



Petition to sign on p8 and survey on p7

Nov 2023

No 428

*Our Next Meeting at
The Friends Meeting House,
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

Tuesday 7th Nov at 7.30pm

Flavia Bertram

**SELCE - South East London Community
Energy: powering a cleaner, brighter and
fairer future**

*If you require a lift to meetings then we may be able to help. Please contact
Sheila Brown using her details on the inside back cover on this newsletter.*

**There has been an increase in the numbers of Covid cases recently. For this reason, if you
have been feeling unwell or have tested positive for Covid, then please think of others and
do not attend the monthly meeting. Many thanks**

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NEWSLETTER

Diary Dates

27th Oct (Fri) The Hub, upper floor Bromley Glades 2-4.30pm. Quilt making supporting our Warm Homes campaign. No sewing skills required. Please email us if you are interested or speak to someone at the next meeting.

7th Nov (Tue) Friends of the Earth Bromley Monthly Meeting 7.30pm. The Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley, on the corner of Ringer's Road. Flavia Bertram, Outreach and Communications Lead for South East London Community Energy (SELCE), will be giving a talk entitled South East London Community Energy: powering a cleaner, brighter and fairer future. SELCE is a non-profit organisation which works to create a future where both our households and our community spaces have affordable, sustainable energy to meet their needs. See page 16 for more about their work, which includes arranging the installation of solar panels on public buildings, advice to people struggling with their energy bills and advice on how to make your home more energy efficient. A Christmas 'Traidcraft' stall will also be present.

18th-19th Nov (Sat-Sun) I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas. Christmas fair at the Greener & Cleaner Hub in the Glades, Bromley. More details on page 18.

2nd Dec (Sat) Ecosocialism Conference 10.30-5pm Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6AQ. www.ecosocialism-conference.org

To 14th Jan (Sun) Re-Sisters - A lens on gender and ecology. Barbican Art Gallery Silk Street EC2Y 8DS. A major group exhibition exploring the relationship between gender and ecology, highlighting the systemic links between the oppression of women and the degradation of the planet.

This is all correct when going to press, but may be updated in the next newsletter. If you need further information on any events, you can email us at bromleyfoe@gmail.com

Armchair Activism

If you can't attend this meeting, or just find yourself with some spare time, perhaps we can encourage you to become 'Armchair Activists'. Do your own bit of campaigning, maybe inspired by something in our newsletters, and let us know what response you get. Or if any item here makes you angry, delights you, enthuses you, or causes you any emotion other than apathy, then please jot down a line or two and send it to the newsletter editor (see contact details below).

This Newsletter

Note that there are several internet links in this newsletter which may be impractical to type into a browser. If you would like access to any of them, then please let us know and we will send you an electronic copy of the newsletter where you can just click on the links.

Next Newsletter Copy

Please send all your news, articles, poems, questions, views, articles for sale to the editor via one of the methods below to arrive not later than **midnight Friday 17th 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 Meeting Report

Anne Clark

This month we had Mark Hoskins speaking to us on the challenges of restoring and re-purposing Heritage Buildings. He had worked for Bromley Council for a while on leaving university, had known Peter Martin in the planning dept and Park Langley was mentioned. He had always been very passionate about heritage and sustainability without interfering with the Green Belt. It had always been a great challenge to reshape the old Town Hall in Bromley, with its differing uses over the years then the final moving of any Council connections to the Civic Centre. The Grade 11 listed building was designed by Voysey of the Arts & Crafts movement, with its central attractive bell tower and the extension by R. Frank Atkinson in 1907. We were shown old photos of the old court house, Council chamber & Mayor's parlour (now member's lounge) and Art Deco interior (1939). There were very many challenges, not to mention cost, energy, some sort of a lift installed, accessibility and security. Historic England was liaised with and, due to cost, just one lift was installed, an old Volk's Railway, some consideration over a glass link, and whether to have grey or green cladding on the new hotel section. Everything was decided to be in keeping with the old tower and its copper. The roof tiles/slates decreased in size towards the apex, but 60% of the tiles were able to be reclaimed fortunately. Following a public art ruling, there was an idea to have a light installation on the new tower, but it was thought a new sculpture would be more in keeping, and

the old magnolia tree retained also. A new entrance was finally agreed at an unused court yard area which was landscaped and planted and included some bicycle stands with plant-covered (living) roofs. There is now a new office space, restaurant, the hotel, with a residential block at the back which will hopefully go towards paying for the Town Hall restoration.

