



Friends of the Earth Bromley



Find us on

Facebook



Bromley FoE: enquiries:

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

March 2019

No. 375

ewsletter

March Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Henry Greenwood Green Schools Project

The Green Schools Project works to support local schools in becoming environmentally friendly and greening their surroundings and their learning.

Tuesday 5th March - 7.30pm (*prompt start please*)

Green Schools Project: We support schools to set up and run a fun and engaging student-led environmental programme. The Green Schools Project enables young people to fulfil their potential by providing resources and support to schools to engage them in environmental projects, building their skills and aspirations while encouraging them, their community and wider society to live in a more sustainable way.

<https://www.greenschoolsproject.org.uk/>

In this Issue:

Diary Dates	2	Nature and Env'ment	10,11
School strike	3,5	Faith, Hope, Action	12
February mtg report	4,5	Electropollution	13
Plastics and Env'ment	6,7	Poem from Sheila	14
Campaigns etc	8	Bromley FoE contacts	15
Miller's Mutterings	9,11	Non-members page	16

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 17TH MARCH *****

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates: March 2019

February 25th to March 10th Fairtrade Fortnight

March 1st (Fri) Fracking Leafleting in Orpington High St. 1.30-3pm. In conjunction with Bromley Against Fracking. Contact Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295

March 5th (Tues) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting and Traidcraft stall.

March 6th (Wed) RSPB Bromley group meeting. Results of the swift survey and next steps. 7pm United Reform Church, Bromley 7pm.

March 16th (Sat) Bromley Council's Planning Seminar for Residents' Associations

April 2nd (Tues) Bromley FoE's monthly meeting with Asad Rehman, Chief Executive of War on Want

April 6th (Sat) Bromley FoE Campaign stall in The Mall, 2.30-4.30pm. Note change of date from March 23rd.

April 13th (Sat) The Great British Spring Clean. Confirmation of date and the location details to follow.

April 27th (Sat) Groundswell: London & South East – FoE event. A big regional event in London. 'Groundswell' events will happen in 6 locations across the UK, with the aim of connecting our new and existing activists. At present London tickets are sold out but check for an update at localgroups@foe.co.uk

If you need any further information on these events, you can email us on bromleyfoe@gmail.com or ask at the next monthly meeting.

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 17TH MARCH*****

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.

UK-wide School Strike for the Climate – Sam Gee (aged 16)

In August of 2018, Swedish 15 year-old Greta Thunberg, now 16, went on strike from school. She sat outside the Swedish parliament for weeks to protest her government's inaction on climate change. She asked why she needed to be educated for a future that isn't going to exist.

It was a huge success; she grabbed headlines all across the planet, and has since inspired very high profile school strikes in countries from Australia to Germany and from Belgium to Nigeria. In some of these countries, students are striking and protesting every Friday, in a movement that has come to be called Fridays for Future.

On Friday 15th February, the strike came to the UK. In more than 45 towns and cities up and down the country, more than 10 000 primary school, secondary school and university students protested outside national and regional parliaments against the existential threat that is climate change.

I attended the London protest in Parliament Square, where there was a fantastic turnout. Placards bore slogans that ranged from "If you won't act like adults, we will" through "I should be worrying about my GCSEs not the planet" and "I refuse to do my homework if the politicians won't do theirs" to "I've seen better cabinets in Ikea".

Students sat down in roads and temporarily blocked Westminster Bridge, and the police even assisted with some of the roadblocks. Others

proceeded down Whitehall and protested outside Downing Street.

I wrote to my own headteacher to explain the strike, and although they could not authorise my absence, they expressed their sympathy for my support for the movement, which I thought was very impressive. Among my peers, I found that the key factor preventing attendance was parental opposition.

In the end, six students from my school attended, although huge numbers were very supportive. Students in other schools, however, were threatened with detentions, but when compared with the threat of global warming, I know what I would choose.

