



friends of
the earth
Bromley



Bromley FoE: enquiries:
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May 2017
No. 353

newsletter

May Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Nick Penny

The SIKU Project -

Increasing the Depth of Arctic Sea Ice

Tuesday 2nd May – 7.30pm

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

*** **SUNDAY 21ST MAY** ***

Contact details inside front cover.

Diary dates:

Apr 29 th (Sat)	Bill's 4 th Open Garden Day
May 2 nd (Tue)	Bromley FoE's May Meeting: Nick Penny – the SIKU Project
May 6 th (Sat)	Progressive Bromley Film Co-op: "I Daniel Blake" - Friends Meeting House, 6 pm shared food for 7 pm
Jun 2 nd – 4 th	FoE BASECAMP 2017 at Castleton, Derbyshire
Jun 3 rd (Sat)	Bee Breakfast at Jubilee Park
Jun 6 th (Tue)	Bromley FoE's June Meeting
Jun 17 th (Sat)	Stall at Coolings
Jun 25 th (Sun)	Keston Countryside Day

May meeting – Tuesday 2nd May – The SIKU project

SIKU wishes to propose a simple engineering solution to help reverse the thinning of the Arctic Ice and to benefit the Inuit communities locally, by achieving the following objectives:

- To use renewable, sustainable energy sources to maintain the depth of sea ice close to Arctic communities
- To foster safer journeying across Arctic sea ice
- To generate new employment opportunities within the Arctic area
- To reduce atmospheric warming through increased albedo (i.e. reflection from sea ice)

Bill's 4th Open Day – Saturday 29th April

See last month's newsletter for details

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 21ST MAY** ***

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.

Underground farm visit – Peter Gandolfi

A group of 10 Bromley FoE members met at Clapham Common underground station, for the short walk to the 'farm'. Here we were met by our guide, Olivia, who told us the background of the project.

It was the brainchild of Richard Ballard and Steven Dring, together with Michel Roux Jr. the chef. They had been looking for a suitable underground site around London. These tunnels, owned by TfL and used during WW2 as an air raid shelter for 8000 people, were originally built as an extension on the Northern line but after lining a pair of tunnels 2km long this extension was not pursued.

Apparently TfL had turned down other groups interested in using the tunnels (night clubs or bars etc) but were particularly taken by this enterprise and had been very helpful with this farm project.

As this was a food production area, we were asked to remove all watches and jewellery, put on hair nets (and beard nets), overshoes, and white coats before descending to a level below the Northern line using a tiny lift, or a tight spiral stair case (130 steps). The crops are grown in a sealed clean-room environment with LED lighting and irrigation that enables the farm to produce crops at a very low energy input.

Only a small part of the potential 2 acres is in use at the moment, but expansion is planned when funding becomes available.

The trays of sprouted seeds are stacked both sides of the tunnel, each with its own strips of LED lighting and hydroponic irrigation system. Different seeds require different times before harvest. Present crops include pea shoots, varieties of radish, mustard, broccoli, coriander, celery, garlic chives, parsley and rocket. After the correct number of days, the micro greens are harvested with a sharp knife above the roots, and packed into clear plastic containers for sale. Outlets include local restaurants and Ocado.

Growing underground means that they can control the environment and that energy costs are lower than growing crops in a greenhouse with a constant temperature and no additional heating.

One of the problems in using the tunnels is that all components needed to be in sections small enough to go in the tiny lift, or down the stairs, and assembled on site.

Although the farm is not making money at the moment, expansion into the unused tunnels is planned, and with the economies of scale should show a profit. At present all is run by seven people of various nationalities.

At the end of our hour's tour we were each given a free package of micro greens to enjoy at home. They were all very tasty. An excellent end to a very enjoyable tour. My thanks to the Bococks for organising this event.