Mark also showed us new regeneration plans for Madeira Terrace on the Brighton seafront, east of the pier, (1890) having fallen into dis-repair. Plans for the half mile, 40-arched promenade with renewed ironwork, cliff building, lift (up to the Marine Parade and road above), seating & planting, re-greening of the cliff using the existing hardy Japanese spindle tree and another lift further along, were received with keen excitement by local developers. The height of the metal balustrade was not compliant with modern safety requirements so had to be jacked up from the base, but is still painted turquoise instead, of the original dark green back in the day. The new lift had to be in keeping with the old, but in a more modern way and all this was being looked forward to. In their decay, the Prom's arches had sheltered all sorts of natural wildlife which the planners were keen to preserve where sensibly and safely possible. The Volk's Railway (1893) had already been restored.

Ww wished Mark luck with his new design venture to restore parkland & gardens with new accommodation beneath the Brighton Downs, and back in London near Wigmore Street, where a run-down site needs restoration. A few questions were answered.

In the 2nd half of the evening:- Ann had attended the Council meeting on the environment: generally there was a positive attitude against the ULEZ and pride in the idea that Bromley had very clean air, but Ann backed ULEZ and said so!

- FOE's Warm Homes campaign is being backed by the making of a quilt at Bromley's Hub.
- Outing to Bonnington Square with the Derry Downs walk on hold at the moment.
- Future speakers and a need to raise donations for the cost of the hall, as the price has risen.

Traidcraft Products – Fairtrade Stalls

Sheila Brown

We usually hold a stall ahead of Christmas to give people a chance to stock up on Christmas cards, Advent calendars, Christmas gifts and food items and we will be holding this on Tuesday 7th November.

Cecilia, who comes to us and runs the stalls, writes:

As you may well know, Traidcraft - after over 40 years of trading - went into administration. Their work had been pioneering, always keeping how the producers were treated and paid as the most important part of their work.

I had to decide whether I would carry on being a fair trader without their support.

It was quite amazing how many traders like myself came forward to say they wanted to carry on.

Traidcraft has now started up under the new name of "we are fair trade"; it is a much smaller company. Sadly, some of the items we used to sell are no longer available. A lot of work was done to help the producers find alternative markets.

I do have some new products as I now buy from several different fair-trading companies. They are certified as fair-traded goods.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon, and hope you will find something you like on my stall.

Campaigns

Climate

Government Backtracking

The most powerful Conservative politician outside London, West Midlands mayor Andy Street, has said he will not hesitate to stand up to his party, should it attempt to retreat from its pledge to tackle the climate crisis.

There are serious concerns that Rishi Sunak and his advisors are using green politics as a political dividing line with Labour in an attempt to revive the party's fortunes.

Particularly worrying is the decision to delay the ban on petrol vehicles till 2030.

Street has said Britain would be at a competitive disadvantage if it backed away from reducing carbon emissions. Bob Ward from the Grantham Research Centre on Climate Change has commented saying – 'the majority of people share the aims of environmental

groups and want sewage-free rivers and beaches, clean air and a safer climate'.
Ann Garrett

Energy

Rosebank

Owners of the UK's largest oil and gas field, Rosebank, have been given the go ahead for production, despite fierce protest by environmental groups including Friends of the Earth.

The site, 80 miles West of Shetland contains around 300 million barrels of oil – twice the size of the second largest underdeveloped area, Cambo oilfield.