At the other end of the spectrum of responses is one primary school in Bristol. It actually took its students on the strike as a trip, and rightly so. Active civic engagement is a core part of the curriculum, and this kind of event is a truly educational experience, preparing students not just to be the compassionate, inspired and inspiring leaders of tomorrow, but also the informed, vocal and passionate leaders of today.

In Belgium and Germany, the movement has completely snowballed and I hope to see the same happen in the UK. It is coordinated by the UK Student Climate Network and has received widespread political support, including from Jeremy Corbyn and more than 200 academics, who signed an open letter in favour of the protests.
/continued on page 5

February meeting report – Peter Gandolfi

Heading for Extinction and what to do about it - Paul Enock

Paul started by asking the audience how many of us had heard of Extinction Rebellion. Quite a few of the audience had.

Paul said that it was a movement of non violent civil disobedience that arose from another organisation - Rising up, formed in 2016. Its main claim to fame was blocking Heathrow airport for an afternoon.

It was stated that we are using up our planet far too quickly towards our own extinction. We have known about the problem for a long time. The UN set up a panel on climate change in 1988 since when our emissions of fossil fuels have been greater than all the hundreds of years of industrial activities before.

Our Politics are failing us. We have scientific solutions, but we are not using them. A recent quote from the Guardian – ‘We have done more damage knowingly than we ever managed in ignorance’. The main scientific argument is that we are not applying the precautionary principle.

This is a principle introduced recently into policy making. When an activity raises threats to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully understood.

Paul used Nuclear power and GM crops as examples.

With Nuclear power we more or less understand the risks involved. A cost benefit analyst can be made. With genetic engineering, the risks are difficult to calculate. The Precautionary Principle would suggest that we should not take the risk of continuing. Therefore with Global warming as we don't know the long term effects we should stop our emissions of fossil fuels.

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reported that we need to keep to an increase of 1.5 degrees. They tend to underestimate what their forecasts predict. Other studies show that warming is faster than IPCC predictions. Up to twice as fast. Paul showed a graph from 2012 showing the decline of Arctic sea ice to be greater than their forecasts.

IPCC reports do not take into account of “Tipping Points” such as the aerosol affect. The soot produced at the moment by burning fossil fuels has dimming effect, and is keeping us cooler. Without this shield, there will be an additional 0.7 degrees globally. This is not factored in to their forecasts, and will exacerbate other feedback loop mechanisms such as white ice being replaced by dark sea water and loss of forest causing loss of a carbon sink. These could turn the planet into a hot house, not conclusive for life.

/continued on next page

February meeting report - *continued*

Paul mentioned Earth overshoot day. By August last year we had used up its ecological ability to sustain itself. At present we use 1.7 earths!

A prediction from an eminent Californian scientist: If we carry on the way we are we have a 5% chance of warming beyond 5 degrees, which will threaten our survival as a species. Using this analogy, how manage we would get into an airplane if it has a 5% of crashing. "Our grandchildren are already on the plane!"

What does ER propose to do?

Our government are failing us. We have a right, and a duty to rebel this stand.

It is not proposed to replace the government. The aim is add a citizens assembly, randomly assembled to oversee the changes required.

The demands of Extinction Rebellion:

Government must tell the truth about the ecological emergency we face.

- It must reverse inconsistent policies. – Heathrow expansion and fracking for example.
- It should work alongside the media to communicate the nature of the emergency that we are in.
- Government must apply legally binding policy measures to reduce emissions to net zero by 2025.
- Global economy to run on no more than half a planets worth of resources per year. allowing damaged ecosystems to recover.
- A citizens' assembly to oversee the changes.

Use of non violent action to disrupt the government. People remember if you disrupt the traffic. In the American civil rights campaign it was shown that it only needs 3.5% of the population to be mobilised to enable change.

There was time for a few questions, but there isn't space to record them here, unfortunately.

