



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**

**November 2020**

No 394

**Our Next Meeting**

**Prof Frank Kelly**

*Director, Environmental  
Research Group,  
Imperial College London*

**Speaks on:**

Air Pollution and Public Health:  
emerging hazards and improved  
understanding of risk

**Virtual meeting**

Due to Coronavirus and following advice from Friends of the Earth, our  
November meeting will be a virtual one. See page 2 for full details.

**Usually 7.30pm The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

Everyone always welcome

**In this issue:**

October Meeting Participation	2	Bromley Town Centre Consultation	10
Readers' Views	6	News From the Parks Alliance	12
'Earthshot' Prize!	6	Campaigns	13
Freebeecycle Groups	7	Supplies that Don't Cost The Earth	17
Chislehurst Ponds	8	List of Roles	19
Millers Mutterings	9		

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**NEWSLETTER**

## November Meeting Participation

If you would like to be involved in the November Monthly Meeting, then it will be a virtual Zoom meeting once more. Please let us know if you'd like to attend by either emailing [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com) or leaving a message on 020 8289 1503, and we will then send you details of how to join in, nearer the time.

You can either join using your computer (with video or without) or on a smart phone. Usually a phone number to dial in from any phone is issued with this type of meeting, but due to high demand at the moment, this function has been disabled.

Specific meeting content details are below. The first half will be our speaker and the second half will be for BFoE business.

*If you can't attend this meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'. Do your own bit of campaigning perhaps inspired by something in our newsletters, and let us know what response you get.*

### Diary Dates

**Please note that due to the Coronavirus, many events have had to be cancelled**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (Tues)** BFoE Monthly Meeting 7.30pm. Speaker Professor Frank Kelly, Director, Environmental Research Group, Imperial College London

This is correct at the time of going to press but obviously will be updated in the next monthly newsletter. If you need any further information on any events in the meantime, you can email us on [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)

**If any of the items in this newsletter make you angry, delight you, enthuse you or cause you any emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it into the newsletter.**

## 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 **midnight Friday 13th November**

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

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

**Disclaimer:** Please note that any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Bromley Friends of the Earth or of Friends of the Earth.

## October Monthly Meeting Report

Sheila Brown

This month's meeting was something of a failed experiment in that we were trialling the platform Jitsi, a free programme offering unlimited time to avoid the problems we'd experienced in previous months when our time had expired after 40 minutes and people had needed to log-in again. However, some people were totally unable to join the Jitsi meeting, the format was unfamiliar and halfway through the speaker found he was no longer able to screen share his presentation. We therefore concluded that we will **not** pursue Jitsi but will in fact invest in a subscription to Zoom so that future meetings will not be time limited. Apologies to all for their patience and forbearance. If you would like a copy of the speaker's PowerPoint, please contact Sheila.

### The Woodland Trust – Speaker Professor Alan Aylward

Alan last came and spoke to us in October 2017, in that bygone age when we could all meet together in the Friends Meeting House. When we fixed this meeting earlier in the year, we were all very much hoping that normal life would by now have resumed. However, Alan was happy to speak to us online, and we do apologise that the experience was not as good as it might have been.

Three years on, the Climate Emergency has moved to centre stage, emphasising more than ever our need for trees – for

our health and well-being, to clean our air, as natural habitats for wildlife and, most of all, because they are able to **store carbon from the atmosphere**. But our tree cover in the UK is only 13% - and in England only 10% - compared with 36% in Europe. Our woodland started disappearing to build naval ships - it took 6,000 oaks to build The Victory - and then to fuel the Industrial Revolution by providing charcoal for smelting. Now only 2% of Britain is Ancient Woodland, and half has been lost since the 1930s with the resultant loss of wildlife. Main contributors have been climate change, pests and diseases, infrastructure, development and intensive agriculture.

The Woodland Trust was founded in 1972 by Kenneth Watkins who was worried about disappearing woodlands. Avon Woods in Devon was the first site acquired by the Trust, which is now the UK's largest woodland conservation charity with 120,000 members and has backing from, among others, Princess Anne and from Sainsbury's.

Woodland Trust's mission: **a UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife: to create, protect and restore**. Over the last 45 years, the Trust has helped plant 43 million trees and has saved over 1000 ancient woods since 1990. Alan mentioned the First World War Centenary Wood at Langley Vale in Surrey (a future BFoE outing, maybe?).

However our woodlands face continuing threats: Dutch Elm Disease which destroyed 30 million trees and new diseases like Ash Dieback threatening 120 million trees; HS2;

Climate Change; the lack of a good national environment policy; and a whole raft of pests and diseases. And 63 ancient woodlands are **threatened by the HS2 project**.