The North Sea Transition Authority [NSTA] said consent had been given by the oil and gas regulator to owners Equinor and Ithaca Energy, following the acceptance of an environmental statement. The forum plans to invest £3.1 billion and start production in late 2025, pumping up 60,000 barrels of oil per day - eight per cent of the UK's daily output - and 44 million cubic feet of gas.

The UK government said that more oil will add to energy security, though interestingly the majority is to be sold to Europe and then re-imported as refined products!

Environmentalists, including Greta Thunberg, have voiced strong opposition to the move, and Fossil Free London, Stop

Rosebank and other groups staged a spontaneous protest at the end of September and October.

Greenpeace UK have stated: 'the ugly truth is that Rishi Sunak is pandering to vested interests, demonstrating the stranglehold the fossil fuel lobby has on government decision-making, and its bill payers and climate that will suffer'.
Ann Garrett

I went to the Stop Rosebank protest on Wednesday 18th October outside the Intercontinental Hotel in London, where the CEOs from Shell, Total and Equinor - lead behind Rosebank - were holding a conference. There were several speakers including Caroline Lucas and also a performing group called The Crude Oil Mechanicals. One of their other performances can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/FqTluFabX7E?feature=shared>
Diana Hurd



Transport

ECS PDS: 7th September 2023

Written Question from the Public to the Chairman

1: Question from Ann Garrett from Bromley Friends of the Earth to the Chairman

Bromley Friends of the Earth are appalled to learn that the Council have used £140k of taxpayers' money on the legal challenge to ULEZ expansion when air pollution is such a serious problem leading to increased CO2 emissions. The money could have been used for positive local biodiversity projects.

What is the committee's opinion of this and will they make any recommendations for reparation for such an environmentally damaging decision?

Response to Question 1:

'We need to remember that Bromley's air is already amongst the cleanest in London already, 2nd to only Havering, with air quality already improving as well, with our environmental green credentials something we are rightly proud of.

It is a great shame the Mayor of London pressed ahead with this scheme to raise taxes, leaving the Council with little option but to act. When compared with the £ thousands that residents will now each need to pay in additional taxes for years to come, the £140k was a price worth paying to protect residents, with this cost not new news but announced in February's council meeting: Council 27

February 2023 - Minutes.

Furthermore, the Council minimised its costs by sharing costs with coalition councils and given the same circumstances, we would do the same again.'

Ann Garrett

Car Charging Points

There are serious problems over charging points for electric vehicles.

'Charge rage' has forced the UK's biggest motorway service station chain Moto to hire marshals at some sites to 'police angry and stressed' motorists.

The firm has stated: – 'people need to be able to drive their electric vehicles without range anxiety, long queues and public disorder, but at peak seasonal times this is being experienced now. The grid does not have sufficient capacity right now to deliver the power we need at the time it is needed'.

Moto which operates 59 service stations, now has marshals at Exeter, Rugby, and Wetherby to manage queues.

Experts say a lack of national power grid connections has caused the problem.

Public plug-in points can top up a typical EV in four hours, but fast charges at service stations get it done in half an hour. However, busy times have seen six-hour waits and there are fears that charge rage will continue spreading.

The Department of Transport say that there are plans to install hundreds more charge points in the coming months.
Ann Garrett

Nature

Have you seen this about Bromley Council's revised handling of verges for nature? Please have a look at the information around the nature-friendly verges trial and fill in the online survey. <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/NatureFriendlyVerges>

The London Wildlife Trust have informed us that beavers have been released back into the wild in Ealing for the first time 400 years, can you believe. The beavers were released at Paradise Fields near Greenford, and will be closely monitored. The site itself is closed until mid November so that the beavers have time to settle in undisturbed.

Take a look here: <https://tinyurl.com/587w32e3>

And see a charming video here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/O3RD5PapEqI?feature=shared>

Planet Over Profit

Warm Homes Campaign

I have now set up an online petition to prompt our MPs to agree to support actions in line with our Warm Homes campaign. So please send the link below to anyone you know who you think might sign.