School strike for the Climate – *continued*

The strikes are set to escalate with a global strike planned for Friday 15th March, in thousands of locations across the world. Look out for more information about the event.

If you're a student, I would wholeheartedly recommend getting involved. If you're a parent, or even a teacher, not quite sure about your children or students taking part, consider the uniquely educational value of them taking their own future into their hands.

Scientists tell us we have 12 years to reduce emissions by 45% or we are pushing on the point of no return. We are set to overshoot that significantly: the system has failed us. We must change the system, and the school strike empowers us to do just that.

Theresa May hasn't yet taken the hint. She tells us that we're wasting lesson time. But, as Greta Thunberg says, politicians have wasted 30 years of being able to act to prevent the likely end of human civilisation, while there was still time. And that, Thunberg suggests, may be slightly worse.

Plastics in the Environment - *Annette Rose and Sheila Brown*

Visit to Jo Johnson MP

Sheila Brown, Paul Enock and myself went to see Jo Johnson MP for Orpington at his surgery to present FoE's Plastics Pollution Action Plan. It was a quick visit as he had a queue of people waiting but it was clear that he was fully supportive of the idea of legislation on plastics.

In fact he went further to say that he was willing to present the idea to Michael Gove, the Minister for the

Environment if we got him far more detailed information. He had his photo taken with us and a large poster of the Action Plan. We were delighted with his response.

I contacted FoE who are in contact with him now on ways to proceed. I have been invited to attend a meeting at the House of Commons entitled 'More Drastic on Plastic- the next legislative steps' to which MPs have been invited and hopefully Jo Johnson will attend. More updates next month!



Jo Johnson with Annette, Paul and Sheila and the Plastics Pollution Action Plan

Wrappers on Magazines and Newspapers

One of our members, Viv Gardner, has let us know that The Guardian is now delivered in a potato starch cover which can be used to line food compost bins. The National Trust has also started doing this with their magazines.

Well Done Morrisons

Morrisons supermarket have removed the single use plastic produce bags

and replaced them with recyclable paper ones with a see through panel.

Coolings - Pot Recycling

Coolings Garden Centre have been able to bring back their plastic pot recycling. The bin is in their main car park. They have also introduced a new recyclable taupe plant pot that could be placed in our doorstep recycle bins. Unfortunately local councils do not yet accept them and Coolings have asked

/continued on next page

Plastics in the Environment – *continued*

if we could press local councils on this matter. This could be one of our campaign targets this year?

Beeswax Wraps

I have purchased a pack of Beeswax Wraps as a plastic free alternative to Clingfilm. I will let you know how I get on with them! First impressions are that they fit well over containers and make a good seal. I bought mine from 'The Kitchen Range' in West Wickham but they are becoming more widely available. The wraps are reusable for about a year and can then be composted.

What Can and Can't Go in your Green Bin

I've checked on Bromley Council's website to see what can be recycled as some people are unsure and it is confusing!

You can put in -

Drink cans, Aerosol cans, Food tins and foil, Glass bottles and jars - all colours (including jar and bottle tops), Milk and drinks bottles, Detergent bottles, Plastic dishes and trays, Yoghurt pots, Ice-cream containers, Margarine containers, Tetra Paks (e.g. juice cartons and other beverage cartons)

You cannot put in -

Black plastic trays, Plastic bags, Plastic-film, Plastic toys, Plastic plant pots, Other metal, Pyrex, Drinking glasses, Crockery, Broken glass, Window glass, Polystyrene

Basically, if the plastic material crunches, it can't be recycled. Some

of the containers such as yoghurt pots can't be recycled but the waste is sorted and is sent to be incinerated. The Council website says 'Don't forget though, apart from plastic bottles, hardly any of the other shapes of plastic can currently be recycled. You can use the green box and / or your 'dustbin' for these types of plastics, whichever you find most convenient.'

It seems we have a long way to go to get different types of plastics recycled.

