked and this is because the peas will be planted next spring. All but one or two swallows have now flown away now. It has been a great delight to see and hear so many of them this year, along with the swifts and house martins, but we can look forward to their return next year.

## Transport comment – Ray Watson

#### New road - and same old mistakes

Sounds good – a tunnel under the Thames to link Greenwich with the Silvertown Royal Docks on the northern side of the river. Not so. It is proven – and has been for years – that new roads attract more traffic. Yet the Mayor of London approves the scheme.

Note this: there will be a four-lane highway, which will generate heavy traffic so to avoid danger, cyclists and their bikes will have to be ferried through the tunnel by bus-- no doubt trying their patience as they wait for the bus to fill. The whole scheme will be paid for by tolls.

Local opponents of the project claim that it will slow traffic and create air and noise pollution. They are also angry because the Mayor in his election campaign appeared to oppose the scheme.

But that is not the end of the story, The Mayor has also announced his support for further river crossings below Tower Bridge, saying that they will encourage public transport, cycling and walking. Hopefully they will not include fourlane highways.

#### Go figure...

It seems many years since opposing groups began to argue over figures to prove why we needed, or did not need, extra airport capacity because of the number of future travellers. They are still at it: the Department for Transport issued its forecast for the annual number of air travellers in 2030, and so did IATA, the airlines' 'trade union'. They were only 25 million apart!

#### Self-drive cars hit the streets

As if there is already more than enough to think about when driving, Sweden's Volvo has decided that it can best test its driverless cars on the streets of London's suburbs so, look out if you are passing through Greenwich, one of the selected districts!

#### On yer bike - free

With our ever-increasing road traffic, it is worth reminding ourselves that you can take a bike on most rail journeys free, though there are exceptions which means that bikes are not carried during peak times. More information on this and other aids for cyclists, including cycle hire from National Rail (nationalrail.co.uk)

Letter to Barclays, continued Instead, Barclays should invest ethically in the fast-growing sector of clean renewable energy.

The people of North Yorkshire, like you and us, want to live in a clean, pollution-free community which is kept that way for future generations, and the people of the world need less, not more, dirty fossil fuels – we all need a clean, sustainable future. Please ensure that we can all have this by promising that you will put pressure on Barclays Senior Managers to stop Third Energy from fracking North Yorkshire or our world.

## If Barclays doesn't divest, your customers will.

We know that Barclays can make the right decision – for us, for the people of Ryedale, for wildlife and for the climate

## Council shuts historic golf course

## Pat Kinnibrugh and Ray Watson write:

Protests by local residents failed to save Beckenham Place Park's golf course which has a history going back more than 100 years. The 18-hole course, which adjoins the London Borough of Bromley, was not making money, according to its owners, the borough of Lewisham.

The council also claims that it needs the golf course land to make major changes to the park. It also argues that local residents make insufficient use of the park and steps need to be taken if it is to meet a target of 650,000 visitors a year.

The park is hopeful of obtaining a £4.9 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People scheme. Initial approval has been given and final approval is expected at the turn of the year.

The Friends of Beckenham Place Park are monitoring the situation to ensure that the development is ecological sound. They are also concerned about the future of a grade 2 listed mansion, three cottages, former stables and various other historic buildings which are not covered by the Lottery grant. Some buildings are in a poor state of repair, partly because of a fire, believed to have been started by vandals.

Lewisham Council is working to a master plan aimed at increasing visitor numbers. Plans include renovating a cafe and a popular visitor centre run by the Friends, creating children's play areas. exercise areas, an education

centre, a new wet woodland site, and restoration of a lake.

Beckenham Place Park boasts a river, meadows and ancient woodland.

#### From Friends of the Earth USA

How are you doing over there? Here in Washington DC, everyone at Friends of the Earth US is in shock.

As the president of Friends of the Earth in the US, I've been closely following this hateful and divisive election campaign from the off. But despite all the allegations, the insults, the racism and finally the election of Donald Trump, I still haven't lost all hope. You are my hope.

You are part of our incredible Friends of the Earth global family and that's something I'll hold on to on this strangest of days. Now, more than ever, we must come together and show the world what unity looks like.

Whatever President Trump has in store for us, together we will rise above the anger to change things for the better: a safe climate, thriving species, clean air and safe water for our children - and united communities around the world that help each other combat discrimination and build a better future.

From all of us on this side of the pond, keep up your amazing work. I promise you we will hang on to hope and work for unity. It matters now more than ever.

## **Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts**

Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605 email – sheilabrown336@msn.com

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

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

Press Officer: Ann Garrett

**Programme Organiser:** 

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

Outings organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 020-8464-5990

johnbocock@hotmail.com

**Newsletter Editor:** 

John Street 020-8460-1078

johnstreet@gn.apc.org
Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

Bromley FoE web site: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

Peter Gandolfi petergandolfi@hotmail.com

Admin team:

Judy Palmer: Group emails bromleyfoe@gmail.com

Rob Clark: Facebook co-ordinator

bromleyfoe@gmail.com

Annette Rose

annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

**Fundraising Officer:** 

Bill Priestley 01689-820469

Campaigns -

Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

r.watson865@btinternet.com

Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details above

Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352

tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Campaigner:

Annette Rose

annette.rose1@ntlworld.com

Fracking / Clean British Energy

Ann Garrett

**Bee Cause** 

Judy Palmer

iudy.palmer@talk21.com

**Monthly Meeting reporters:** 

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

Ray Watson

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

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!

#### 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.

## 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.

or producing and distributing the monthly rewalction.	
Name	Telephone Number
Address	
Postcode	
Email Address	
Do you have any hobbies or interests that may be of use to the	e group?