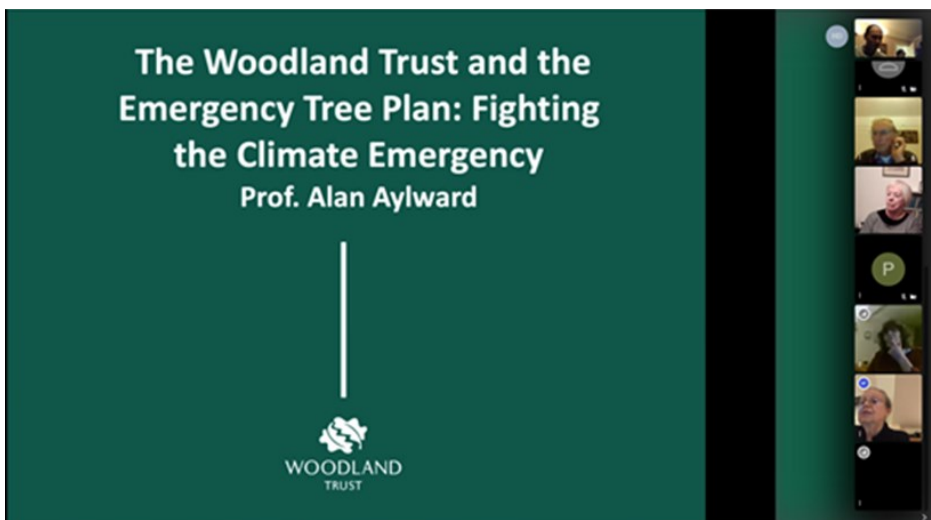
But there are signs the tide is turning with the Charter for Trees, a policy framework to give ancient trees protection similar to that given to listed buildings, and in 2018 Michael Gove launched 'A Green Future' - a 25 year plan and endorsed creation of the Great Northern Forest, a plan to plant 50 million trees in an area stretching from Liverpool to Hull with the M62 as its 'spine'. [It was at this point that we lost the screen sharing and the talk continued without illustrations.]

The UK now has a Climate Action Plan which includes planting trees to get 17-19% tree cover by 2050 to contribute to Net Zero Carbon by 2050. The Woodland Trust responded by launching its Emergency Tree Plan for the UK in January 2020. This translates

to planting 30 million new trees a year. The Northern Forest would have 50 million trees coast to coast and has been endorsed by the Government.

The Government responded to the IPCC Report on Climate Change by announcing a Net Zero target as its contribution to stopping global warming. The Woodland Trust told them that a proper plan was needed. Woodland cover helps to stop species decline, contributes to flood prevention and sustainable timber production, creating new jobs. It locks up pollutants - CO<sub>2</sub>, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. It improves farmland by stopping erosion, improving soil quality and increasing pollinators. Woodlands contribute to our psychological wellbeing.

A goal of 17-19% tree cover by 2050 has been set to achieve our net zero carbon target. This means planting 50,000 hectares a year; this is 4 x what was planted in 2018-19. Native trees live



The Woodland Trust and the  
Emergency Tree Plan: Fighting  
the Climate Emergency  
Prof. Alan Aylward

WOODLAND  
TRUST

longer and sequester more carbon and old trees take up more carbon than newly planted ones - this can be up to 20 x as much - making the destruction of ancient woodlands more catastrophic. More nursery provision for native trees is needed. It would be good to replace concrete by wood in building projects.

Recommendations would be to combine forestry and woodland strategies alongside agriculture, provide landowners with financial support for the natural regeneration of woodland; and for local authorities each to have their own Emergency Tree Plan and to ensure all development land includes a minimum of 30% tree canopy cover.

Visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) and consider becoming a member of the Woodland Trust.

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We were invited to a Woodland Trust Members' Evening in London. CEO Darren Moorcroft started by saying "Our Time is Now". There is heightened awareness of the importance of nature and woodlands, our 'Crown Jewels' which are under threat and need protection.

The best recent project restoration plantation is Orswell, containing 11 species of bats. This had been in danger of being clear-felled.

The Government is speaking of planting 1.5 billion new trees; the Woodland Trust has planted 41 million trees and in 2020 its 50 millionth tree will be planted.

Our existing trees need to be protected, we need to inspire communities to recognise their importance, to insist on only UK and Irish grown stock being used, thus preventing diseases like Ash Die Back.

Public forests needed.