April meeting report: The work of Thames21 – Peter Gandolfi

Lawrence Beale Collins grew up in Keston and was been a journalist for 20 years. He told us that the work of Thames21 grew out of the Rio Earth Summit of 1992 and sustainable environments.

It is the voice of London Waterways, covering the Thames catchment area and includes our local rivers. Its key drivers are: working with communities, formation of friends groups and restoration projects with 12,000 volunteers dealing with pollution and cleanups and a sustainable future for our rivers.

The Three Rivers cleanup is an annual event with events daily over 3 weeks in the summer aiming at improving and maintaining our local rivers – Quaggy, Pool and Ravensbourne that flow through Lewisham, Greenwich and Bromley.

This work, done by volunteers includes the removal of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.

There is always public consultation before any changes: Lawrence gave examples of some of the more major work that they have had funding for.

- The Ravensbourne catchment plan 2015 founded by the environmental agency, used to be the most engineered of London river catchments. It now boasts of stretches of river regeneration.
- The river Quaggy in Lewisham, was straightened and encased in concrete in the 60s/70s and it could not be accessed by the

public. The Chinbrook meadows catchment plan added meanders in the river, making it accessible to the public, and a local amenity as well as making it part of a natural flood storage area.

- Ladywell fields was restored in 2008 with the main channel being moved out into the park and made attractive.
- Restoration of Sutcliffe Park showed an 80% increase in the perception of nature.

All rivers have water samples taken regularly to check for pollution. This used to be using chemical testing. Now in partnership with the London Zoo, samples are tested for Invertebrates by microscope. If this is done on site, the volunteers can take part in the study and seeing the pond life in their samples.

Lawrence mentioned some of the problems that they have encountered. One of these was when 6000 litres of diesel from a locomotive was spilt into the Quaggy in February 2016. Levels of invertebrates are still low and diesel can still be smelt in places.

They are campaigning against plastics and wet wipes that do not degrade, and clog up filters. People tend to think that these are biodegradable, they are not; Lawrence spoke of finding a mound of 5000 wet wipes on a patch of the Thames foreshore.

Lawrence can be contacted on lawrence.bealecollins@thames21.org.uk. There's also lots of information at www.thames21.org.uk

Miller's Mutterings – Chris Miller

What a mixture of weather we have been having recently but fortunately Storm Doris only blew down a few trees. Three Ash trees that grew close together so the roots were all intertwined, came down in Sparrowhawks, the field sandwiched between Court Road and Church Road along from the church.

Fortunately they fell into the young winter barley field and not the road but they will take some clearing up, more wood for the log burner next winter though. The noise must have been horrendous.

Our Agronomist, who regularly walks our fields, is very pleased with the condition of the wheat and barley so far. This is a person who is basically a crop doctor. They are concerned with the health and well being of crops and regular inspect plants in minute detail; they also can tell us if a certain disease / insect is spreading around the area, enabling us to be on the look-out for it.

Our yearly Crop Assurance inspection is due in March. As you may remember from last year's notes, this is an annual inspection of lots of documents showing when and how we farm. i.e. dates, amounts, wind speeds, temperature, wind direction etc. when fertilising and spraying, when different machines were serviced, cleaned and calibrated.

Seed labels, rodent control spread sheets, storage of grain are amongst the list of documents to be inspected, a bit like an Ofsted inspection really.

We cannot sell our grain without this certificate but are pleased to hear that nearly all countries in the EU now have to comply with this regulation and not just United Kingdom now. I will be busy making sure that all our records are ready for his inspection.

We have at long last managed to find a company that will take our waste cardboard, plastic and paper from the small units at a reasonable cost.

Most companies needed large amounts before they would come and collect so we are pleased that we are now able to dispose of the waste to be recycled and not go into landfill. The farm waste has been taken to special recycling depots for many years.

Only about 45 bales of pea straw left to deliver to the deer that continue to enjoy eating it. The deer will start eating the grass once it really grows but by that time we will have run out of pea straw fortunately.

