



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**

**January 2020**

No 384

**Our Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7th Jan

## **Bromley Friends of The Earth Annual General Meeting**

*A look back over the past year & forward to the year ahead. And  
a wee bit of festive fayre to round off the season!*

7.30pm The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Everyone welcome

### **In this issue:**

Diary Dates	2	E Fact for the Month	6
Newsletter Copy	2	Eco Cleaning Tips	6
December Meeting	3	Litter Bin Action	7
Inspiring Stories	3	Environmental Hustings	8
Future Fracking Stall	3	Geothermal Project	10
Capel Manor Farm Trip	3	Hayes Liveable Neighbhd	11
Maplin Site Development	4	Campaign Updates	11
Paper Newsletter?	5	Supplies that don't cost	13
Miller's Mutterings	5	Toilet Paper	14



# **NEWSLETTER**

## Diary Dates

**Jan 7<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting including campaign future planning and our AGM. 7.30pm. Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

We are legally required to hold an AGM and we'll be electing and confirming people in key organisational and campaigning roles, looking back over the year and approving the accounts.

The second half will be for looking forward. What should we focus on in 2020? We'll have a general discussion on our campaigns, our monthly meetings, also look at the future of our Newsletter and at ideas for a revamped website, plus any updates and news. And a wee bit more festive fayre to round off the season!

**Jan 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Join The Friends of Jubilee Park at their annual Quiz Night in the Garden Room, St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley BR2 8AT at 7.30pm. Led by Jennie Randall, assisted by Christine Berkshire. A fun social event to raise funds for the work of the Friends of Jubilee Country Park. Nibbles, tea and coffee provided – you're welcome to bring your own drinks too. Teams of up to 6 people – make up a team, or come along on your own, or with others, and make up a team on the night. No need to book. Entry £5 per person.

**Feb 4<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting 7.30pm**

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Friends of Jubilee Park. Ashley Leiman** who founded the **Orangutan Foundation** in 1990 will speak about Orangutans and the work of the foundation. The foundation's aim is to ensure the survival of the critically endangered orangutan and its globally important habitat, the tropical forests of Borneo and Sumatra, together with the fauna and flora they contain. Meet in the Garden Room of St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley BR2 8AT at 2pm. Refreshments will be served at the start of the meeting. Entry is free but a donation of £3 towards the cost of running the event and the work of the Friends would be welcomed.

**Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tuesday) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting 7.30pm**

## 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 **Tuesday 14th January**

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

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

## **Our December Meeting**

In December we like to have a relaxed meeting, we did not have a speaker but had brief discussions, a quiz by Judy and then moved swiftly to the main 'business' which was eating, drinking and being merry.

We covered a possible 2nd visit to Horse Hill which John Catlin was going to prospect; there is still the threat of fracking there and the protest camp is still going strong. Sue and John spoke about the Capel Manor outing (see below). On planning, Ann said we were objecting, on behalf of BFoE, to the proposed development on the Maplins site on Bromley High Street: at 16 storeys, it is far too high and dominating and would set a precedent for more high-rise buildings in the area. We covered the three election hustings which have since happened (report on page 8) and Judy reported on trees and nature.

...after which, a merry time was had by all.

## **Inspiring stories**

Sheila Brown

With stories of doom and gloom forever emerging re loss of biodiversity, there are some wonderful positive tales to read in the beautifully illustrated book KEEPERS, produced by Friends of the Earth Europe and presented to our group by Paul de Zylva. This book is available for any of our members to borrow. It details individual projects throughout Europe and stories of individuals who have taken a stand to pro-

tect habitat and biodiversity and is a good, uplifting read. Please email [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) with Keepers in the subject line if you would like to borrow it.

## **Future Campaign stall with Bromley Against Fracking**

Ann Garrett

Just to inform you that a stall is planned for The Mall Precinct in Bromley from 2.30 - 4.30 pm on Saturday March 28th.