New partnership with London Banking Group.

The Northern Forest Liverpool to Hull.

Reintroduce wildlife and bring woods back to life.

Plant a tree to save the world (Chris Packham). 100,000 was the target but 500,000 reached.

Big climate fightback

Young people's forest - 250 trees giving positive experience to young people

## **Second Half**

Peter Gandolfi

Reports

Bromley + Environment Plan - John reported that there had not been another meeting, and a small group were pulling things together.

September clean-up - Annette said that the litter pick-up had been reported in the last newsletter, and also had been sent to press. A ban on plastic straws and cotton buds should be coming.

Nature - Judy reported that the draft of the biodiversity plan was being worked on, and should be out for public consultation next year. Diana commented that she would like the

ability to discuss the plan with William Huntingdon-Thresher (WHT).

Anne commented that the public did not know about the consultation.

Social Media - Emmanuelle reported that she had updated our social media, and that we now had 100 followers on Twitter.

Speakers - Sheila reported that she was trying to get WHT who would be a better speaker face-to-face, so at present would prefer speakers happy to present virtually and use a powerpoint presentation.

AOB - John B reported that due to the disbanding of the Sevenoaks group of Kent Wildlife Trust, the Darent Valley and Sevenoaks branch of FoE have taken over their programme of monthly events and is now offering an online programme. The next event is a talk on the reintroduction of Beavers by Cloe Sadler.

Anne reported that there was a Heathrow expansion meeting, and anyone interested should contact her.

Dan reported that due to using a new printer, the newsletter was able to be printed on recycled paper. Unlike the old printer, the new printer could handle this type of paper.

## Readers' Views

### Toilet Rolls

Helen Loughlin

Reading the section about toilet roll in the October issue, reminded me that

I'd read recently that what you ate was more important than where it came from in terms of a reduced carbon footprint and it's not always best to consume local produce. (Not sure if this applies to toilet roll, but I'm sticking with Who Gives A Crap for the time being.)

The article to which I've given a link below gives some details and I know Extinction Rebellion drew attention to these findings recently.

It's quite a revelation to me.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/food-miles-carbon-footprints-climate-change-sustainability-a9050406.html>

*(Interesting item Helen, thanks for drawing our attention to it. I agree that it applies to food mostly and not items such as toilet rolls, but it does highlight the idea of eating, and consuming, seasonally. Eat what is available locally at this time of year, where you can, obviously. Ed.)*

## 'Earthshot' prize!

Judy Palmer

Did you see the news earlier this month that Prince William and Sir David Attenborough have come together to launch this new environmental prize? Well, if you didn't, here is a quick round-up. This has been launched because the Prince and Sir David hope it will become the 'Nobel Prize for environmentalism'. Wouldn't that be grand!

The award is £50m in total and will be awarded over a decade in a search for 50 solutions to the world's greatest

environmental problems by 2030. It will make five awards of £1m each year for ten years. And anyone and everyone across the world can enter.

They will be searching for ideas to help repair our planet by 2030, which will go to the best and most innovative idea which help; -

- protect and restore nature
- clean our air
- revive our oceans
- build a waste-free world
- fix our climate.

They view the prize as a tool for optimism, to help create a positive effect on environmental change. Nominations will open on 1 November this year and there will be an annual award ceremony in a different city each year, with the first one in London next autumn. There is an Earthshot Prize Council to oversee the project, made up of celebrities from entertainment, sport, business, charity and the environment.

The money has been provided by a coalition of individuals, businesses and organisations. It is hoped that by offering a prize, a very wide range of people and ideas from 'outside, as well as inside the box', will come forward.

The idea for the name Earthshot was chosen to echo 'Moonshot' from the 1960s when the US was competing to have the first person on the moon. And drawing another parallel in history - back in 1714, the famous Longitude Prize was awarded. This 'navigation'

prize was awarded to the first person who could solve the problem of how to tell your longitude at sea. And who won? An astronomer? A famous sailor? Nope, a clockmaker and carpenter called John Harrison who invented the marine chronometer. So more outside than inside the box!

Well then, thinking-caps on for the first year: who has an idea or two?

## **Freebeecycle Groups**

Parisa Wright

I've been involved in a really great project, organised by lovely Susy Bramer, another local community group leader, and I thought you guys would like to support it too by spreading the word.

It's essentially highlighting the new-ish 'Freebeecyclers' groups that have been set up over the past year or so (we have helped set some of them up) for people to give away things they don't need to people in their local community for free (extra twist is it's postcode restricted so people should go by foot).