Friends of the Earth have said we can use the same petition and send it to all four Bromley MPs, rather than have to do a separate



petition for each, so I have added the signatures collected on paper petitions to the online version.

We will be able to get more signatories at our stall on 21 October. MPs who continuances are in the Bromley Borough are, Bob Neill, Bob Stewart, Gareth Bacon or Ellie Reeves.
Helen Loughlin



Our Quilt

We are hard at work this month working on our community quilt for the Warm Homes campaign. We held our first session at the Greener & Cleaner Hub in The Glades on Friday afternoon and we have two more sessions booked on the 20th & 27th October from 2.30pm - 5.00, and we would really love to see you there - no sewing skills required!

We also have an online petition and the link and some suggested wording is copied below for you. The wording is in case you feel you can send this link

out to other people you know, urging them to sign as well. It only takes a minute.

Millions of people are struggling with soaring bills and the rising cost of living. Even with the government's price freeze, the average energy bill has almost doubled in 12 months. We need our government to do more and your MP can help make that happen.

Can you join me and take action? Click here: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/ask-bromley-mps-to-take-action-for-warm-homes?source=email&>

Please pass this link on to anyone else you think might like to sign this petition.

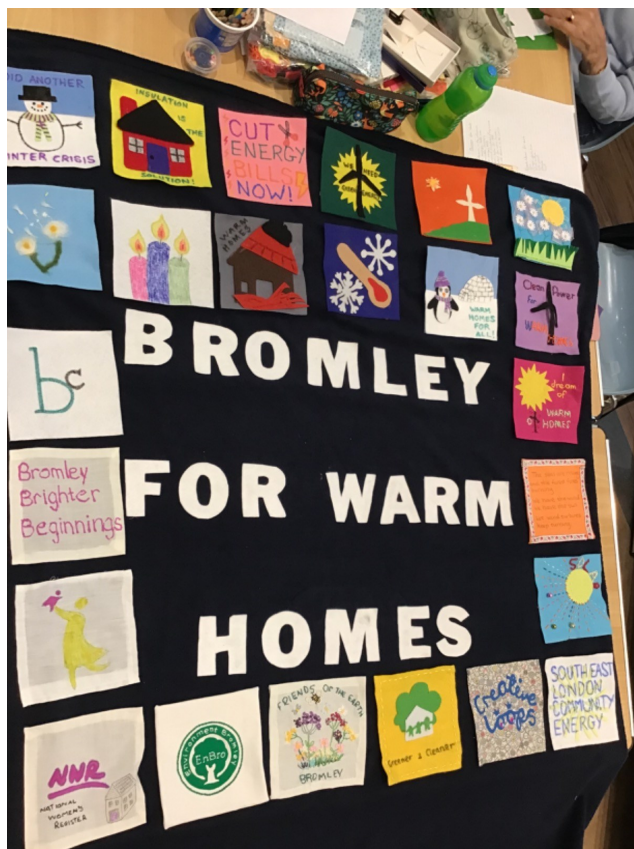
If you have already signed the paper copy of this petition then you don't need to sign the online one.

Judy Palmer

East Sussex

On a day out in East Sussex we strolled through a sand dune SSSI in Little Hampton and came across a large ivy plant in full flower. This was covered in so many active bees that it was impossible to count them. A lovely surprise so late in the year.

We also admired the wind farm off the coast.
Robert Clark





System Change

Stop Penge Tower Blocks

There is a facebook group called Stop Penge Tower Blocks with over 400 members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stoppengetowerblocks/>

Churchill Theatre Redevelopment

We have been made aware of the following press release from Bromley Council regarding Bromley's theatre.

Press Release re Churchill Theatre
Proposal to upgrade the Churchill Theatre and to

redevelop the Bromley Central Library Site.

Plans for a major upgrade of the Churchill Theatre and the relocation of the Bromley Central Library to a new



site on the High Street are being actively explored as part of an exciting new plan to enhance Bromley town centre.

