



Dec 2022

No 418



**friends
of the earth
Bromley**

Our Next Meeting

Our Seasonal Social

Back after two years!

Time to catch up together, enjoy festive foods and fun, and the legendary non-alcoholic punch

The next monthly meeting is on Tuesday 6th December at 7.30pm. It will be a hybrid meeting. You can attend using Zoom via the link below, or come along to the meeting in person. See the inside cover for more details.

<https://bit.ly/3OKkMSo>

Meeting ID: 828 4898 9159 Passcode: 160636 or dial 0208 080 6592

In this issue:

Diary Dates	2	Warmer This Winter Day of Action	27
November Meeting Report	3	Corporate Justice Campaign	27
BFoE Anniversary Exhibition 2022	4	Brogdale Heritage Orchard Day	28
COP27 Study Course	17	Cleaner & Greener Update	29
Biggin Hill Noise Action Plan Review	17	Climate Justice Alliance	31
Biggin Hill Council Meeting	18	COP27 Petition	31
Biggin Hill Noise Update	19	The Dipper	34
Interesting Articles	20	Campaigns	37
u3a Countdown to COP	22	Supplies	38
Social Media	23	Roles	39
Wasted Resource 300+ Empty Homes	24		

www.bromleyfoe.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

December Meeting Participation

This month we are having a 'hybrid' meeting once again. Use the details on the cover of this newsletter to join us via Zoom, or come along to the Friends Meeting House, full address below.

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 item here makes you angry, delights you, enthuses you, or causes 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

3rd Dec (Sat) Warm This Winter Day of Action on Fuel Poverty. More information page 29.

6th Dec (Tue) Friends of the Earth Bromley Monthly Meeting 7.30pm. The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley, on the corner of Ringer's Road. This month it's our Seasonal Social. Time to catch up together, enjoy festive foods and fun and the legendary non-alcoholic punch.

13-14th Dec (Tue-Wed) Have your say on our new Corporate Justice campaign. More details page 29.

3rd Jan (Tue) Friends of the Earth Bromley Monthly Meeting 7.30pm. The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley, on the corner of Ringer's Road. Speaker: Parisa Wright Founder and CEO of Cleaner & Greener Bromley (& beyond).

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

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 16th December.**

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

Email: 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.

November Meeting Report

Sue & John Bocock

Another 'hybrid' meeting for November. But, encouragingly more FOE members are returning to the Quaker Meeting Hall.

Our speaker this month was Cllr Aisha Cuthbert, the new LBB Environment Portfolio Holder. Her talk began with a short resume of her background and varied interests. Brought up in Canada, she began campaigning at the early age of seventeen for sustainable mining in partnership with the American Government. This sounded like a contradiction in terms. Aisha is mother to two young boys, aged three and one, and had a background interest in synchronised swimming which took her to Budapest where she won a medal in 2017. She has been the councillor for Shortlands and Park Langley since 2018. Her other 'Green credentials' include a vegetarian diet.

We were then given a list of Bromley's three main priorities.

Firstly, to keep the streets clean Veolia, has also been going into schools teaching children about specific trees and their distinguishing features. An estimated 291,000 leaves have been collected and composted, lessening the likelihood of blocked drains.

Secondly, to minimise waste and maximise recycling

Aisha explained how the Council is trying to encourage businesses to reduce their waste. Equally more people, 18,000 to be precise, are using brown bins for their garden waste. (this will also minimise trips to the 'tips' at Churchfields Penge and

Waldo road in Bromley.)

Lastly, to enhance Bromley's parks and green spaces. Children adore these spaces where they can play safely and are able to exercise outside in the 'fresh air'.

Aisha mentioned that £1,000,000 extra money had been earmarked for the Queen's Jubilee.

Bromley has been encouraging volunteering and Friends Groups. Grants have been given for more outdoor play equipment, £40,000 per ward. Street friends have been encouraged to plant trees and water them.

In 2021 Bromley committed to the Net Zero Strategy Target by 2027. This is quite an ambitious target as Aisha acknowledged. This would include a roll out of LED lights, investment in green energy, new woodlands, more electrical vehicle chargers- more are needed.

Air Quality Action Plan. Bromley is investing in green energy and is currently meeting air quality guidelines. We have 35 monitors across the Borough.

Open Space Strategy. Regarding grass verges. Bromley allows grass to be left uncut. This allows more wildlife to thrive: butterflies, bees and insects generally. There are 20 areas doing this. In Hayes some Conservative councillors are not happy about this, and a certain amount of friction has ensued.

Bromley, Croydon and Lewisham are now combining together against fly-tipping. At the end of Councillor

Cuthbert's talk, a question was asked about food waste. We were told that half of the food waste was converted into compost and sent to local farmers and the other half was used to produce energy.

This concluded a very stimulating and informative talk.

BFoE 50th Anniversary Exhibition 2022

Annette Rose

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped with our 50th Anniversary Exhibition at Bromley Central Library. It really



was a group effort to organise with the library, prepare and mount the exhibition, bring along artefacts, organise the opening event and take it all down at the end. There were also all the people who helped man the exhibition and talk to the public. And of course all those who came along to see it and give their support. I won't attempt to name every-one but I would like to give Judy

Palmer a special mention who did invaluable work from home on the admin side. If you missed the exhibition, we hope to bring some small parts along to the December meeting and we hope to have a video and photo book at some stage.

Thank you every-one!

We invited the public to write in our Visitors Book. Here are some of the comments from the book.

'A wonderful and informative exhibition. Brilliant! Thank you.'

'Fantastic exhibition. So important to record the history of or movement in this way.'