These groups are now all over the borough, reducing waste, normalising preloved and reducing our environmental impact.

Freebeecyclers - Love Thy Neighbours, Love Thy Planet

Freebeecycle groups are for residents and neighbours to give away unwanted items; to reuse, to pass on and to swap any items which are no longer of use and would otherwise end up in landfill.

The groups can also be used to request, borrow and return items.

Membership is verified by postcode and keeping the groups small and local ensures that collection of items is within walking distance. Larger items can be collected by car on a journey that you are already making (eg the school run) rather than an additional journey to a different part of the borough.

Freebeecycling is also a great way to support your local community and get to know your neighbours

Local Groups:

Hayes Life

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

Beckenham Central and North

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/beckenhamcentralandnorthfreebeecycle rs>

Bromley Common & Bickley

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bromleycommonandbickleyfreebeecycler s>

Chislehurst and Mottingham

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

Elmers End, Eden Park and Park Langley

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/elmersendedenparkandparklangleyfreeb eecyclers>

Orpington

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

[orpingtonfreebeecycler](https://www.facebook.com/groups/orpingtonfreebeecycler)

Petts Wood

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

Poverest, St Mary Cray and Surrounds

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/povereststmarycrayandsurroundsfreeb eecyclers>

Orpington

[w.facebook.com/groups/orpingtonfreebeecycler](https://www.facebook.com/groups/w.facebook.com/groups/orpingtonfreebeecycler)

Shortlands

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





[shortlandsfreebeecyclers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/westwickhamfreebeecyclers)

West Wickham Freebeecyclers

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

## Chislehurst Ponds

Ann Garrett

The following photo was taken on a recent walk round a pond on Chislehurst Common on a rainy afternoon, so the photo is a bit misty.

I stood behind some reeds watching a heron for a long time - then suddenly it dived into the water to catch a fish, and if you look carefully you may be able to see it in the water in the distance. If you can't - enjoy the reeds and imagine the heron !

## Miller's Mutterings

Chris Miller - Court Lodge Farm

Phew, harvest over for another year! We restarted combining on the bank holiday Monday although the grain was damp, we decided to just get on with it. The moisture levels did drop slightly over the next few days allowing us to finish cutting the wheat, then we moved into the spring barley. The moisture on that was slightly lower because barley is a naked grain, ie no husk, so the sun and the wind can get at the grain directly. During the last half hour of cutting the barley, it was starting to rain again but there was no way we were going to stop so close to the end.

The data we received back showed that the oats made milling ie porridge, muesli etc showing that the quality was good but the quantity was poor. The wheat surprised us, not a huge crop but the quality was top notch. This all made milling which we were thrilled about. The barley went for animal feed. Obviously due to present circumstances, there is not a huge demand for malting barley. Not a good harvest but considering the year we have had with the varying weather patterns and the bad harvest throughout the country, we were quite pleased with our little farm.

We were very eager to start planting again while the ground was dry, especially as we had the seed from last year and the experiences from last year. Peter planted the large field by the farm with winter wheat which we hope will make the cake and biscuit market. The barley was drilled in further fields and a cover crop in our other fields away from the yard. The days were hot but there was moisture in the soil, the wheat germinated and showed within 6 days!

The government is to end the 3 crop rule in 2021. We will then not have to grow three different crops so we shall probably not grow barley but will watch the markets and see how things go. I'm sure most farmers in England will be happy that this rule is going. Greening rules are set to change too. A bit complex to explain here but covers crop diversification, ecological focus areas and greening permanent grassland. We are probably going to a spring sown cropping system after this year simply because of the cost of having a crop for

11 months rather than 5 months. There should be benefits for wildlife from the lack of disturbance of the field with all that stubble surely. We are looking into this decision and will let you know the pros and cons.

On the wildlife front, the boys enjoyed seeing a family of five deer in the fields during harvest along with the buzzards and occasional kite. Last sighting of the swallows in the farm yard was on the 17th September, always sad to see them go as I feel summer is over without them. I haven't seen a bullfinch for years here but recently Steve found one a bit dazed. He carefully placed it in a safe area but unfortunately it died. Have you seen any around Chelsfield?

Apparently foggy days in October indicates a hard winter, so let's hope we don't see any of those.

## **Bromley Town Centre Consultation**

BFoE Response

Planning Support Manager

Bromley Civic Centre

Stockwell Close BR1 3UH

03.10.2020

### **Bromley Town Centre Consultation**

Dear Planning Support Manager,

Bromley Friends of the Earth wish to put forward their views and recommendations:-

#### **Planning Guidance**

The height of new buildings in historic

parts of the town centre should not overlook or impact on the Conservation areas or open spaces.