As the current building housing the Churchill Theatre and Central Library approaches the end of its life, a scheme is being worked on between Bromley Council and Trafalgar Entertainment, the current operator of the Churchill, to upgrade and improve the current site. Constructed in the 1970s, with an intended lifespan of c. 50 years, many elements of the building and building fabric are now nearing the end of their life, necessitating a significant revamp designed to serve Bromley residents deep into the rest of the twenty-first century and perhaps beyond.

It is planned that Bromley Central library will be moved to a new location in the High Street, in the former Top Shop building. This prime location in the centre of the High St will be prominent and easy to find, and increase footfall on the town's main shopping street, which in turn will better support the local economy and enliven the area well into the evening, as well as making Bromley an even safer place to be after dark.

Private discussions have been taking place with Trafalgar Entertainment for several months in relation to the basis on which the ownership of the building may be transferred to them, in order to enable the theatre to be upgraded as a significantly improved local facility, protected and supported with a long-term sustainable future.

Councillor Yvonne Bear, Executive Councillor for Renewal Recreation and Housing said, "the plans being brought

forward present a wonderful opportunity to enhance Bromley Town Centre and ensure a sustainable future for two of its most cherished assets. We will continue to work closely with our partners over coming months to bring our discussions to fruition."

Councillor Bear continued, "If I could make one point particularly clear for now, it is that the Theatre will be remaining 'open for business' and I would urge The Churchill's army of loyal supporters to keep booking tickets."

Helen Enright, Chief Executive Officer of Trafalgar Theatres said, "We remain committed to preserving and improving the Churchill Theatre for the benefit of all residents in Bromley and beyond. We have an exciting programme of shows planned for the theatre, including our enduringly popular Christmas pantomime production of Cinderella in December.

Helen Enright continued, "I welcome the collaborative discussions we have been having with the Council, as we jointly recognise the need for investment in this ever-popular theatre venue. An improved theatre would enhance the customer experience and enable us to continue to bring high quality shows to Bromley for the benefit of local residents."

Further news about the future of the new library and the Churchill theatre are expected to be discussed at the October meeting of the Council's Executive Committee, where it is expected that the Council will approve continuing its discussions with Trafalgar Entertainment with a view to agreeing terms which will

secure the future of the Churchill Theatre in Bromley.

Here's a link to the outcome of the first half of the recent Executive Committee meeting on 18th October. The public were barred from the second half, so we don't know what was decided there.

<https://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=10077>

Derry Downs

Response to the London Climate Resilience Review: 02/09/23

Evidence from Individuals & the Community Care Protection Group (V3):

1.Introduction

1.1 I am a woman in my late 70s, from a working class background, who has lived in the Cray Valley, Orpington, in north east Bromley, for most of my life. In my professional life, as a Chartered Landscape Architect, specialising in new build public housing and rehabilitation of existing estates, I worked for nearly 30 years in the public sector, starting in the Greater London Council, followed by 6 London boroughs, the majority in Inner London. I have lived in my current home for 50 years, and prior to that, in private rental and social housing, including the 1950s built St Paul's Cray Estate, and the Rookery Estate, both in the Crays.

1.2 My home in St Mary Cray village backs on to St. Mary Cray Recreation Ground, and overlooks the Rookery Estate and part of the St Paul's Cray Estate. It is close to the 100 acre Greenbelt farmland site, on Derry Downs, which adjoins St Mary Cray Recreation Ground. This has been purchased by Lands Improvement Holdings Ltd, a land speculator, with a

project to gain planning permission from Bromley Council for up to a 1000 dwellings.

1.3 In the very hot summer of 1976, I observed, during extremely heavy rainfall one afternoon, surface water flooding down from the sloping farmland site over the Recreation Ground, and building up to a depth of about 750mm against the brick garden walls and adjoining flank walls of the perimeter houses of the Rookery Estate. These brick walls acted as a 'dam', and directed the water down into the lower level council houses of Crowhurst Way, and flooded them out. Bromley Council reacted by demolishing the brick garden walls linking the Rookery Estate houses, and replacing them with timber fences.