'A good display well put together and was importantly easy to take in for various age groups'



'Very interesting and informative. It is so good that people devote such time and effort for a good cause. Thank you.'

'An excellent and inspiring exhibition. Anyone seeing it will want to pass on its messages and encourage others to come.'

'Very good info on plastic use. Excellent record of the history of Bromley FOE.'

'An excellent celebration marking the hard work you and the other FOE movement have achieved in the last 50 years. Looking forward to the future! Well done.'

Pictures from Dan Sloan, Paul de Zylva, Ruth Fabricant, Sheila Brown, Diana Hurd, Sue Bocock, Ann Garrett and Annette Rose

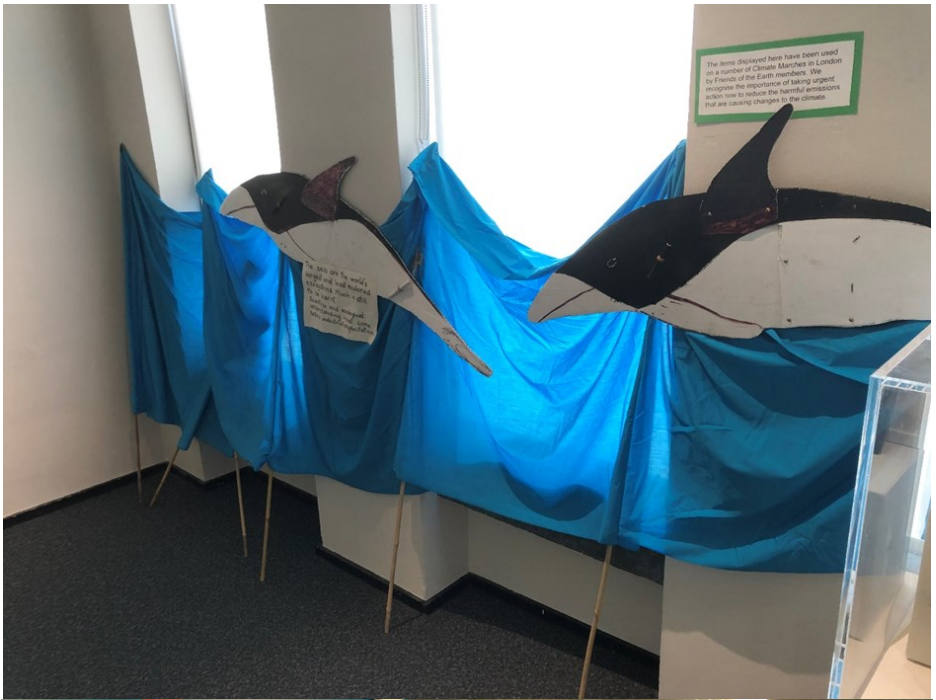






















COP27 Study Course

Annette Rose

Some of you may be familiar with the free courses on Futurelearn.com. I have nearly completed a course entitled 'Learning for a Sustainable Future-Live at COP27' presented by the University of Edinburgh.

Although COP27 will be complete by the time you receive this, it is not too late to follow this short 2 week course. I have found it very interesting to find out the history of the COPs and to gain a better understanding of their purpose. I have also gained knowledge of some of the terminology used and what they mean. For example- Climate Justice, Loss and Damage, Sustainable Development Goals. The course is easy to follow with lots of videos, interviews and links to explore deeper. Highly recommended!

Biggin Hill Noise Action Plan Review Update from Committee Meetings October 18th & 19th

May we start with a huge vote of thanks to all who came to one or both of the Council meetings this week. Once again, there could be no doubt about the level of support amongst residents for our campaign. We also realise that for one reason or another, not everyone was able to attend and we very much appreciate the messages of support that we received from you.

It was also clear that you have been writing to Councillors in great numbers and this was acknowledged several times during the Committee meetings which took place this week. All in all you have

made an undeniable impression! Once again, THANK YOU!

This newsletter summarises the main points of discussion over the two meetings. The main debate took place at the Executive, Resources and Contracts Policy Development Scrutiny (ERCPDS) Committee on the 18th and the recommendations were endorsed with little further comment at the Executive Committee meeting the following evening.

What became clear as the meeting progressed was that Councillors do seem to be listening to the comments they have received from residents who live under the flight path for Biggin Hill Airport. Only one Councillor (Melanie Stevens, Biggin Hill, Independent) spoke to endorse the Noise Action Plan in its current form. All other Councillors who asked questions or offered comments echoed the feedback they have received from residents. This was across the political spectrum and not only Councillors whose wards are under the flight path.

The ERCPDS Committee resolved that the report received from BHAL, which is now available to the public, will be considered again at their meeting and the subsequent Executive Committee meeting in January 2023. This is now supposed to be the last time the NAP Review will be postponed. Whilst this delay simply extends the time that residents will have had to endure the effects of BHA's operations, the reason given is that the Council wishes to know the outcome of the report by the CAA on the proposed new route which is

projected to reduce the number of flights passing over residential areas by about 30% over the course of the year and is accepted by the Council as a “material consideration”. The Council has put pressure on the CAA directly and via local MPs to stick to their commitment to report back during the last quarter of this year. It was also noted by Councillors that this process has taken so long because BHAL were very slow in presenting their submission to the CAA in the first place.

The NAP which has now been submitted

will be reviewed by the Council in January 2023 in the light of the CAA report. Importantly, however, this is now seen as the start of a further process which will create a revision to the NAP and the Council has stated that it will consult with residents during this process.