Although the Government has created a moratorium on fracking, there is suspicion that this might only be temporary, as the fracking companies will be pressurising to restart production to ensure their profits.

'The Gatwick Gusher' at Horse Hill, using fracking-type processes, is also continuing with oil production, leading to pollution in the surrounding area.

## **Visit to Capel Manor Farm, Crystal Palace Farm**

Sue Bocock

On a very cold November day, we met up in the warmth of the new cafe in Crystal Palace Park. Our guide for the visit was Sarah Laughton, horticulturalist at Capel Manor. The staff there run courses in Garden Design and Management, and in basic Arboriculture. We passed an area planted with shrubs and roses, where students learn how to prune and mulch. Nearby, Sarah indi-

cated an area to be naturalised with a mass of crocuses in the Spring. As we approached the entrance to the Farm we caught a glimpse of a variety of animals, goats, sheep, rabbits and guinea pigs. Sarah showed us the greenhouse containing a variety of plants being propagated by students, including some cacti which would be on sale to the public later on in the year.

We also saw a living wall on a wooden structure with flowering plants on one side and herbs on the other, a great idea if space is limited or to provide some welcome greenery amongst an excess of concrete in a suburban front garden. Behind the animal enclosure area there were some compost boxes, their contents being at varying stages of decomposition. At this point in our tour, the geese were at their most vociferous as if questioning our presence and right to be there! A strange rusty piece of equipment standing nearby proved to be an antique sugar beet grinder, as one of the regular volunteers explained to us.

Our attention was drawn to the view towards the waterfall and newly completed bridge, with the dinosaurs just visible between the trees, (as were) some goats were being taken for their mid- morning exercise by park staff. Finally Sarah pointed out the large, beautiful oak tree, the oldest tree in the park. After nearly one and a half hours of our tour, Sarah offered to accompany us part way down to the cafe, just in case we were to lose our way!

Our tour finished in the pleasantly warm café, where we enjoyed some

welcome, home made broccoli soup.

Our thanks go to Sarah for a most interesting and informative tour, and for giving up most of her lunch hour to show us her workplace.

## **Maplin Site Development 66-70 Bromley High Street**

This is the text of a letter sent to Bromley Council Planning Department regarding the High Street proposed development.

Ref - 19/04 588/FULL1

Dear Planning Officer,

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

The present building is an historic 1930s building of architectural interest and should be retained as part of Bromley's heritage.

16 storeys is far too high and sets a poor precedent for this part of the High Street

The Maplins site is adjacent to a conservation area, and a new building would be unsuitable in such close proximity.

The proposed design is unimaginative, oppressive and aesthetically unpleasing.

In the original Master Plan, the Maplins Site building was worthy of retaining.

## **Paper or Online Newsletter?**

Dan Sloan

There seems to be some debate about the future of the Bromley Friends of the Earth Newsletter; whether we continue to produce it in its current printed and posted format (as well as being available in an emailed and online version), or whether we simply drop the printed version and issue it only as an online publication?

My personal feeling is that there is no question. For Bromley FoE to continue campaigning as strongly and successfully as it has in past years, and for our membership to be as well informed as they are, there must be a regular printed and posted newsletter.

The newsletter has, for 46 years, in addition to the regular monthly meetings, been the anchor for the local group. It has acted as a monthly reminder to our supporters, the majority of whom cannot get to meetings, that we exist, are active, and constantly campaigning on a whole spectrum of important issues - this is why so many of our supporters re-subscribe each year.

I'm sure that, if you are anything like me, you are inundated with emailed newsletters and other informative material each and every day, not to mention vast quantities of junk mail. I never get a chance to read much of it. We must not let the Bromley Foe newsletter simply become yet another of these probably missed or so easily trashed email communications!

Paper is a renewable, fully recyclable, and totally biodegradable resource, and

although I appreciate that printing and posting consumes energy I believe that the information imparted, and hopefully the individual actions taken by the respondents of the printed publication, outweigh the energy consumed?