Reducing Plastics Usage – are we making progress? – *Sheila Brown*

We are seeing changes but, given the huge scale of the problem, these seem mere baby steps, but worth mentioning. We were pleased to see that National Trust have moved to a compostable plastic replacement envelope for sending out their annual report.

Also the Saturday Guardian has switched from plastic for packaging their many supplements. Waitrose are stocking Ecover detergent in powder form in cardboard packaging, and I think I'm noticing that the supermarkets are upping the number of powder detergents following the massive switch to plastic packed liquid detergents in recent year.

I've heard of a wholefoods co-operative (in Southampton) which does refills of washing up and laundry liquids – does anyone know of anything local? It would be good to hear of changes members encounter each month.

Campaigns, Climate, Energy and Transport – Ann Garrett

The Mall Precinct Campaign Stall

This has now been postponed till April 6th from 2.30 - 4.30 pm with Bromley Against Fracking. It will focus on the Futures Campaign, but Nature information will be available and leaflets about renewables. We will go to Nick's Cafe afterwards for tea and coffee and also for my favourite tea cakes! Many thanks to all those people who have already signed up to support the stall.

Climate, Energy and Transport

Hungry Polar Bears from the Arctic

More than 50 polar bears have invaded a remote Russian outpost, scavenging from rubbish tips and even raiding department blocks in search of food. They have reportedly attacked locals on the Arctic archipelago of Novaya Zemla. Residents are frightened by their aggression but can't shoot them as they are a protected species. With Arctic sea ice retreating as a result of climate change, the bears have adjusted their habits as prey in their natural hunting grounds becomes scarce.

Scottish Oil and Gas Report

Westminster ministers have been told to step up urgently to protect the future of the Scottish oil and gas industry, but Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups, say their vision is utterly complacent. The government report calls for 'an ambitious sector deal' and new technology to maximise the recovery of 10 - 20 billion barrels of oil remaining in the British Continental Shelf.

Nuclear Update

Greenpeace has taken thousands of radiation readings for years around the Fukushima nuclear plant. It says radiation levels in parts of Namie where evacuation orders have been lifted will remain well above international maximum safety recommendations for many decades, raising the risks of leukaemia and other cancers to 'unjustifiable levels'.

It is now 8 years since the disaster and in London to mark this in solidarity with campaigners in Tokyo, the following events will take place :-

March 11th - vigil outside the Japanese embassy 5.30 pm.

March 16th - march to Old Palace Yard 12pm after assembling outside Japanese embassy at 12 noon.

March 19th - Parliamentary public meeting at 7pm chaired by Caroline Lucas.

Transport

The world's first walking car is a quadrupedal vehicle and looks a bit like smart shopping trolley. It is in fact a full-size robotic walking car which Hyundai the manufacturer believe will be helpful in rescue zones when normal vehicles can't cope. It's called the 'Elevate' and by blending technology found in modern electric cars with advanced robotics, it can climb 5ft walls. The Elevate has been launched in the US along with an automatically operated electric car.

Miller's Mutterings – Steve and Chris Miller

As in January, all is a little quiet on the farming side. The cover crop is dying off and as we are not growing oil seed rape this year, pigeons are not bothering us. Have seen plenty of Fieldfares this year and Steve spotted a Golden Plover recently. The boys couldn't make the field trial catch up but our Agronomist has kept them up to date with the information gained from them. They attended the annual spray workshop in Dunkirk, Kent not France.

This is the industries' opportunity to update spray operators with the new legislation that we have to work by. The major points this year were slug pellets and seed dressings.

In regards to the slug pellets, the commonly used metaldehyde pellets will be banned from 2020 in Great Britain, this will affect farmers and gardeners alike. This ban is due to the unacceptable risk to birds and mammals. If slug control is required, farmers and gardeners will have to use iron phosphate pellets in future, which are natural and organic. The reason the seed is dressed prior to planting is that some plant diseases cannot be controlled by spraying once the plant is growing.