The deer farmer has been very pleased with the condition of the pea straw and as long as it is of the same quality, has ordered more for next winter. Hay and straw deliveries continue.

This month's weather folk lore offering is:

A peck of March dust is worth a King's ransom

A dry March means that newly sown seed will not be washed away.

Nature Update – Judy Palmer

Watery stuff!

After our excellent talk from Lawrence of Thames 21, he has kindly sent us a poster showing details of a training day on the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative, a national citizen science scheme for monitoring river health. It takes place on Saturday June 3rd in Ladywell Fields, SE13, from 10.30-4.00. Please see poster for further details.

Volunteers needed for Ravensbourne

Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI)

ZSL
LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE



ZSL (Zoological Society of London) in partnership with **Thames 21 (London's river clean-up charity)** offers you training in the **Riverfly Monitoring Initiative**. This method is a national **citizen science** scheme for monitoring river health. **In order to be trained in the RMI you must be able to sample the river for at least six months. Once at the river, samples take about 30 minutes and are taken monthly.**



In the training you will learn about the RMI scheme on the rivers Quaggy, Ravensbourne, and Pool:

- *Why we sample local rivers
- *How to kick-sample a river
- *How to identify river invertebrates
- * What to do with your RMI data

You will meet volunteers already working in the Ravensbourne catchment. Once trained, you can join this established RMI group.

**Our next Training Day is:
SATURDAY 3rd JUNE 2017
in Ladywell Fields, SE13
10.30 am to 4 pm**



To book or for more information,
please contact:
ravensbournermi@gmail.com



Nature update, *continued*

Wet wipes

Thames 21 also runs a clean-up campaign along the banks of the R Thames, and where once they found plenty of shopping trolleys and bags, the worst culprit now is wet wipes.

Wet wipes are a nightmare for any marine environment as they are made of different fabrics which can often be polyester, which is reinforced plastic. And we all know about plastic in the marine environment don't we – lots of tiny bits of plastic the fish eat.

But before they are reduced to tiny bits of plastic, wet wipes can become what is so graphically called 'fatbergs' in sewers as they mix with fats and oils and the rest of the gunk.

They cause blockages, can help rivers to overflow, slow river rates down and even change riverbed shapes. In the recent survey near Hammersmith, volunteers found more than 235 wet wipes per square metre!

So please, please, don't flush wet wipes down the loo!!

Drinking water in the USA and neonics

In the US state of Iowa scientists have recently discovered small traces of neonicotinoid chemicals in tap water for the first time. It appears that some methods of filtration don't get rid of this pesticide.

The report has been published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters and the authors wish to see more testing carried out to get good toxicity data to ascertain the

scale of the problem. They believe the scale of research looking at the impacts of neonics on bees and other pollinators should be widened.

Update on 25 year plan for the environment

Friends of the Earth have joined WWF, Greenpeace and other groups and sent a letter to the Prime Minister urging her government not to water down legislation on climate change and wildlife protection.

Some media sources have reported on leaked documents which may indicate that the 25 year plan for the environment will prioritise trade and growth over the expense of tackling climate change and protecting the environment and wildlife after Brexit.

The letter also expresses the wish that the Government will honour our international commitments.

(There may be a few rude noises expressed after reading the word 'honour' linked with politicians, but we can live in hope.)

Bill's 4th Open Day - Open Garden and Plant Sale

Saturday 29th April
22 Greencourt Road, BR5 1QW
2.30-5.00pm
£3 entry to include tea and cake

Help raise funds for Bromley Friends of the Earth

Cut in Emissions

Britain has been the most successful of the G7 group of wealthy nations in boosting its economy and cutting climate emissions in the last 25 years, according to a study by the Climate and Energy Intelligence Unit. Since signing the UN climate convention in 1992, the average carbon footprint is 33% less and the UK is 130% richer.