In view of the seriousness of climate change, it is vital that green spaces should be preserved where ever possible to encourage wild life and biodiversity.

It is important to preserve the historic environment.

#### **Local Areas**

Any development to the south of Church House Gardens, including the Churchill Quarter

(Site G in the Local Plan), should be limited in height to reduce impact on open spaces.

Ideally the Ethelbert Community should be retained , as should all local community areas, as they add vibrancy and 'humanity' to commercial town centres.

Recommend, therefore abandoning the Churchill Quarter proposal.

Bromley North Station site 2 - any new development should be limited in height to reduce the impact on the Conservation area.

Bromley North Station forecourt - plant trees to reduce the impact of so much concrete.

The Picturehouse cinema is a beautifully restored art deco building and should be preserved.

Bromley High Street - more planting of green walls to reduce impact on new buildings.

Former Maplan and Laura Ashley buildings and any heritage building should be preserved at all costs.

Preserve the Market Square and all Bromley North Village heritage buildings.

Much of the Bromley South station area is suffering from large concrete high rise developments, which create wind tunnels and make it unpleasant for pedestrians and cyclists. More of this should be avoided.

### **Future of Bromley Town Centre**

Recommend a wide variety of building to enhance cultural and community activities.

Planning for recovery that improves the local environment.

Affordable housing to rent or buy for first time buyers is a realistic way forward to encourage people into the town centre. e.g. the proposed housing to be provided in the future on the Civic Centre car park, through the ZEDpod eco housing project. is an excellent idea.

Any new housing should adhere strictly to legal environmental guidelines.

All new buildings should be low-rise and aesthetically pleasing in terms of materials and design.

Vacant office spaces could be converted into housing to avoid expensive demolition. An eco culture of re-use should be promoted.

Parks are important for socialising and

for reducing carbon emissions.

All green infrastructure should be enhanced with the planting of trees and plants e.g. more of the pleasant already existing town centre flower beds.

More protected cycle ways and pedestrian areas, with less emphasis on 'the car culture' so that Bromley can meet its Co2 reductions targets. In fact anything to encourage walking which promotes well-being and healthy life styles as well as aiding the environment.

### **Summary**

More concrete on green sites is not the answer to retaining the heart of a Country Market Town which makes Bromley unique as an outer London suburb.

Bromley Council needs to reclaim empty properties and reject the temptation to build high-rise concrete monstrosities which label Bromley as 'another Croydon'.

Residents and community friends voluntary groups such as Bromley Civic Society, Friends of Bromley Town Centre Parks and Gardens, Bromley Cleaner and Greener, the Ethelbert Community and the Green Gym to name but a few, have dedicated hours of their time, energy and resources over many years to enhancing the heritage and green spaces in many parts of the town centre and wider parts of the borough. Their dedication and achievements should be respected by the council and future planners, who need vision in furthering

these achievements.

A holistic imaginative approach to any future developments in Bromley town centres and the wider borough generally is required, which rejects the concept of piecemeal development and encourages a future of which everyone can be proud, and which in the longer term plays its part in helping preserve this planet and saves it from the catastrophe of climate change.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Garrett and Sheila Brown (Joint Co-ordinators of Bromley Friends of the Earth)

## **News from The Parks Alliance**

The Parks Alliance (TPA) is the voice of UK parks, representing the people and organisations that create, maintain, invest in and use the public green spaces that they are proud to have at the heart of British life.

They are the only independent, nationwide organisation solely dedicated to parks.

Here's some highlights from the October newsletter:

Back in May the Boards of The Parks Alliance (TPA) and The Landscape Institute (LI) agreed in principle to bring their organisations closer together in order to create a stronger voice, avoid duplication and to better support the parks and green space sector. In this issue we highlight some of the work of the new Parks and Green Space

Network that TPA and LI brought together to fulfil this promise including developing new parks management apprenticeships, delivering a green recovery and creating a professional home for parks and green space professionals.

As the UK government seeks to kick start (save?) the economy in response to the COVID-19, it is widely accepted that any comeback from the pandemic has to address climate change, reverse the decline in nature, and tackle health inequalities. This means a green recovery. The Parks and Green Space Network worked alongside the LI to produce 'Greener Recovery - Delivering a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19' including a special supplement for parks and green spaces.

The Welsh GI Forum received a presentation from Dr. Bharat Pankhania, Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Exeter Medical School on some of the basic facts about the origins and transmission of viral respiratory diseases and the implications for managing green spaces.