There are many seed born diseases, i.e. bunt, leaf strip etc. The chemical that is being withdrawn is our old friend neonicotinoid, the same treatment that was withdrawn from oil seed rape dressing for bee protection. We pre-empted the ban and didn't have our seed dressed with the chemical for this coming harvest and to date haven't

seen any damage i.e. from slugs or aphids (aphids carry a virus that stunts cereal crops in the autumn). Fingers crossed for the coming growing season.

Local deliverers of hay and straw continue plus 20 tonnes of barley straw to the West Country. Quite a sight as the lorry pulled out of the yard. Our main job for February is to clear the barn of hay, straw and machines and transform it to a wedding venue for Peter. We are thrilled that he and Leah are marrying at St Martin's church with the reception here. We need a lot of imagination to do this for March, it was easier when our daughter married in July 2012 as the barn was empty!

1916 news

The weather back in February was just as variable as this year. Rain continued to be a big problem during February, which as I mentioned in my notes from last year turned to heavy snow hampering deliveries to market. George caught the 4.41pm from Orpington to catch the 5.25pm from Bromley North to go to market. Not quite sure of the route the trains took in those days. He said it was too dark to drive all the way with such poor lights.

He had taken on Miller-Hallet's land (Goddington) and put 1/3rd down to vegetables and 27 acres down to potatoes, the remainder to what he called autumn greenstuff.

/continued on page 11

Nature and Environment – Judy Palmer

Toads are in trouble!

Toad populations in SE England have fallen by more than 50% since 1985. Toads live most of their lives on land in scrubby areas, hibernating in log piles, deep leaf litter and burrows. Adults usually emerge in March and return to their ponds to breed. Please let us know if you see one! We are particularly interested in finding ponds where they breed so please look out for **strings** of eggs wound around plants stems underwater, or male and females together in March-April.

Note golden eye pupil a horizontal (Frogs eyes are circular with pupil)



Toadspaw



Toads have dry, warty skin. Frogs have smooth skin. Legs are adapted for crawling, unlike frogs whose longer back legs are good for hopping & jumping.

E-mail the date, place (postcode or grid reference), number seen and a **photo** to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership at bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com.

Your information will enable habitat improvements to be put in place to try & increase toad numbers.

How You Can Help Toads

Have a wild area in your garden with some scrub, a log pile and maybe a pond 90cms deep, with at least one sloping side. For more information & to see how frogs look different from toads, see <https://www.arc-trust.org>

Now, how many people are planning on giving their garden a treat with a new plant or two this year?! If you are, could we please urge you to source one of them as a UK grown native shrub, hedge or small tree?

Unfortunately, one of the sad facts of our catastrophic decline in invertebrates is that they have been affected by the decline in native species as all UK invertebrates are adapted to eat native plants.

If you visit the Bromley Friends Forum website you will find lots of useful information in the Biodiversity, Useful Documents section (www.bromleyfriendsforum.org).

Other environmental news –

I have recently seen that Chris Packham, together with two other environmentalists, Ruth Tingay and Mark Avery, have founded a new organisation called Wild Justice. They say that as *'threatened species can't take legal cases in their own names,* /continued on next page

Nature and Environment - *continued*

but, with your help, we will stand up for wildlife using the legal system and seek changes to existing laws'. They have already started their first legal challenge, not made public as yet, and have a web site – www.wildjustice.org.uk – where you can sign up and subscribe and get more information.

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership

Hopefully you will all remember that Bromley FoE is a member of Borough's biodiversity group and that we meet three times a year to exchange information.

We had our first meeting In January and we officially learned that idverde has been awarded an eight-year contract to continue as the contractor dealing with our parks and open spaces, which was a great relief! This means that they can invest in the longer term with more staff and resources to help enhance and protect our green spaces.