The data from the Organisation for Economic development and Co-operation credits the 1990s 'dash for gas' power, a switch to a more services-based economy, the Climate Change Act in 2008, energy efficiency schemes and cutting methane from landfill sites, as being the reason.

However it questions whether the UK has simply shifted its emissions overseas by importing more products made in China.

Green Sector Energy

Green energy and technology generates more than £43 billion for Britain and employ 234,000 people, the latest figures show. Renewables such as solar panels and low carbon insulation were worth 1.3% of non-financial turnover in 2015. This information was provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Trump tears up Obama climate plans

US environmentalists have been angered by after President Trump ended Obama's 'war on coal'. He has signed an order rescinding the Clean Power Plan. He aims to open closed coal mines and move power station to gas and other fuels.

The Natural Resources Defence Council has stated that this is not what Trump was elected to do, and that people support climate action. Earthjustice has also objected to the proposals, and the Greens have said that Mr Trump's return to coal would fail state legislatures and that companies were already embracing renewable energy and natural gas, which equals coal in producing a third of US electricity.

Fracking

The Environment Agency has given their support in objecting to the planning application for drilling in the South Downs National Park. Their main point is that the application has not provided sufficient information to demonstrate that the risks to groundwater and the public water supply are acceptable. This very encouraging and should add substantial weight to the objectors' position.

Meanwhile some disappointing news from 'up North' - Lancashire Against Fracking have lost their court appeal for a judicial review. A high court judge has just dismissed 2 legal challenges to the ministerial approval of Cuadrilla's plans for fracking at Preston New Road, Little Plumpton.

Nuclear Energy

The huge US nuclear business Westinghouse filed for bankruptcy on March 29th. This move is seen as a big blow to the prospects for new atomic power globally.

/continued on next page

Bromley Housing Zone quashed but Site G looms

This item was written for Bromley Civic Society's newsletter. There's more info about Bromley Civic Society at www.bromleycivicsociety.org.uk

On 4th April we celebrated the quashing by the High Court of the Mayor's Housing Zone designation for Bromley Town Centre. We thought this might put an end to some of the proposals for huge blocks of flats in the town.

Bromley Council had sought the Housing Zone to enable certain housing developments to go ahead. Two developments in particular were identified: Site A, around Bromley North Station and Site G, west of the High Street; together these would produce some 530 units. Submissions by Bromley Council and the GLA clearly stated that these sites were dependent on the funding.

On 5th April however, residents of Ethelbert Close received a letter from the Council announcing that the Council's Executive had approved Countryside Properties (UK) as a development partner for the 'next phase' of Opportunity Site G. A new timetable was set out leading to a start of development in Autumn 2019.

Also, a press release giving details of a scheme by Stitch Architects for 384 units in 8 blocks across Site G appeared in the property and local press. The release is peppered with the usual Developer / Council hyperbole; there is no mention of the compulsory purchase and tearing down of 40 homes in Ethelbert Close, whose residents, some of whom are

disabled or otherwise vulnerable, are currently living under a cloud of uncertainty as a result of this proposal.

It would appear that Bromley Council was stretching a point when they claimed that development of Site G was dependent on the Housing Zone. Perhaps they went a bit overboard in trying to secure the HZ designation and the £27m that went with it. Either that or the implications of its quashing haven't sunk in yet!

Now the attention must focus on the next steps for Site G. The letter to residents says: 'The council remains committed to consulting with residents on the development of this site throughout this process.'

But there has been precious little consultation with residents so far. The scheme outlined in the press is even larger than that seen at the so-called 'workshop' held in July 2015 and we fear for the impact on the Conservation Area, the High Street and Library Gardens. We must watch this space and engage with the consultation process as closely as possible!

Climate and Energy – continued

Westinghouse is the nuclear arm of Japan's Toshiba and boasts on its website 'We are nuclear energy' - this is because the technology is installed inside about half of the world's reactors.

The problems are the result of a £4.8 billion write-down caused by cost overruns on 2 plants it is building in Georgia and South Carolina.