The Parks Community UK team and the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces have developed a peer-led 'one stop shop' website 'Better Friends' to help local Friends Groups continue to improve and serve their communities.

Landscape Journal carries quite a lot of parks and green-space-related content as you can imagine. In this newsletter we highlight a few of the most interesting articles.

In November the Landscape Institute and the Midlands Parks Forum are running a CPD Day focused on the key skills required to help parks managers make sure their parks thrive into the future. Find out below how you can get involved.

Recently The Friends of the Earth published a great report and (online tool) highlighting how 1 in 5 people in England struggle to access quality green space - be it private gardens, public parks or open fields.

Finally, the publication of 'Making Parks Count - The Case for Parks' was widely reported across the sector and proved extremely popular amongst those who have to make the case for investment and resources. Its publication could not have been more timely just as the Prime Minister and Chancellor announced the summer economic stimulus package and ahead of future statements on public finances. We have taken the opportunity to highlight once more the Business Case, the evidence base and the resource library.

See the poster on page 18.

## **Campaigns**

### **Planning Monitoring Team**

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

#### **Climate Change and the Barrier Reef**

Ann Garrett

The Great Barrier Reef lost more than half its corals in less than 25 years after climate change bleached the life out of

them, a recent study reveals.

The natural wonder on the Australian coast may never recover if carbon emissions aren't reduced warn the authors of the report from the University of Queensland.

The team were shocked by the huge decline, after tracking the size of coral colonies along the length of the 133,000 sq mile reef between 1995 and 2017.

The worst damage was witnessed during the last two years of the project, amid record breaking temperatures. If the water is too warm, corals get rid of the microscopic plankton in their tissues - turning them completely white. Starved of nutrients, they eventually die

The team say that the environmental answer is clear and that this is just another example of the destruction of parts of our planet.

#### **BP and the Climate Crisis**

Ann Garrett

Bernard Looney, the Chief Executive of BP speaking at a recent 3 day investor event, has been talking tough about the importance of tackling climate change. This is encouraging news from the point of view of environmentalists who are critical of the fossil fuel industry's legacy.

Looney's new leadership team sought to convince investors of their plan to become a carbon neutral company. BPs renewable energy interests will grow, while oil production, which has

powered the company for over 110 years will begin to shrink within the next decade.

A combination of clean energy innovation, carbon capture technologies, and emissions off-setting schemes will power the company to net zero carbon by 2050.

In the minds of investors, there is no question that clean energy is a lucrative market and can offer them exponential growth in the decades ahead, as economies swap polluting fossil fuels for technologies that can meet energy demands without the threat of soaring carbon emissions.

Making profits are clearly important if BP is seriously going to proceed with environmentally improved energy sources.

### **Energy Initiatives**

Ann Garrett

Recent letters I've read in the press suggest firstly the use of water wheels in fast flowing rivers to generate more energy, and secondly the setting up of cycle generation in prisons and leisure centres. This would be good for health and fitness and any surplus energy could be sent to the national grid. Profits from projects could be used to set up prisoner release slush funds and also be very motivating.

Exercise bikes, both at home and leisure centres, could be connected to generators that are plugged into the system like PV cells. Machines could be attached to the columns of wind

turbines and could utilise some of the infrastructure.

These ideas could be useful for small businesses to set up, and could encourage local investment, which FoE is so keen to promote.

### **The Thames Silvertown Tunnel**

Ann Garrett

A four lane road tunnel under the Thames will cost nearly £2bn over the next three decades, if it goes ahead, according to accounts published by Transport for London. The high cost has been criticised by Caroline Russell, Green Party London Assembly member.

There has been growing opposition to the project from residents and green campaigners who say it would be environmentally destructive. They also say it fatally undermines efforts to build a green recovery from the coronavirus.

The shadow minister for climate change and local MP, Matthew Pennycook, have called for the scheme to be abandoned.

Sadiq Khan is supportive of it going ahead on the basis that the local infrastructure is antiquated and worn out.

### **Heathrow Airport Expansion**

Ann Garrett

Although the High Court has ruled that the government's plan for a third runway has failed to consider the UK's commitment to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris agreement, the final outcome is still uncertain.

The campaign has been going on for over 10 years; supported by Greenpeace, XR, HACAN [ the main opposition group ], local residents, community groups, local mayors, and of course Friends of the Earth.

It was important that the court ruled that climate change must be factored in to the government's aviation policy and that its commitment has to be taken into account in national law.

The Greenpeace petition can still be completed online.