You may also remember that over the past 2-3 years the partnership has been working on citizen science projects and record keeping of our Borough's priority species - it was a good year in 2018 for the number of recordings made. If anyone wishes to read the 2018 data reports on bullfinch, hedgehog, house sparrow, purple emperor butterfly, swifts or toads, please let me know and I will email them to you.

We will feature a monthly poster on the species alerts over the spring and summer, but over the course of 2019 could you all please submit any

sightings of house sparrows as this is of particular interest to the group? We will publish more info in a month or two. Thank you.

In the meantime, please see this month's alert on the toad above. You will also find the contact email address for sightings.

Miller's Mutterings – *continued*

They gave the 27 acres a "good coat of dung which ought to be a great treat for it" They had just started steam ploughing in February.

The new Martin tractor arrived which was working well whilst the land was in good condition but as soon as the rain fell it proved difficult. George was going to get some extension made for the wheels to 18" which he hoped would help. He was more of an engineer than a farmer and designed wheels for tractors and cultivators hence the company name Miller Wheel and then later Cultivator was added. There was a forge here and machine shops, where they made steel tractor wheels, hoes, and cultivation machines which were sold all over the country.

We have some wonderful photographs of this equipment. The photo from one of the leaflets gives the address was Station Road in the 1930s, not sure when it changed to Warren Road.

I am adding Steve's name now as some of the above information came from him and I don't want you to think I know some of the technical stuff!

Faith, Hope and Action in a Changing Climate – Churches Together

Keynote Speakers:

Greg Clark, MP for Tunbridge Wells;

Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Dr Ruth Valerio (of Tearfund),

Christian NGO empowering people to end global poverty and empowering local churches to make it happen. Tearfund are acutely conscious of how climate change is affecting people around the world.

Greg Clark

Influence of faith leaders is important – Hindus, Moslems and others. Cited 'Lambeth Declaration' 2015: "We are all called to care for the earth and have a responsibility to live creatively and sustainably in a world of finite resources".

We are currently on course for a 3°C temperature rise by end of the century. He was previously opposition spokesman for climate change, was involved with the Climate Change Act – we were the first nation in the world to pass such an Act.

Very enthusiastic about Renewables, that share of renewable energy produced has quadrupled, enthused about offshore wind, the 175 turbines off Kent now surpassed by even larger windfarm off Cumbria.

He said buildings are mostly not energy efficient and were responsible for high proportion of emissions; new buildings need to be far more energy efficient with goal of halving energy use in buildings by 2020. Many industries, particularly steel, cement and chemicals, are not energy

efficient. He talked of a 'Green Energy Week' and pledged to use his energies towards achieving emission reduction.

Dr Ruth Valerio (of Tearfund)

She said she'd travelled by electric car (somewhat hazardous as battery plays up in cold weather!). Recounted visiting a farmer named Daniel in Tanzania who was desperately waiting for the rains to arrive, otherwise there'll be no crop. So many are in same situation seeing the effects of climate change.

We know the earth is out of balance, that we need to bring warming down to 1.5°, and that these extremes plunge more people into poverty. She even spoke of risks of extinction.

She strongly believes the Church has a responsibility to care for Creation and each of us needs to take action in our personal lives - flying less, eating less meat, moving away from fossil fuels. She wished Greg Clark well with his policies to combat climate change.

Questions followed – pre-submitted – on Electric vehicles, plastics, Heathrow expansion, on what the Bible teaches us on climate change, Zambia and the impact of climate change, Fracking, the ICC report, incentives in the UK to take climate action, using Tax to discourage vehicle pollution, shifting to renewables and using incentives to encourage this.

There were various stalls to browse, including Christian Aid, Tearfund, Operation Noah, A Rocha, Green Journey and Tunbridge Wells FoE.

Electropollution and its implications – *Andrea Allam*

On Sunday 27th January I attended a seminar at Friends House on Electropollution and its Implications. The lecturer was a physicist, Gary Hudson, not previously known to me but a specialist in this field.