Very best wishes for 2020!

## **Miller's Mutterings**

Chris Miller

Not a lot to report this month due to the weather. The cover crop of phacelia, radish and rye is coping with the rain well, as is the grass. We have been fairly busy re cladding a roof, when the wind subsided, and sides of a building plus concreting a barn floor. Managed to spend a bit more time on hobbies too!

Although some farmers have planted winter crops, the decision we made not to plant the wheat and barley was a hard one but with the continuous rain, we feel that we made the right choice.

The soil structure would have been compromised had we drilled it and all the hard work over the past few years would have been lost. Can you imagine the corners of the fields? They would be completely churned up with the constant turning of the tractor. As at the end of November, about 60% of Kent has been planted but a national average is about 36%. Most of this has been done by ploughing, not direct drilling. Not planting the winter crops has given us a golden opportunity to help eradicate some of the grass weeds. Grass weeds are more prevalent in autumn

sown crops but not in spring crops as the seeds don't have the time to make a good plant before harvest. It may come in the future that we have to go back to growing spring cereals and not autumn crops because of restrictions on chemicals.

The UK potato harvest has been affected too as you can imagine, but we hope any of our readers have managed to lift theirs before the frost came. The biggest problem with potatoes nationally will be the storing of them if they are wet.

This month's weather prediction is:

When squirrels early start to hoard,

Winter will pierce us like a sword.

The Miller family wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Steve & Chris  
Court Lodge Farm

## **E Fact for the Month**

Peter Gandolfi

Around 80% of the nitrogen found in our bodies is synthetic, originating from man-made processes used for making fertilisers, originally invented for making explosives.

Nitrogen is a very stable gas, and a major component of our atmosphere. Nature can fix (convert) nitrogen into forms that plants and animals can use, such as by lightning or specific forms of bacteria, but this happens very slowly.

Around the year 1900, new techniques became available and chemical plants started to synthesise this process, which uses a lot of energy.

Production and use of synthetic fertilisers account for 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Eco Cleaning Tips**

Sheila Brown

Suddenly it's cool to talk about mundane things like cleaning, and it's cool to be environmental. The 'Five Ways to clean your home naturally' appeared in The Guardian recently.

1. Save time with a multi-purpose spray – you'll save money too. You fill a spray bottle with half vinegar and half water; if you don't like the vinegary smell, then add essential oils eg lemon and lime to make it zesty. This spray should work for 90% of cleaning jobs – work surfaces, sink, ceramic hobs, bathrooms and mirrors, even the dining table (not sure about that one!). Apparently vinegar can also be used to de-scale the kettle: cover the element with it and boil, so no nasty chemicals! (White vinegar might be less smelly.)

2. Olive oil is an amazing natural alternative to furniture polish. Dab some on a cloth, polish gently over the surface and leave to dry. You can add lemon juice for a fresh scent.

3. Bicarbonate of soda – which you can buy in household packs, not the small

cooking ingredient drums – is a great de-greaser. It fizzes when added to water and is gently abrasive, so it's wonderful for cleaning ovens in preference to very unhealthy chemical products. For the oven, after cooking when it is still hot, either sprinkle on and add water, or make a paste and paint on, leave to cool and wipe off. Good on the metal shelves too, but obviously fiddly penetrating the awkward bits. Bicarb can also be used for unblocking drains: sprinkle some down, followed by some vinegar. It will start to bubble and dislodge the grease.

4. Castile soap – anyone know about this? *"Castile soap is an olive-oil-based hard soap made in a style similar to that originating in the Castile region of Spain"* – non-toxic and biodegradable, it is recommended for laundry, floor cleaning or shampoo as well as hand soap. For washing up liquid, mix four parts of liquid castile soap with one part water using a container you've saved from recycling. For floors, add ¼ cup of vinegar to a bucket of hot water and a generous squeeze of liquid castile soap.