## **Nature/Trees**

### **Landowner Lobbying Success!**

Diana Hurd

Here is a campaign breakthrough national FoE wants to share with us. The UK's water industry - collectively the biggest private landowner in the country - has publicly supported our demand to double tree cover in England.

The water industry's support shows that our message has started to get through to England's largest private landowners, since we published data on their dismal levels of woodland [1]. And after thousands of you signed our open letter to the two with the least woodland cover of all - Prince Charles and the Church of England.

We've now received encouraging responses from them too - although they're definitely not good enough.

The Prince's estate, the Duchy of Cornwall, said it has plans to increase

tree planting and woodland creation on its land. And the Church Commissioners "agree with the spirit" of the letter.

But until they set specific targets for woodland cover - and we actually see evidence of trees in the ground - we won't be satisfied.

We've invited representatives from both to our Tree Summit in December, which Forestry Minister Zac Goldsmith is also due to attend.

Our summit will be a unique opportunity for the government, landowners, scientists and not-for-profits like us to get together to discuss genuine solutions to the nature crisis.

If we make any breakthroughs, you'll be the first to hear.

It'd be great if you could ask your friends to sign the open letter too - the more signatures the better ahead of the summit.

You can still sign online to support doubling tree cover in the UK: [https://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/ask-prince-charles-and-church-grow-more-trees?utm\\_source=call-to-action-sharing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=trees&utm\\_content=FY2021-10\\_lm2010055\\_landowner-action-sharing-link&source=FN2008000&user=%7CURN\\_HASH%7C\\*](https://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/ask-prince-charles-and-church-grow-more-trees?utm_source=call-to-action-sharing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=trees&utm_content=FY2021-10_lm2010055_landowner-action-sharing-link&source=FN2008000&user=%7CURN_HASH%7C*)

## **Plastics**

### **Plastic Shopping Bag Charge Increase**

Annette Rose

From April 2021, the fee for plastic shopping bags will rise from 5p to 10p. In addition, small retailers will no longer be exempt. This is welcomed by environmental groups including FOE and Greenpeace. It is another step in the right direction as plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds have recently been banned in England.

Some plastic bag facts-

1.04bn plastic bags were sold by the 7 main supermarkets in 2017-18.

There has been an 86% fall in disposable bags issued by those supermarkets since 2015.

£58.5m has been donated to good causes as a result of the bag levy in 2017-18.

### **Recycling Trial**

Annette Rose

It has always been a problem to recycle for residents in flats and living above places like shops. They often have no recycling containers and only general waste is collected by Bromley Council. The good news is that there is a trial taking place in Penge High Street and in Queensway/Chatsworth Parade in Petts Wood to provide the usual recycling range that other households get. We hope the trial is successful and can be rolled out to other areas in the borough.

## **Glitter**

Annette Rose

Glitter is made from tiny pieces of plastic which can wash into the environment, harm wildlife and get into the food chain. It is good to hear that some major retailers are realising this fact and are taking action to reduce the glitter in their products. Tesco only uses edible glitter and Sainsbury's have removed the glitter from their Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gift bags. Morrisons, Waitrose and John Lewis have said they won't be using glitter in own brand Christmas products this year.

### **Plastic Packaging**

Annette Rose

In addition, some retailers are reducing their single use plastic packaging.

Tony Bosworth was quoted on the BBC website. He said "Retailers are right to ditch unnecessary plastic this Christmas. People can still enjoy the festive season without the glitter and pointless packaging that add to the waves of plastic pollution that pour into our environment every year and threaten our wildlife."

### **Christmas Crackers**

Annette Rose

Last year my family decided to ditch the Christmas Crackers with the useless plastic toys inside that get thrown away. There are lots of eco alternatives now with no plastic and glitter free or you



could even make your own. There are lots of ideas available online.

## Supplies That Don't Cost the Earth

*This is a regular reference point for useful and practical resources, helping us to sustain the greenest lifestyles we can. These are not recommendations from Bromley or National FoE, but are just suggested by BFoE members. Any suggestions or reviews gratefully received. [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)*

### No/Low Waste Shops

Alexander Stores, 61 Beckenham Road.

Green Room, Station Approach, Hayes.