FoE - Easter survey reveals the need for faster action on peat-free gardening

As the nation's gardeners prepare for spring, a new survey reveals a lack of real choice for consumers looking for peat-free composts at garden centres and other outlets. It highlights the need for more determined action to phase out peat use from the gardening industry and to protect wild peatlands.

In March, 238 volunteers responded to a survey by Friends of the Earth, Plantlife, RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts. They found that:

- only 19% of almost 1,300 products on sale were clearly labelled as peat-free;
- a third of respondents did not find peat-free compost clearly available;
- half of respondents who checked prices found peat-free compost to be more expensive than peat-based options;
- there was often little awareness or concern about the impact of peat among retail staff;
- most respondents reported a lack of product choice, price incentive or clear labelling to encourage consumers to buy peat-free.

The survey results show how difficult it still is for amateur gardeners to buy peat-free. This is despite the high profile of the peat-free gardening issue in the 1990s and early 2000s, the availability of quality peat-free alternatives and repeated commitments by the garden industry and UK government to phase out peat use. Environmental groups are calling on industry and governments to take determined action – and urgently – to protect remaining peatlands from the devastating impacts of this trade.

Industry figures show that:

- bagged peat-free compost increased from 5.9% of the market in 2011 to 9% in 2015;
- peat still accounts for more than half of the total material used in bagged composts;
- the amount of peat in the retail market increased by 50,000m³ from 2012 to 2015;
- across the UK garden industry, more than 2 million m³ of peat was used in 2015.

While commercial peat extraction from Britain's bogs has been reduced, our use of peat in gardens is now degrading bogs elsewhere. In 2015, more than half of our peat came from Ireland and around 7% from elsewhere in Europe (primarily the Baltic States) – leaving a third (around 700,000 tonnes) from peatlands in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

Peatland is home to a variety of scarce and unique wildlife, and provides vital services for people. Peat bogs store vast amounts of carbon, which must be kept in the ground to avoid contributing to climate change. A loss of only 5% of UK peatland carbon would be equal to the UK's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

These bogs also act like a sponge, soaking up rainwater, and can help to reduce flood risk. Water filtered through healthy peat bogs is of a higher quality than water from degraded bogs, making it cheaper to treat as drinking water. Around 70% of our water comes from British uplands, and over half of this passes through peat.

FoE - El Salvador the first nation to ban all metal mining

Environmental campaigners, including Friends of the Earth El Salvador, are celebrating after El Salvador became the first country to ban metal mining. Government lawmakers approved the law forbidding metal mining – following a 10-year struggle by Salvadoran environmental groups and organised communities.

Led by organisations such as the Movement of Victims Affected by the Climate and Corporations (MOVIAC), campaigners spent years spreading awareness of the dangerous impact of metal mining.

But despite the campaign's eventual success, the fight was a bitter and bloody one, with some environmentalists losing their lives, reminded MOVIAC representative Guillermo Mata. "This law is bathed in blood," he said. "Our posthumous thanks to the people who gave their lives in the fight against mining."

Campaigners called for "Water not gold"

Ricardo Navarro, from Friends of the Earth El Salvador, added: "This new law assures the life of the entire country by denying entry to a voracious and highly polluting industry. "With so much public support behind the campaign, politicians had no choice but to approve the law against metal mining."

The people of El Salvador demanded "Water not Gold" as they fought to protect their country's diminishing water supply. In February thousands of people – backed by the Catholic

Church, civil society groups and academics – took to the streets to support a legal ban.

Although the country – one of Latin America's most densely populated nations – gets plenty of rainfall, it struggles to keep hold of it due to unsustainable farming practices and a lack of proper industrial regulations that have led to widespread deforestation and soil erosion. It is thought that as much as 90% of the country's surface waters are polluted by chemicals, waste products and metals.