5. Tackle mould and mildew using a combination of white vinegar and a few drops of tea tree oil. Yet another repurposed/rescued plastic bottle. Leave on the affected area for 30 minutes, then clean off using warm water.

*Do try some of these, and report back in the next Newsletter*

## Litter Bin Action

Adrian Appley

I turned my back on groups like Friends of the Earth, The Green Party and Greenpeace because I can only see them as "all chat and no action" organizations and that includes ignoring important environmental issues like over population that causes ALL of the problems some of us fight endlessly to remedy. I am therefore requesting that you read my latest of many emails to Bromley so called Council and help me bring them to their senses and START to follow their ignored environmental policies. Will you do that ?

Yours wondering, Adrian Appley.

Bromley Council

Good afternoon William,

No sooner have I thanked you for replacing the long missing bin from St. Luke's Church, Bromley Common bus stop than I noticed this morning that the bin at Southlands Road bus stop has disappeared. Did you have this much needed bin removed? For the past few days I noticed it left overflowing, but you cannot claim, as Councillor Smith did during his reign of vandalism as the Environmental Officer, that it was removed because of misuse, as I check this and many other street bins on a daily basis and have never seen bulky items left in or near it so what is the situation? If you did have it removed, I am convinced the REAL reason is to save money and the inconvenience of having to empty this and the hundreds

of other ones he had removed. Every bus stop should have a litter bin for obvious reasons, but few now do, and yet another one removed will add considerably to the ever increasing street litter problem.

Yours annoyed, Adrian Appley.

## **Environmental Hustings**

### **Parisa Wright**

Greener & Cleaner Bromley & Beyond organised the Bromley Borough's 1st ever Environmentally Focused Hustings, in partnership with the Bromley Youth Strike 4 Climate and Bromley Friends of The Earth groups, and hosted them for: Bromley & Chislehurst (28 Nov), Beckenham (4 Dec) and Orpington (5 Dec) Constituencies.

Bromley & Chislehurst Hustings: 160+ attendees, Liberal Democrat, Green,

Labour & Conservative Candidates were invited to speak & attended - the 2 other smaller parties were invited to submit questions instead of appearing on the panel due to time constraints. We were also joined by several local councillors. The event was held at the Council Chambers of Bromley Civic Centre and chaired by Miss Chrisa Prachalia (a local resident).

Beckenham Hustings: 130+ attendees, Liberal Democrat, Green, Labour & Conservative Candidates were invited to speak & attended.

We were also joined by several local councillors. The event was held at the Council Chambers of Bromley Civic Centre and chaired by Mrs Emilie MacMullen (a local resident).

Orpington Hustings: 170+ attendees, Liberal Democrat, Green, Labour & Conservative Candidates were invited to speak & all but the conservative can-



didate attended. He sent answers to the 6 advance questions but did not respond to repeated requests to send a representative. In the end a local 16 year old from the Bromley Youth Strike 4 Climate group stood up and read them out. The event was held at Orpington Baptist Church and chaired by the Reverend Martyn Travers.



Despite the dark, cold, wet and windy weather attendance was excellent and the events were seen as impactful environmental action forcing candidates to recognise that many local voters have the environment at the forefront of their minds these days and also persuading them to research and get to grips with the major environmental issues and their party's positions on them (and their own personal stances).

For more impactful projects and collaborations with our and other local groups, do check out the Facebook and Twitter accounts of our partners in this project:

Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/greenerandcleaneruk/>

Twitter:

@GreenercleanerB

Bromley Youth Strike 4 Climate

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/bromleyyouthstrikers/>

Twitter: @bys4c



## Geothermal project in Cornwall

Peter Gandolfi

This article was initiated by hearing about this project on Radio 4, then re-searching for more information.

Geothermal Engineering Limited (GEL) has secured funding from the European Regional Development Fund, Cornwall Council etc to explore the geothermal resources deep beneath Cornwall.