There was a good deal of background information about the properties of waves in general and electromagnetic waves in particular.

Two implications of electropollution were brought to our attention, the dangers to children and the problems of people who are particularly sensitive to electromagnetic radiation.

Rates of cancer in children have increased and brain tumours have overtaken leukaemia as the leading cause.

Children are more vulnerable for a number of reasons:

- They have thinner skulls
- Their brains can have a higher water content
- They are smaller
- They have more vulnerable developing systems
- They have a longer time ahead for latent effects to manifest.

Those with Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) form another vulnerable group and some children also have EHS making them doubly vulnerable. Some people seem to be congenitally more at risk and sensitivity can build up over a period of exposure.

I personally know two people who suffer from this – migraine-type headaches, acute chest pains, difficulty in thinking, difficulty in sleeping and severe fatigue. Once away from the radiation the symptoms abate rapidly. This condition is largely dismissed by the medical profession as 'all in the mind'. In the 1970s they said that about food allergies.

At present 4G is used a great deal. One of the wavelengths used in the 4G signal is in the region of 800 megahertz – similar to those used in the mammalian nervous system. In Russia, where electromagnetic radiation is taken more seriously, this waveband is restricted from commercial use.

It has been brought to my attention that the new 5G is in use at Bristol University and that this university has had an increase in suicides among students.

Finally, I would also mention that the UK has the highest permitted level of electromagnetic radiation anywhere in the world. Ours is 100 times the maximum permitted level in the United States and 1,000 times that in Russia.

If anyone wishes to research this topic further I would recommend the PHIRE (Physicians' Health Initiative for Radiation and Environment) website.

A Poem from Sheila

JOHN – 200 Not Out!

(to mark John Street's 200th Newsletter as Editor)

In the year Two-thousand-and-two
John Street found something new to do:
He agreed to edit our FoE Newsletter
And since then it's just got better and better!

Each month as the deadline day draws near
Poor John is gripped by a dreadful fear.
Of things to publish his Inbox is bare
Does no-one out there have anything to share?

And so he emails us all to say
"Please let me have stuff by next Sunday
Or else just blank pages your newsletter will be
And that's not what people want to see".

Meanwhile we're all trying to finish our pieces
Keeping them brief – he doesn't want a thesis.
And Sheila's trying hard speakers to land
That there's a deadline they don't understand.

But somehow it's always all right on the night.
Items flood in, and then space becomes tight.
But for John it's always a white-knuckle ride,
But what he produces is a source of great pride.

John, we're so grateful for all that you do
It really would not be the same without you;
Within Friends of the Earth, such newsletters are few
And so from us all – a huge THANK YOU!

Annette asked "What do you do if you don't get sent enough material from our members?" and **John answered** "Look for recent FoE press releases, look on the websites of other 'friendly' organisations."

Annette also asked "Is there anything that would make your job easier?" and **John answered** "If the number of words on a page was the same each time – but that would make it less fun."

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

Acting Co-ordinators:

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

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295
anncgarratt@yahoo.com

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer:

Sheila Brown *details as above*

Press Team:

Ann Garrett, Paul Enock, Annette Rose

Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown *details as above*

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

Campaigns –

Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett *details as above*

Nature:

Judy Palmer, Annette Rose
(judy.palmer@talk21.com)

Don't Frack our Future

Ann Garrett, John Catlin

Plastics:

Annette Rose, Sheila Brown, Judy Palmer

Clean Air:

Paul Enock, Annette Rose, Sheila Brown, Bill Priestley
(paul_enock@hotmail.com)

Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352
tamaragalloway@yahoo.com

Monthly Meeting reporters:

John and Sue Bocock, Sheila Brown, Anne Clark, Paul Enock, Peter Gandolfi, Annette Rose

Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

Teas:

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi *details as above*

Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689-820469

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 annual subscription (£8 single / £15 couple/family). I also enclose a donation (optional) of to help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

.....