To Come—The Burlington Food Hall, Chislehurst High Street

Beetroot & Beans, 57A Dartmouth Road,  
Forest hill SE23 3HN

SWOP, 7 Burnt Ash Road, Lee Green, London SE12 8RG

The Eco Pantry, Unit C1, Chart Farm, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0ES

### Internet

<https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk/>

Wide range of biodegradable and natural products

<https://www.mygreenpod.com/>

'Ethical' products news and advice

<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/>

[www.greenfinder.co.uk](http://www.greenfinder.co.uk) - a 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: <https://naturallythinking.com/>

*Crowdfarming*, wide selection of directly supplied products from farmers around the world, many organic: <https://www.crowdfarming.com/en>

### Facebook

*Greener & Cleaner Bromley (& Beyond)* Consumer action!

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

Picture courtesy of Bethan Clark



# Why Parks are a Smart Investment

## Natural Capital Values for Parks in England

- Annual economic value £6.6 billion
- Annual saving to the NHS of £2 billion
- Asset value of over £200 billion
- Every £1 spent provides between £7 and £10 of quantified benefit

As towns compete to attract investment, the presence of parks, squares and gardens becomes a vital.

Urban green spaces raise nearby house prices by an average of £2,500.

Mental ill health costs the UK £1058m pa  
London's parks alone help avoid an estimated £370m of mental health related costs each year.

Disconnected communities could be costing the English economy £27 billion every year.

Nearly half of all people say that parks are the most important public space. They create opportunities for social interaction in ways that enhance health and wellbeing.

Every year physical inactivity costs the UK around £1bn.  
Active visits to Parks in England result in £2bn in avoided health costs.

A third of people are disconnected from the places where they live.  
There is a social return of £8.50 for every £1 invested in nature conservation volunteering.

An 'urban heat island' effect is created in cities by solar radiation trapped within the built environment.

High Streets are struggling. The focus of high streets is shifting away from retail to food and leisure services.

Parks are one of the top priorities when addressing the factors that influence viability and vitality of high streets.

Parks in England provide an urban cooling benefit of £4.8m pa.

Increases in greenhouses gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat, warm the globe and drive climate change.

The value of carbon sequestration by trees in public parks in England is estimated at £9m per year



Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK causing up to 36,000 deaths.

The benefits of air pollutant removal by trees in public parks in England is estimated at £60m per year.

The number of species worldwide is in sustained mass decline, threatening the environment.

Parks are among the most species rich types of urban green spaces and 1,500 species of UK's pollinators deliver and estimated £680m in value to the economy.

The proportion of impermeable surfacing in towns and cities has risen by 22% since 2001.  
Urban green spaces store and filter water, reducing the risk of flooding and improving water quality.

## 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.

## List Of Roles

Everyone can be contacted via the groups email address: [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com)

### Acting Co-ordinators/Mentors:

Sheila Brown 01689 851605

Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295

**Secretary:** Vacant

### Treasurer:

Sheila Brown

### Press Team:

Ann Garrett

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown

### Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 0208 290 0485

Merchandising: Anne Clark

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 07414 920920

### Newsletter Production:

Dan Sloan

### Instagram and Twitter Admin:

Emmanuelle Coetzee

### Fundraising Officer:

Bill Priestley 01689 820469

### Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

### Bromley Environmental Alliance Rep:

John Pavitt

### Web Site & Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi, Mary Ingledew

### Refreshments

Mary Ingledew, Sylvia Chance

### Meeting Reporters:

John & Sue Bocock, Anne Clark, Annette

Rose, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown -

further volunteers for this team would be welcomed

### Campaigns (Contact via group email)

### Nature/Trees:

Diana Hurd, Judy Palmer, Annette Rose,

Tamara Galloway, Ruth Fabricant

### Anti Fracking:

Ann Garrett, John Catlin

### Plastics:

Annette Rose, Sheila Brown, Emmanuelle Coetzee, Ruth Gardner, Judy Palmer, Ruth Fabricant, Viv Gardiner

### Climate:

Sam Gee, Ann Garrett, Tamara Galloway, Ruth Fabricant, Judy Palmer (liaison with Climate Alliance)

**Planning Monitor:** Tamara Galloway, Ann Garrett

### Newsletter Editor:

Rob Clark 020 8289 1503

[robert.clark9@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.clark9@btinternet.com)



## Non-members Section

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

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do, please contact either of our acting co-ordinators Sheila Brown or Ann Garrett (their details are inside the back page of this newsletter.) Alternatively you can come along to one of our monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley - that's towards the bottom of the High Street, on the right going down. If you would like to join us then please fill in and send us the form below.

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## Membership Application/Renewal\* Form (\*delete as appropriate)

I would like to support Bromley Friends of the Earth and enclose my annual subscription (£8 single/£15 couple/family.) I also enclose a donation (optional) of £..... to help towards the work of our local group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Phone No: .....

Email address: .....

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

.....

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.