Many Councillors wanted this revision process to start as soon as possible because residents have waited so long for it. However, the decision was taken that it will definitely start in January regardless of whether or not the CAA’s

Council Biggin Hill Meeting

Anne Garrett

This photo of the Bromley FoE banner was taken before the council Executive meeting on Oct 19th

The placard says 'No Biggin Hill Airport Expansion - Yes to Improved Air Quality'.

The Executive voted to support recommendations from the Scrutiny committee meeting on Oct 18th to put a cap on the 125,000 flight movements per year and for the airport to adhere to the terms and conditions of the original lease with improved monitoring of helicopter flights and air quality.



report has been received.

The case was made at the ERCPDS Committee meeting for making the additional hours granted to BHAL in 2015 part of the negotiation as the NAP is revised. There was a general feeling that BHAL had not been a good partner in the deal that was done when the extension to their operating hours was approved. There is now a call for more detail about how BHA actually benefits the borough and for the documents which form part of the revision of the new NAP to be made available to residents so there is transparency in the process going forward. In short, it was recognised that there has been a loss of trust as far as residents are concerned and this needs to be addressed.

Environmental concerns were also mentioned and more vigilance about pollution arising from the airport is now firmly on the agenda.

So where do we stand now?

First and foremost, Flightpath Watch will go through the NAP which was presented for review with a fine toothcomb to make sure that nothing is allowed to creep in which cannot be undone when the revised NAP, is produced. We will be seeking your support to continue your communications with your Councillors on these specific issues as they are identified.

Second, we are aware that not all of the detail that was discussed at the Committee meetings was reflected in the recommendations at the end of the meeting but we are comforted that Councillors have followed events over

the past six years and are aware of what has gone wrong. Hopefully this will be reflected in their final considerations next January.

Our newsletters will keep you up to date with developments and concerns as they arise. Please pass on the information to your neighbours and friends. The issues listed in the flyer that accompanied the last newsletter are still relevant, albeit analysis has been postponed, and can be found on our website (www.flightpathwatch.co.uk) if you no longer have a copy.

Our sincere thanks for your support so far. Please keep in touch with us and with your Councillors.
Best regards

Robert Pattullo
Chairman
Flightpath Watch Ltd
<https://flightpathwatch.co.uk/>

Biggin Hill Noise Action Plan Review Further Update

Following our last newsletter to you dated 21st October, I wanted to update everyone on Flightpath Watch's next steps in supporting residents' concerns about Biggin Hill Airport Ltd not honouring their pledges made at the time the increased operating hours were approved in 2015. The Noise Action Plan (NAP) Review needs to recognise these pledges.

The Executive, Resources and Contracts Policy Development Scrutiny (ERCPDS) Committee on the 18th October agreed the need for all the NAP Review documentation to be

published and for residents to provide feedback to the review. This was a repeat of the Council wishes confirmed and minuted at the Council Executive in January 2022. Flightpath Watch have written to the Council asking for their reassurance that we have all this documentation.

The Council have made it very clear that they wish to review the existing NAP in January now, then produce a revised version with amendments and improvements going forward. And if this is going to be the case, this philosophy has to apply equally to both residents and the airport. Flightpath Watch will go through the NAP documentation with a fine toothcomb to make sure that nothing is allowed to creep in which cannot be undone when the revised NAP is adopted. During this month we will be working hard to compile a comprehensive report of all the issues concerning residents as part of this NAP Review. It will be written in such a way that it will highlight items that were imbedded in the existing NAP, and those that have been introduced during the review process by any party, and which will constitute a revision to the NAP so that they can be considered separately.

We will share this document with you in December and send it to the Council as the residents' feedback, as part of the January 2023 NAP Review.

Again, Flightpath Watch will be seeking your support to continue your communications with your Councillors on these specific issues as they are identified and writing to your ward councillors. Also, to attend in large numbers, with family

friends and neighbours, the January 2023 Scrutiny and Executive Committees. Details will be given to you as they become known, nearer the time.

In addition, we hope to be able to raise environmental issues further by holding a public meeting with an environmental expert. Further details will be confirmed in a future newsletter once arrangements are in place.

Our newsletters will continue to keep you updated with developments and concerns as they arise. Please pass on the information to your neighbours and friends. The issues listed in the flyer that accompanied a previous newsletter are still relevant, albeit analysis has been postponed until January, and can be found on our website (www.flightpathwatch.co.uk) if you no longer have a copy.

Our sincere thanks for your support so far. Please keep in touch with us and with your Councillors. Thank you.
Best regards

Robert Pattullo

Interesting Articles

Climate change: Can an enormous seaweed farm help curb it?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-63200589>

Scotland generates record amount of renewable electricity
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63229402>

Plans to scrap nature-friendly farm subsidies put biodiversity target 'at risk'
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/13/plans-to-scrap-nature-friendly-farm-subsidies-put-biodiversity-target-at-risk>

Six buildings that show reuse "isn't a constraint on creativity"
<https://www.dezeen.com/2022/10/11/renovation-building-for-change-architecture-creative-reuse-ruth-lang/>

100m highly polluting cars could appear on Europe's roads after EU move
[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/21/100m-highly-polluting-cars-could-appear-on-europes-roads-after-eu-move?](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/21/100m-highly-polluting-cars-could-appear-on-europes-roads-after-eu-move?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)
[CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other](#)

French farmers are covering crops with solar panels to produce food and energy at the same time
<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/french-farmers-covering-crops-solar-152116208.html>

Landowners call for scrapping of plans to ban solar energy from England's farmland
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/22/landowners-call-for-scrapping-of-plans-to-ban-solar-energy-from-englands-farmland>

Photovoltaic-thermal solar tiles
<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2022/10/21/photovoltaic-thermal-solar-tiles/>