El Salvador law bans mining and use of toxic chemicals

MOVIAC's letter requested a law that would definitively ban metal mining in the country. And on Wednesday 29 March, that demand was met, when the legislative branch of the government approved the law with 70 votes in favour and none against.

The new law bans metallic mining in the soil and subsoil of the territory of the Republic, including exploration, extraction, exploitation and processing activities whether open or underground. It also forbids the use of toxic chemicals such as cyanide, mercury and others used in metal mining processes.

In addition, the law is retroactive, meaning permits or requests that have been granted for mining exploration and exploitation are now suspended.

FoE - President forced to apologise for deadly Indonesian forest fires

Huge forest fires started intentionally to cheaply clear land for plantation development are an annual problem in Indonesia. On top of destroying huge tracts of forest, these fires lead to smoke clouds which cause smoke-related deaths.

Our colleagues at Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI) have not only won a public apology from the government, but the latter is also building hospitals in the affected area and reviewing the concessions of the corporations responsible for the illegal fires. A great example of demands for social justice and environmental justice going hand in hand.

FoE's comment on this

A group of environmental activists, including Friends of the Earth Indonesia, has won a major court case against the Indonesian government over its role in devastating forest fires in 2015.

The significant victory paves the way for "better law enforcement regarding the environment" and should help in the fight to stop rainforests being deliberately burned for profit.

The catastrophic fires that burned for months resulted in a haze that some researchers estimate caused the deaths of 100,000 people in Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

The President of Indonesia, several ministries and the Governor of Central Kalimantan – a province of Indonesian Borneo – among others were found guilty of being negligent in this crisis.

The government has been ordered to:

- issue a public apology
- set up hospitals for those affected by the disaster
- review how concessions are granted to the corporations responsible for the fires
- release the names of the companies responsible for the fires.

"This is a victory for the people," said Arie Rompas, a spokesperson for Friends of the Earth Indonesia. This is a step forward and the beginning of better law enforcement regarding the environment."

Fires destroyed forests and animal populations

The fires burnt for months, destroying tens of thousands of hectares of forest, releasing tonnes of CO₂ and other toxic gases and decimating precious populations of orangutans, clouded leopards, sun bears, gibbons, Sumatran rhinoceros and tigers.

Most of the fires occurred on western Sumatra and Indonesian Borneo and are believed to have been started deliberately by companies to clear land for farming. The resulting haze blew across Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, causing catastrophic health and environmental problems. Researchers estimated up to 100,000 people were killed by the haze – figures disputed by the Indonesian government.

CND – Nuclear Power crisis

CND Campaigns Officer Sara Medi Jones writes about a tumultuous few weeks for the future of nuclear power in the UK.

Back in 2013, Parliament's Energy and Climate Change committee declared the government's plans to build new nuclear reactors as 'ambitious' at best and 'unrealistic' at worst, expressing concerns that there are no contingency plans in place. Four years, numerous financial setbacks including bankruptcy and a series of legal challenges later, the situation is even worse.

The government's main hopes of a nuclear renaissance in this country rest on three sites: Hinkley Point C in Somerset, Moorside in Cumbria and Wylfa Newydd in north Wales.

While building work did start at Hinkley last month, the UN has now called for the project to be halted until it can establish whether an environmental assessment is needed. The UN Economic Commission for Europe ruled that the UK failed to consult European countries properly over potential risks. This is on top of a state aid investigation and a court case at the European Court of Justice.

The company behind the development – EDF – says it is still confident of having the project built on schedule (should the timetable slip, they risk losing their financial guarantees) but there are many concerns about the reactor design. Not one of its particular design has yet been built successfully.

Over at Moorside, the reactor design has been granted regulatory approval but the company making the reactors (Westinghouse) has filed for bankruptcy in the last week, throwing the whole project into chaos.

Another company subsequently abandoned the project, while the one remaining business still involved has said it plans to sell up before construction begins at the site. No wonder the Business Minister Greg Clark is currently in South Korea desperately trying to secure a deal with a new company.