Two deep geothermal wells have been drilled at a site near Redruth. If circulation testing over the next few months proves successful, a 1-3MW power plant will be built at the site to demonstrate the technical and commercial viability of supplying both electricity and heat.

The internal structure of the earth represents a vast store of thermal energy. The temperature at the base of the crust is 1000°C, which means wherever you are the rocks get hotter with depth. Along tectonic plate boundaries, and in volcanic regions, high temperatures can be found quite close to the surface and countries like Iceland and New Zealand have been exploiting geothermal energy for many years by drilling shallow wells.

Where the temperatures are high enough, geothermal energy can be used to generate electricity.

Cornwall is a long way from any volcanic areas, but has another source of geothermal energy. Its granite is heat-producing due to radioactive decay of elements such as Thorium, Radium and Uranium, which means that the rocks

here are hotter than anywhere else in the UK, making this the best place to exploit geothermal energy for both heat and power.

Unlike the previous Hot Dry Rock research project carried out in Cornwall in the 1980s, it is planned to target a permeable geological structure called the Porthtowan Fault Zone. This has been achieved by successfully drilling two deep holes (wells) into the fault zone; one for injection at a depth of 2,393m and one for production at a depth of 5,275m, which is the deepest onshore well in the UK. The temperature at the bottom of the production well is expected to be about 190 °C.

Water (taken from flooded mines) will be pumped from the production well, fed through a heat exchanger and then re-injected into the ground to pick up more heat from the granite in a continuous cycle. The extracted heat will be used to supply a demonstration power plant.

The Eden Project is also planning to drill a 4.5km deep well to heat its Biomes, greenhouses and offices. This project is the first phase of a two well development. It will pave the way for the second phase: another 4.5km well and an electricity plant.

### Footnote:

I believe that both these projects intend to use rock formations that have a naturally fractured fault zone. Some sources suggest that Geothermal could supply up to 20% of the UK's heating and power, but in other rock formations fracking may be necessary.

**Question** is Fracking OK for Geothermal plants, but not for gas extraction?

## **Hayes Liveable Neighbourhood Scheme**

Bob Clegg

The report seeking approval for the introduction of a low cost Liveable Neighbourhood scheme in Hayes Village was put before the relevant council scrutiny committee in November, but a decision was deferred, ostensibly for members to seek further information/feedback, although the fear is that proposals may be “watered down” by the time this is discussed again or even scrapped.

The proposal will enhance the public realm in this part of Hayes and reduce the dominance of traffic through the village, without simply displacing traffic into other roads, and improve the walking environment to help give parents, children, shoppers and local residents better access to local amenities. It involves some potential restrictions to traffic flow with reduced speed limits through the village and near schools and additional crossing points as well as making one road mainly car free around Hayes primary school because of congestion, pollution/air quality issues and encouraging walking to school.

The next meeting of the relevant committee is set for the 29th January, but it is not clear whether this item will be on the agenda yet. Any support on that

evening would be appreciated.

## **Campaign Updates**

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

Ann Garrett

#### **UN Climate COP25 Talks in Madrid**

Marathon climate talks finally ended in Madrid on December 13th, with negotiators staying up all night to find an agreement.

In the end they postponed a key decision on global carbon markets until next year.

Delegates from over 200 nations passed declarations calling for greater ambition to cutting greenhouse gases and in helping poor countries suffering the effects of global warming

However, they left one of the thorniest issues unresolved, prompting accusations that rich countries need to wake up in 2020 and take more responsibility.

The summit finally agreed to carbon emissions-cutting plans required under the 2015 Paris agreement and on funds for vulnerable countries.

Activists and indigenous groups staged protests throughout the talks to put pressure on the delegates. Leaders were accused of being disconnected from the urgency of the science and the demands of their citizens in the streets.

Greta Thunberg accused world leaders

of duping the public and warned that pledges to reduce emissions were not strong enough.

A Glasgow summit will take place in a year's time.