Air source heat pump disadvantages and problems | Ideal Home
<https://www.idealhome.co.uk/house-manual/home-energy/air-source-heat-pump-disadvantages>

Ranked: London Buses: First pictures of city's new 'trambuses' that will replace old models on major routes
<https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/london-buses-first-pictures-citys-25372182>

Latin American Countries By Green Energy Use
<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/ranked-latin-american-countries-by-green-energy-use/>

Nothing will change on climate until death toll rises in west, says Gabonese minister
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/oct/31/nothing-will-change-on-climate-until-death-toll-rises-in-west-says-gabonese-minister-aoe>

It's greenwash': most home compostable plastics don't work, says study
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/03/greenwash-home-compostable-plastics-dont-work-aoe>

"All those complicit in Neom's design and construction are already destroyers of worlds"
<https://www.dezeen.com/2022/11/02/neom-the-line-saudi-arabia-architects-opinion/>

National Trust members reject motions attacking Pride and rewilding involvement | Evening Standard
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/environment/pride-none-agm-berkshire-cliveden-house-b1037835.html>

Study Finds On-Street Lampost EV Chargers Are Lowest-Carbon Solution

<https://insideevs.com/news/619989/using-lamposts-for-ev-charging-reduces-carbon-footprint/>

The Netherlands, Germany and Spain:
Which European countries are leading the solar revolution?

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/11/09/the-netherlands-germany-and-spain-which-european-countries-are-leading-the-solar-revolution>

University of the Third Age Countdown to COP

Mary Sterling

Our Bromley u3a chair Sandy Boden kindly sent round an invitation to the "Countdown to COP" event to be held at the London Business School on 12th November 2022.

I decided to register and go along.

It was held at the London Business School on Saturday 12th November 2022 and what a glorious, beautiful, sunny day that was.

I got up to London quite early and had a chance to have a short walk in Regent's Park which is very near the London Business School. The day started with coffee and fruit and a chance to get to know other people. There were over 150 people there both from different u3a groups around the country and students from Warwick University. The main reason that u3a members were invited was to be part of the intergenerational workshop about

The Rationale for Inter-Generational Climate Dialogue.

There were about 10 tables each with a

mixture of u3a members and Warwick University Students.

Very excitedly, I sat next to a u3a member who had worked at Machynlleth, the Centre for Alternative Technology for over 28 years as their School Liaison Officer and still now lived in Wales. (I myself had visited Machynlleth over 35 years ago!

The other person next to me originally came from Italy and was currently a Scientist in London and had seen it advertised locally. What a joy she was to talk to.

Each table had to consider 3 questions:

- The Rationale for Inter-Generational Climate Dialogue
- How can intergenerational climate dialogue be undertaken?

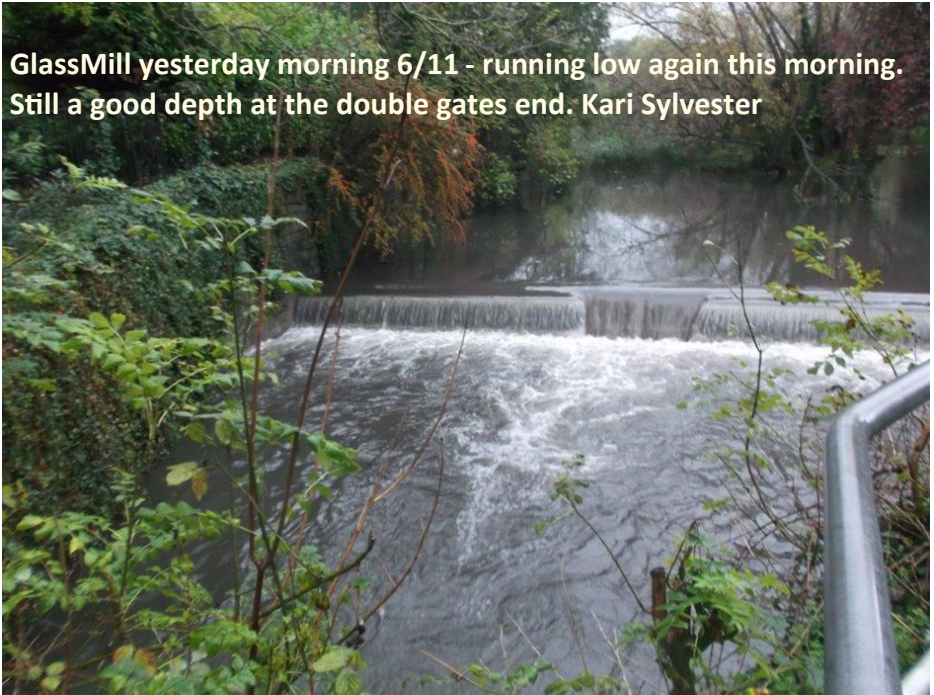
What could the impact of intergenerational climate dialogue be?

We had a varied and interesting discussion with everyone having the chance to put forward their own points of view.

A number of points arose such as:

- The possibility of students in schools being given climate literacy training
- How important the opportunities for dialogue were
- It should not all be serious - fun was very important
- Working together increased the awareness of knowledge
- The younger generation do not necessarily have a platform to voice their views and may not be given respect.

GlassMill yesterday morning 6/11 - running low again this morning. Still a good depth at the double gates end. Kari Sylvester



- The younger people have not had years of experience and contacts (this was from a young person). I found this quite heart-warming to see how much they valued the views of older people.
- If we hear from each other we can help each other out.
- Older people can pass over the baton to us to take it forward.
- Shared goals
- Different experiences
- Lots to learn from each other
- Share tactics/common vision

We don't have to agree on everything.