There are further funding concerns with Wylfa Newydd, as the Chief Executive of the Project expressed his concerns last week that funding still hasn't been confirmed. The local council has also questioned the impact of the new power station on the economy, tourism and the Welsh language.

All of these difficulties should be a warning sign to the government that nuclear energy is fraught with problems and should be replaced with renewables. A recent government survey showed only 36% of people support nuclear energy, with 74% in favour of renewables.

We need a safe, genuinely sustainable, global and green solution to our energy needs, not a dangerous diversion like nuclear power.

Jubilee Debt Campaign workshop

Register to attend this workshop at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/debt-economics-education-for-action-tickets-33574948575> or by emailing clare@jubileedebt.org.uk.

Inequality and debt are on the rise - eight men now own as much wealth as half the world's population. The debt payments of impoverished countries are increasing rapidly and are at the highest level for a decade. Closer to home, PFI debt is having a huge impact on NHS finances and students leaving UK universities now face higher average debts than American students, with the average student graduating with more than £44,000 debt.

On Saturday June 17th, Jubilee Debt Campaign are holding an interactive, informative, educational day-long workshop looking at how debt and economics are impacting people around the world in 2017. It starts at 11am and is at The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, N1 6HT

Discuss whether debts should always be paid and understand more about the historical and current connections between debt and inequality. Learn about why Ghana's debt is higher now than it was in 2005 - even after a large write-off - and how NHS debt is linked to global south debt through Public Private Partnerships. Importantly, come and hear about debt resistance, positive alternatives and how you can be a part of a global and national movement for debt justice!

This day-long workshop is free and is part of a series of workshops taking place in cities across the UK. It will be delivered by debt expert and facilitator Fanny Malinen.

Jubilee Debt Campaign has a number of campaigns that they are pursuing, including:

Drop Greece's Debt

Since 2010, Greece has been immersed in a debt crisis that has rocked Europe. After six years of austerity, the country's economic situation is getting worse, not better. Join our call to drop Greece's debt.

No New Debt Trap

A new boom in lending to the developing world has taken place since the financial crisis of 2008. It threatens to set a new debt trap for people in poverty around the world. We're sounding the alarm about this new debt threat.

Stop Vulture Funds

Vulture Funds are financial speculators looking to profiteer from countries in debt crisis. From Argentina to Zambia, they've swooped in to buy up debts for pennies in the pound, then demanded full payment plus interest. We're leading the global fight to put an end to this outrageous practice.

More info on Jubilee Debt

Campaign (JDC) from their website <http://jubileedebt.org.uk> or by emailing info@jubileedebt.org.uk or by phoning 020 7324 4722.

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Reuser Column
Don't throw It away - Reuse It!

If you have any items to sell, or anything that you require, please send details to the Editor. Items will be displayed for three months, the number in brackets after an item indicating for how long it has appeared. Could you please contact us if an item has been sold/obtained, so that it can be removed from the newsletter?

Any donations to Bromley FoE generated from this column gratefully received!

Non-members' Section

If you are not a member of Bromley Friends of the Earth, BFoE, then hello. We are an active local group affiliated to national Friends of the Earth concerned with promoting the understanding of environmental issues. We also campaign on these issues at a local, national and international level.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please contact either of our co-ordinators Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are on the previous page. Alternatively, you can come along to one of our free monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, and Bromley (that's towards the bottom of the High Street and on the right going south). If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

Membership Application/Renewal* Form (*please delete as appropriate.)

Please return this form to: **Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, and Kent, BR6 7RN**. Other enquiries regarding the group: may be sent by email to *bromleyfoe@gmail.com*, or telephone our co-ordinators at the telephone numbers above.

I wish to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my £8 annual subscription. I also enclose a donation (optional) of To help towards the cost of producing and distributing the monthly Newsletter.

Name..... Telephone Number

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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