### **Powering Up Plastic Waste**

Tim Cornelius, the chief executive of the renewables firm SIMEC Atlantis Energy, is leading the effort to turn Uskmouth power station near Newport, Wales into the UK's first plastic waste-driven energy generator - and will tackle the tonnes of non-recyclable plastic sitting in landfill sites at the same time.

Set to begin operation in 2021, it's expected to power 100,000 homes.

Instead of crushing coal to create power, plastic pellets will be burned to create steam, which in turn runs a turbine, which generates electricity.

Hopefully this will be a role model for other fossil fuel power stations throughout the country and indeed the world.

### **Sea - Llectricity**

A new form of sea power could be on the horizon thanks to a membrane that can harness energy from salt water. The technology relies on osmosis in which water, or solutes such as salt, move across a semi - permeable membrane to balance the concentration. If water moves across the membrane, it creates a pressure on one side, which can be converted into energy.

Scientists in Australia and the US are involved in the development of this technology, which could be another important source of power production in the future.

### **Transport - Diesel Ban in Bristol**

Bristol city is planning Britain's first ban on diesel cars. Councillors want to ban all diesel cars from the city centre between 7am and 3pm every day of the week. Commercial vehicles will still be able to pay a clean air charge.

The clean air consultations began last July and are due to be implemented by March 2021.

The ambitious plan, which includes introducing more council electric vehicles, hopes to improve air quality and meet targets for legal limits of nitrogen dioxide.

The city aims to become carbon neutral by 2030

## **Plastics**

### **Checking Out on Plastics II Report**

Annette Rose

Here is a summary of the key points of a report produced by the Environment Investigation Agency and Greenpeace and it makes interesting reading!

Total plastic packaging used by the UK's biggest supermarkets has risen from an estimated 886,000 tonnes in 2017 to 903,000 tonnes in 2018. This increase was driven by sales of brand-

ed products; plastic packaging associated with these items increased by nearly 20,000 tonnes.

Companies at the top of the 2019 league table, Waitrose and Morrisons, performed best in reducing their overall plastic footprint and making commitments to scale-up packaging free and reuse solutions. Those at the bottom have achieved the least tangible progress over the past 12 months. As with last year, there remains scope for considerable progress even among the top performers.

A growing number of companies are trialling reusable and refillable ranges. These initiatives need scaling up nationwide and across a full range of product lines if they are to significantly reduce throwaway packaging in the UK.

The number of plastic reduction targets has doubled from five to 10, with all the major grocery retailers now committed, at least in principle, to reducing plastic use. However, almost all of these targets are set relative to sales – meaning that a company can increase its overall plastic footprint but still achieve the target. Moreover, many companies intend to meet targets through ‘light-weighting’ and swapping plastic with other single-use materials, meaning that a shift away from single-use is not guaranteed.

Soaring sales of so-called ‘bags for life’ demonstrate that these are now used by many customers as a single-use option. In 2018, eight companies reported they were using 960 million bags for life; in 2019, the same eight companies

reported 1.24 billion, with an additional 271 million sold by two further supermarkets. Tesco’s annual sales represent almost 11 bags for life for every person in the UK, while Iceland increased sales nearly tenfold from 2017-18.

Despite recyclability being the main focus of industry efforts, the percentage of own-brand plastic packaging classed as ‘widely recycled’ has dropped from 64.7% in 2017 to 63.8% in 2018, on a weight basis. On a per-item basis, it is likely that less than a third of own-brand plastic packaging items are classed as ‘widely recycled’, due to the presence of more numerous but lighter materials such as films. This suggests that about two-thirds of supermarkets’ own brand plastic packaging items cannot be widely recycled.

## **Supplies That Don’t Cost the Earth**

*This column will be a regular reference point for useful and practical resources available to us all, helping us to sustain the greenest lifestyles we can. Any suggestions or reviews gratefully received. Ed.*

**www.greenfinder.co.uk** - a really 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  
[www.naturallythinking.com](http://www.naturallythinking.com)

## Facebook

**Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)** It shares tips and resources for residents or the borough. Consumer action!