We can only achieve change if we include everybody.

All the tables then fed back to everyone else.

Subsequently, we had a most interesting plant based lunch when I tried some food which I had never tried before (I am always open to new experiences!!)

The conference continued into the afternoon with various speakers but I left soon after lunch.

Our table have exchanged details and may meet up online on a future occasion to plan the way forward.

If I had not been a member of the Bromley u3a, I would never have been invited, so all I can say is "thank you".

Social Media

As you may, or may not, be aware, that we have a presence on several forms of social media. These are various ways

that we can spread our words to the general public via the apps they use from day to day to communicate with friends and follow organisations, companies and celebrities.

We have accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. This is how many people follow us on each and the names we are known as so we can be looked up.

Twitter:
@FoEBromley or friends of the Earth
Bromley 221 followers

Facebook:
Friends of the Earth Bromley
498 followers

Instagram:
Friends of the Earth Bromley
102 followers

Bromley Council and the Wasted Resource of Over 300 Empty Homes

Dermot Mckibbin
Twitter: @dermotmckibbin1
Blog Getcommonholddone.com

Bromley Council has recently announced that it will consult residents over a six-week period starting around 21 November on whether it should charge the maximum amount of council tax on unoccupied properties that have been empty for two years or more. This is known as the empty homes premium. Bromley is the last local authority in London to not do this.

Most residents who responded to a similar consultation exercise in 2020 supported the introduction of this extra tax. However, the Council decided not to introduce the tax due to perceived

problems with covid. For more details see <http://getcommonholddone.co.uk/empty-property/2021/06/04/fire-at-18-year-old-empty-property-shows-that-bromley-council-is-too-soft-on-empty-property-owners/>

The previous consultation document referred to problems caused by empty properties such as causing a drop in house prices and attracting anti-social behavior. The Council could negotiate with owners to offer them help to bring such properties back into use.

Many local authorities are keen to use empty properties as an alternative to expensive temporary accommodation for homeless households. Bromley Council spends over £10 million on temporary accommodation. It rehuses homeless households as far away as Canterbury or Birmingham.

For more details see <http://getcommonholddone.co.uk/general-housing/2021/04/21/conservative-housing-policies-in-bromley/>

The Council figures for empty residential properties as of 30 September 2022 are:

- 246 empty properties for between 2 to 5 years.
- 62 empty properties for between 5 to 10 years.
- 27 empty properties for over 10 years.

The total figure is 335.

This figure is too cautious. In a reply to a formal question from Councillor Nicholas Bennett, a leading Conservative councillor, the Council

informed him that 89 commercial premises had been empty for between 5 to 10 years and 59 for over 10 years. Some of these may be suitable for use as domestic premises especially flats above offices. In the same question the Council admitted that one residential property had been empty for over 28 years!

The property shown below is in Orchard Road BR1 2PR. According to neighbours, it has been empty for over 14 years.

This property is in the Bickley ward of Bromley Council. Councillor Colin Smith is the leader of Bromley Council and is one of the Bickley councillors. He has the power to change council policy.

The wards with the highest number of empty properties are Penge, Beckenham Town and Copers Cope, and Farnborough and Crofton.

The property overleaf is “Northdene” in the road known as Beckenham Place Park. It has been empty for over 14 years. There were two fires at this property within 3 days in June 2021. The police served the owner with an anti-social behaviour order. The Council refuses to say what action they are taking if anything.

Despite claiming to be a “green authority”, tackling empty homes in Bromley is not a priority for the Council. The Council has shown little interest in implementing the recommendations of Bromley’s own [Homes Strategy](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/download/346/bromley-council-housing-strategy) (<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/download/346/bromley-council-housing-strategy>) which seeks to

“Bring responsibility for tackling empty





homes into Housing, Planning & Regeneration and develop a new strategy to robustly pursue opportunities to bring empty homes back into use. “

There are no targets or even a strategy for reducing empty properties. Nor are any operational reports made to Committee. There was a period when the Council had no staff in post to tackle this issue. No senior councillor is responsible for this issue.

Council staff do not engage with the public who want to see empty homes brought back into use. A previous Council commitment to visit all empty homes in the borough annually has now been removed from the Council’s website. The Council rarely takes enforcement action in this area. The Council Leader is believed to be opposed to the use of compulsory purchase orders.

The Council estimate that the introduction

of this premium will produce £228,000 income for the Council. This figure does not take account of the amount of money the Council could generate from the new homes bonus that central government pays to local councils. This bonus takes account of empty homes work. There is no mention of savings to the cost of temporary accommodation if only one empty property was used to accommodate homeless households.

The Council is out of touch with parliamentary developments (<https://www.actiononemptyhomes.org/news/government-proposes-new-empty-homes-and-second-homes-tax-powers-but-is-taxation-enough>). The Leveling up Bill is currently going through Parliament:

The Bill recognises the impact that high levels of second home ownership can

have in some areas and will introduce a new discretionary council tax premium on second homes of up to 100%. It will also allow councils to apply a council tax premium of up to 100% on homes which have been empty for longer than one year (rather than two years as currently). This will encourage more empty homes into productive use, while enabling councils to raise and retain additional revenue to support local services and keep council tax down for local residents.

Bringing an empty home back into use leaves less of a carbon footprint than a new home. A study (<https://emptyhomespartnership.scot/empty-homes-and-the-climate-emergency/>) for Historic Scotland estimated the carbon footprint of building a new two-bed house as **80 tonnes of CO2**. In contrast, the carbon footprint of refurbishing an old house was just eight tonnes CO2e.

Progressive opinion in Bromley must respond to the consultation paper on whether to charge the empty homes premium when it is published later this month. It is a sad indictment of 12 years of Conservative Government that local councils are under no duty to publish an empty homes strategy. Local councillors should be sent pictures of empty properties in their wards to ask them to persuade the Council to act.

Warm This Winter Day of Action on Fuel Poverty - 3rd December

A number of groups have already signed up to the United for Warm Homes campaign https://www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/?dm_i=78W4,BG6V,1GQKGP,1DXQ0,1 and

are getting going with community mapping and building partnerships, which is really exciting to see! It's not too late to sign up if your group also wants to take part in the campaign.

On 3 December, United for Warm Homes is taking part in a nationwide Day of Action on fuel poverty, co-ordinated by Warm This Winter. The Day of Action will see people come together and demand solutions to the energy and cost-of-living crises. It will be a chance to build relationships with local partners, increase awareness of the United for Warm Homes campaign locally and advertise a kick-off event.

Read our day of action guide https://unitedforwarmhomes.uk/warm-winter-day-action-fuel-poverty?dm_i=78W4,BG6V,1GQKGP,1DXLS,1 and get access to all the resources you need to take part. And do let me know if you're keen to take part so we can support you to plan your action.

Corporate Justice Campaign

Have your say on our new Corporate Justice campaign! 13 or 14 December

Plans for our new campaign with the Corporate Justice Coalition https://corporatejusticecoalition.org/?dm_i=78W4%2CBG6V%2C1GQKGP%2C1DXLU%2C1 for a law on human rights and the environment are underway – and we are keen to hear your views and ideas!

Please join us on Tuesday 13 December 6.30 – 7.45pm or Wednesday 14 December 8 – 9.15pm (these are repeat sessions, you only need to go to one) to

share your ideas and feedback on ways that groups can be involved in the campaign. We'd love to hear your views – please sign up here. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/campaigning-for-a-new-corporate-justice-law-have-your-say-registration-464139362327?dm_i=78W4,BG6V,1GQKGP,1DXLT,1



Brogdale Heritage Orchard Day

Robert Clark

We were lucky enough to attend one of the Heritage Days at the National Fruit Collection Home at Brogdale at the end of October.

We met up with Peter, Sheila and her sister too.

Here are some pictures of our day.

Included in the ticket was a bag full of apples each.

Orchard walks and other events are planned throughout the week all year round at:
<https://brogdalecollections.org/>



Cleaner & Greener Update

Parisa Wright

Christmas News & Also 3 Mins
of Fame!

Dear Community Leader Friends
and Groups

I just wanted to share our 3



mins of fame on 6pm ITV News this week:
<https://youtu.be/pzx5NRI5dYM>

Grateful to my amazing family & the volunteers & staff who have put blood, sweat and tears into our sustainable living charity Greener & Cleaner alongside me!

And that includes big thanks to YOU all for your own important efforts in this area and in our collaborations with you over the years, and going forward!

If any of your organisations would like a guest speaker for a meeting or event, let me know as we love helping to clear the confusion and highlighting the important local co-benefits around saving money and getting healthier with sustainable living - plus guest speaker fees help fund our free community workshops at the Hub.

Either way, any festive charitable donations towards our charitable community work, for and in each of your areas of the borough and with many of the vulnerable groups we all seek to support, would be hugely appreciated. We are trying to raise £100k for the core running costs of the Hub and its work out in the community and also our research to boost diversity and inclusion (with Imperial College London) in this area so all donations are hugely appreciated.

We also have smaller items and projects with which we need support, for example we currently need to buy x4 foldable crafting tables for a total of £200, craft supplies for our free community upcycling workshops at £500, new & accessible/clear signage for the different areas & focuses of the Hub at £1500 and other key bits and bobs.

Great news that the Bromley Environment

Network has been revived / kickstarted by Greener & Cleaner fundraising for an Ops Lead for 6 months (to start)! Mark Drinkwater the new BEN man himself, started a month ago and should hopefully be in touch with your organisations (if you are members) with the first new newsletter which came out in November. *(If you'd like a copy of this then contact us at bromleyfoe@gmail.com, or by using the editor's details on the inside cover of this newsletter, and we'll email or send one to you.)*

Many thanks again to you all for your hard work in addressing the climate crisis, that effects us all in this borough. As we know, the UN reported last week that we now have 2-3 years, not 7 years, left to halve emissions and that we are not doing enough.

Let's do our bit to ensure our borough does halve emissions and air pollution. We all know that more droughts, flooding, pandemics and air quality problems are just the tip of the iceberg on how this crisis is affecting our borough, and sadly local impacts will only worsen if we do not 'step up' now. It's not something we can 'do later'.

We're keen to collaborate if you want to do more and need a partner or want clarity on what you can do as an organisation.

Thank you for all you already do for your communities (!!) and for all we will do together to preserve their wellbeing.

Climate Justice Alliance

Ann Garrett

A big thank you to Annette, Ruth, John Catlin, Anne Clark and Paul Garratt for their support.

We were also represented in London by Diana Hurd and Rob Clark joined by many others from local groups across London and some head office staff.

The message on our Bromley stall poster had the sun shining on it, and the words don't show, so I include an extra photo of it.

COP Petition

On Monday 7th November, the UN chief issued a stark warning – the world is on a “highway to climate hell”. His message was clear. We need urgent action from world leaders at COP27, or we face global disaster.

But standing in the way of progress is a dangerous treaty. One that allows fossil fuel companies to sue countries if climate

action gets in the way of their profits.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak finally decided to turn up at COP27. But if he wants to be taken seriously on the world stage, he must follow the likes of the Netherlands, France and Spain and announce the UK's withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty. Over 1 million people across Europe have asked their leaders to pull out. 5 countries have said they will. Please ask the UK government to do the same.