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

<https://groups.freecycle.org/group/BromleyUK/posts/all> The Freecycle network is also a good place to swap secondhand items.

## Shops

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

**Carnivore and Herbivore** in Main Road, Sidcup - Now shops are in Southborough Lane, Bromley near the library.

**Crystal Palace Food Market**, Haynes Lane, SE19 3AN. facebook page - 'The Store Cupboard'.

## Apps

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

*I'd be very interested to hear if anyone else has any experience of this type of food shopping. Ed.*

## Toilet Paper

Robert Clark

I have been supplying my family with a brand of recycled toilet paper for the past year or so, with great success. I've always preferred to buy recycled whenever I can, but it only ever seems

to come in small packets and is usually more expensive than the other ones on offer or the stores own brand, making the balance between financially surviving the week and recycled toilet paper a difficult one.

'Who Gives a Crap' is an Australian company which makes recycled paper, and bamboo, toilet paper, tissues and kitchen roll. They also give half their profits towards building toilets in third world countries.

The family test showed that the basic 3 ply paper is acceptably soft and useable. If we buy in bulk, a box of 48 rolls, then it compares favourably against buying recycled in the supermarket.

Each roll is individually wrapped in paper, for some strange reason. This seems to be a quirk of manufacture, but at least it is all post-consumer recycled and the wrapping can be reused if you're creatively minded.

I was wary about the paper possibly being manufactured in Australia and shipped halfway around the world to us. Having investigated this I can see that it is made ethically in China and shipped via sea. Apparently, this is better for the environment than flying or road transport. There remains the question around where other brands of recycled toilet paper are made and shipped from and how that compares. A Who Gives a Crap UK plant is being considered, apparently.

China has an abundance of the quality of waste paper needed for this purpose and, of course, the sustainable bamboo resources. The company have had them-

selves audited for ethics and environmental impact.

For a more critical view see the site: [thekritic.net/2017/06/who-gives-a-crap/](http://thekritic.net/2017/06/who-gives-a-crap/)

They use no dyes or scents in any of their toilet paper, and plastic use is minimal. In fact, the only plastic in a whole delivery is the tape on the box top and bottom and I gather that even this is now paper tape.

If you visit their web site you can get a free sample, you just pay for shipping.

## List Of Contacts

### Acting Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689 851605  
sheilabrown336@msn.com

Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295  
anncgarrett@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Vacant

### Treasurer:

Sheila Brown - Contact details as above

### Press Team:

Ann Garrett, Paul Enock, Annette Rose

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown - Contact details as above

### Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 0208 290 0485  
johnbocock@hotmail.com

### Membership Secretary:

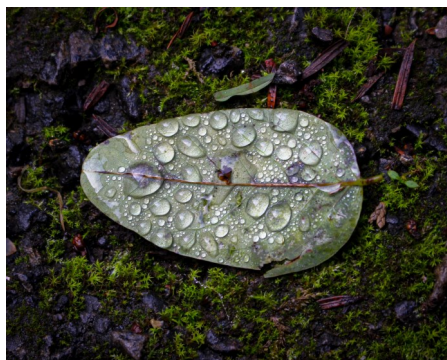
Dan Sloan 01689 838819

### Bromley FoE Website:

[www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)

### Fundraising Officer

Bill Priestley 01689 820469



Photo—Bethan Clark

## Web Site & Technical Support

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

### Campaigns

#### Nature/Trees:

Judy Palmer, Annette Rose & Diana Hurd

#### Anti Fracking:

Ann Garrett & John Catlin

#### Plastics:

Annette Rose, Judy Palmer, Sheila Brown & Viv Gardner

#### Climate:

Ann Garrett (acting), Bill Priestley & Sam Gee

#### Newsletter Editor:

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

## 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.

## 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 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: .....

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