Sign the petition here:

<https://action.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/demand-exit-from-energy->



[charter-treaty?
utm_source=call-to-action-
supporting&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=system-
change&utm_content=FY2223-
11%20211013%20energy-
charter-treaty-petition-launch-
november&source=FN221104
9&user=B3F932AE3D56B01EB
036DA0C4A10D39A](https://www.energycharter.org/charter-treaty?utm_source=call-to-action-supporting&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=system-change&utm_content=FY2223-11%20211013%20energy-charter-treaty-petition-launch-november&source=FN2211049&user=B3F932AE3D56B01EB036DA0C4A10D39A)

While we remain part of the Energy Charter Treaty, fracking firms can sue national governments for restricting or stopping their dirty drilling.

And right now, a UK firm is suing the government of Slovenia for over £100 million for putting an end to its plans to frack an area of natural beauty in East Slovenia [1]. The same thing could happen in the UK.

Powerful corporations are being allowed to seek huge amounts of compensation



when they're prevented from making money by wrecking the planet.

In fact, the UK alone could be liable for £12 billion on the path to net zero carbon emissions.

The UN warned that without action, we could be heading for 2.5 degrees of global heating [2].

This treaty that the UK is part of prioritises companies' profits over the people whose lives will be ruined by the impacts of terrifying climate breakdown. If PM Sunak is serious about climate leadership, he must exit the treaty at the Energy Charter Conference on 22 November.

Please join millions of people across the world to stop corporations from standing in the way of climate action. And demand the UK withdraws from this dangerous



agreement.

Thank you so much for everything you've done so far.

All the best,

Kierra Box
Campaigner,
Friends of the
Earth

NOTES:

[1] Why can
Ascent
Resources

demand half a billion euros from Slovenia?
ISDS Platform

[2] UN: World faces 2.5C of warming as climate action 'nowhere near' levels needed, The Independent

The Dipper

Steve Fuller - Taken from the Chelsefield Village Voice newsletter

Before getting to the subject of this month's piece I'd like to mention an article I saw on the BBC website this morning. For those interested in reading the whole article the link is: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63244353>

The title is "Climate Change: Summer 2022 smashed dozens of UK records" and details the data collected across the country during the past summer we enjoyed – or not as the case may be. It seems that 56 of 109 weather stations that have been recording data for more than 50 years recorded their highest temperatures ever during the summer. Maximum temperature records are usually broken by narrow margins but during 2022 the margins were, by meteorological standards, extraordinarily large. The largest margin was recorded at Bramham in West Yorkshire, where the record was broken by 6.3 degrees C, while the maximum temperature recorded was 40.3 degrees C at Coningsby, where the record was broken by 1.6 degrees C. The majority of broken records occurred in Northern England, although records were also broken in Wales and Scotland. 80% of the new records broke previous highest-ever temperatures that were set since the turn of the millennium, meaning that records

are being broken at an increasingly faster rate. All of this points to climate change. I hear and know people who claim that the climate has always been changing – cue the example of the ice ages only a few tens of thousands of years ago. All true of course. But these arguments often contain an ounce of truth and a ton of lies making them all the easier to swallow for those that want easy excuses. The important point here is the rate at which things change.



Historically, change would occur in, literally, a glacial manner! This change has now accelerated tremendously since the start of the Industrial Revolution and particularly in the last century and is now becoming difficult to ignore. The change is happening so fast that the natural world cannot accommodate those changes.

So, this month I want to talk about a bird that I have only seen once, and

that was while visiting friends on the Wales/England border on a stream known as White Brook that leads into the Wye Valley. This bird is the dipper (Circumcircles). It seems that dippers cannot usually be seen anywhere in the south east of England preferring all other parts of the country and home nations. But, as I mentioned in August when I wrote about the weather, I am now including birds that I have seen but not necessarily in Chelsfield. So, this bird is a stocky, long-legged bird that looks somewhat like a giant wren or female blackbird (i.e essentially dark brown) albeit with a white breast, although it is actually related to the thrush family. Indeed, one of the colloquial names for this bird is the water blackbird. Other names include the wee waterhen (Ireland), water creek, water ouzel and water colly. This bird's life consists of dipping (hence the name) under the water of small streams, looking for insects. It's normal above-surface behaviour is to find a small boulder and bob up and down in a similar fashion to that of a wagtail – potentially also leading to its eponymous name. It's a hardy bird and will dip below the surface of ice-fringed streams all day long, earning a living from freshwater shrimps, other insects and even small fish and their eggs.

Cameras sited below the surface show the hunting technique of this bird consists of walking over the riverbed against the water flow while resisting its own cork-like buoyancy, searching for food. While underwater, they are covered by a thin, silvery film of air, due to small bubbles trapped on the surface of the plumage. Despite dippers association with water,

they are very 'terrestrial birds' and do not have the usual water-fowl-type features of such birds, for instance they do not have webbed feet. However, they do have solid bones (unlike typical birds that have hollow bones to reduce weight and aid flying) to help reduce their buoyancy, and sharp claw like feet to hold onto rocks on the stream-bed as well as a nasal flap to prevent them from drowning. Another adaptation allows their blood to maintain a high concentration of oxygen, enabling them to remain under water for up to 30 seconds.

These birds are dependent on clear, unpolluted water and secure nests close to water. As such, they have become threatened and even in the past hunted. In both Germany and Scotland at one time, they were hunted until the beginning of the 20th century because it was believed that they ate the eggs of salmon and therefore threatened future generations of salmon that were obviously beneficial to the recreational fishing industry. Despite this history and the rather restrictive nature of these birds environmental requirements, there are potentially up to 20,000 breeding pairs in Britain and they are not considered to be 'at risk'.

Recipes The following is a monthly recipes from the Woodland Trust.

DECEMBER

Pine cone garland

As the festive season arrives, it's time to decorate! But as we become more aware of the need to reduce our use of plastics, how about making a plastic-free pine cone garland with your family rather than buying tinsel? The garlands can vary in size, depending on the pine cones you collect.

YOU WILL NEED

Plenty of pine cones – look out for them on a walk and collect some to take home.

Don't worry if they are closed – they will soon open when in a warm, dry room

Thick florist wire to support the wreath

Thin, pliable florist wire to bend round the pine cones

Piece of ribbon or raffia

A tin or spray can of white craft paint and a small paintbrush.

METHOD

- Tap your pine cones gently outside or over some newspaper to free any bugs hiding inside.
- If they are very dirty give them a wash – though be quick as they close up again when wet – or just clean them with a stiff brush.
- Create a ring with the thick wire, in a size of your choice.
- Tie the ribbon or raffia to the wire ring.
- Wind the bendy florist wire in between the bottom scales of the pine cones, leaving around 15cm to wind around the frame.
- Once you have enough to cover the wire circle, attach each pine cone to the frame.
- To create a dusting of snow, spray or dab with white paint.



Thomas Baker/Alamy Stock Photo

Campaigns

FoE campaigns list as of January 2022. These may 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

The result of the Cop27 summit in Egypt from November 6th to the 18th, as expected has had mixed results. Environmentalists have reported that decisions don't go far enough, but welcome the emphasis that oil giants and rich countries must pay for the devastation being wrought by climate change.

The oil and gas industry continues to earn almost \$3 billion dollars daily in profits. Antigua and Barbuda representing smaller islands proposed that these companies should pay a global carbon tax. Senegal argued that funds from richer countries were needed so that developing countries in Africa can adapt to climate change and warned that ditching fossil fuels was not realistic. There was clearly conflict here as Senegal said that greenhouse gas

emissions must be reduced, but that Africa cannot accept that vital interests are ignored.

Wealthy countries were urged to keep a pledge to send an annual \$100billion to nations needing eco funds. Sri Lanka argued that while climate funds missed targets, the West has no qualms about spending for a war in Ukraine. President Zelensky, however, warned that Russia's invasion is hindering climate efforts.

In Bromley, our Friends of the Earth group organised a vigil at short notice on November 12th in Bromley Market Square, a global day of action marked in London at the Shell headquarters and in cities throughout the UK and different parts of the world.

Earth on Fire masks were worn and posters displayed. The main one said 'Cop 27 Climate Justice'.

'Home Heating, Fuel Poverty and the Climate Crisis' leaflets were given out to members of the public. [see photos]

Ann Garrett

Energy

In late November, a top level meeting of European science ministers will convene in Paris. Their job is to decide the next priorities for the European Space Agency of which the UK is a member. One of these is a proposal for testing the feasibility of building commercial power stations in orbit.

These huge satellites would bask in the sunlight, converting it to power and beaming it down to Earth to be fed into the power grid.

The proposed project, known as Solaris, would determine whether the idea can contribute to Europe's energy security.

If the study gets the go ahead it will be important for the space industry, which has always been at the forefront of solar power development.

Ann Garrett

Transport

Electric cars are considered to be the future in terms of a greener, safer London. With electric vehicle owners about to pay road tax for the first time after the new budget, there may be scepticism on top of charging anxiety. However the need is there, if something serious is to be done about reducing pollution. Poor air quality exacerbated by the wide use of petrol and diesel vehicles leading to even more CO2 emissions, is a very concerning problem.

What happens in London will also influence what happens in other parts of the country.

Ann Garrett

System Change

Residents and businesses are being encouraged to take part in an important planning consultation that will influence the developments that come forward in the Bromley area. This 12-week consultation seeks views on a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which once adopted will be considered when determining future planning applications in the area.

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/400/bromley-town-centre->

[planning-consultation-launched?ct=t\(Sept 10 2020 10 09 20 COPY 01\)&mc_cid=380b75689d&mc_eid=93c935bac8](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/400/bromley-town-centre-planning-consultation-launched?ct=t(Sept+10+2020+10+09+20+COPY+01)&mc_cid=380b75689d&mc_eid=93c935bac8)

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

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>*

SWOP Shop WithOut Packaging A wide range of the usual refills in Lee Green opposite Sainsbury's. <https://www.swop.market/>

Alexander Stores 61 Beckenham Rd, Beckenham BR3 4PR (Clock House Station) (Closing at the end of November, so hurry) <https://www.alexanderstores.com>

Laura's Larder, 3 Fairway, Petts Wood BR5 1EF <https://www.lauraslarder.co.uk/>

Herbivore, Southborough Lane, Bromley <http://www.carnivorefoods.com> herbivorebromley@gmail.com 020 8460 9647

Flaming Wolf Candle Company, 4 Station buildings (inside Hayes train station) BR27EN <https://flamingwolfcandleco.com/>

IT & Phone Repair Orpington IT Centre, 92 High St, Orpington BR6 0JY (Opposite Aynscombe Angle) www.orpingtonitcentre.co.uk



List Of Roles

Everyone can be contacted via the group's 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

Social Media Admins:

Emmanuelle Coetzee - Twitter
Bethan Clark - Instagram
Judy Palmer, Robert Clark - Facebook

Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

Bromley Environmental Network BEN Reps:

John Pavitt, Judy Palmer

Website & 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

Please bring your own to blended 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)



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?

.....

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