1.4 Although Bromley Council now appear to have no records of this flood, it is identified on the Environment Agency's current flood maps as part of a recognised flood flow path. The 2011 Bromley/Drain London draft Surface Water Management Plan also records this area as a Critical Drainage Area (6 - 033).

1.5 On the night of 20 October 2021, a serious flooding incident occurred along this recognised flow path, which involved internal flooding of at least 23 homes, (21 housing association properties and 2 owner occupier ex-council houses). This was so severe that it necessitated evacuation of many residents for up to 7 months. Despite their legal obligations, the Council failed to investigate or report this internal flooding, or offer assistance to

the affected residents, and when subsequently requested to do so, refused.

1.6 My home is also on an adjoining recognised flood flow path, within the Critical Drainage Area, although I have never experienced any form of flooding during the 50 years I have lived here. This may be because the Council carried out an extensive, large scale construction scheme (the Derry Downs Drain) to 'alleviate flooding and improve Highway drainage' between April and October 1998, covering several roads.

Answers to Questions posed by the London Climate Resilience Review:

1(a) As described above, I have observed local flooding, but not experienced having my home flooded. I am aware of the threats posed, as defined by the Environment Agency and statutory bodies of the risks posed to me and my community and local environment. As a result of the 20 October 2021 flood, I am researching the issue, and preparing a case study of this part of the Cray Valley, in an effort to encourage Bromley Council, as the Lead Local Flood Management Authority, to take the appropriate action, investigate the flooding, and carry out a flood risk assessment to identify possible Sustainable Drainage green mitigation measures and support my local community.

3(a) I did suggest to Bromley Council more than a year ago that it would be helpful to organise exhibitions in libraries etc, but received no response. I experienced a fall in early January this year, which I am still recovering from,

and this has limited my options for further action.

4(a) As the secretary of the Community Care Protection Group, a long established local campaigning group of chronically sick and disabled users and carers, I first heard about the October 2021 flood in March 2022, when informed by some locals. Our Group had, until then, been focussed on campaigning on health and social care issues, but the effects of the climate crisis are now being seen to disrupt local people's lives, well-being and environment. As a Landscape Architect and naturalist, I have always maintained a professional interest in these issues, and consequently began asking Public Written Questions to relevant Council Meetings from then. (Since I am unable to attend council meetings for health reasons, these are not asked in person).

4(b) Prior to asking Written Questions, I visited the estates, in order to try to identify which properties had been flooded, and consult locals on their experiences. This proved quite difficult, as residents affected had been evacuated to distant hotels, and I couldn't track down any public data about the flood. I was able to walk only short distances, but managed to speak to some people affected who were visiting their homes to clear out damaged furniture and fittings, and collect mail, and also some neighbours. I was told that a 'what's app' group had been set up by those who had been flooded. The answers to our Public Written Questions from Bromley Council were circulated to residents who showed interest. The homes most

affected on the St. Paul's Cray Estate appear to be in Hodson Crescent, and Hodsoll Court, a 1950s purpose built block of flats and bungalows for the elderly, owned by Clarion Housing Association. I heard that the elderly ground floor residents had been evacuated to distant care homes. So far, I have been unable to speak to anyone from Hodsoll Court, but these are obviously the most vulnerable of the residents impacted by the flooding.

4(c) It was clear what a devastating effect the flood had had on people's lives, health and well-being, particularly since the wards of Cray Valley East and Cray Valley West are severely deprived, with scores on the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation of between 27 and 28 (Bromley Joint Strategic Needs

Assessment Update 2021). The average 2019 IMD score for Bromley is 14.2, with a lowest score of 5 in the Petts Wood and Knoll ward. The GLA's Bloomberg Associates 2021 Spatial Analysis of Climate Risk Across Greater London Flood Risk Map (p.20) identifies the River Cray Valley as the largest area in Bromley Borough at High Risk of flooding. The Environment Agency's long term Flood Risk Service Maps show the area around Hodsoll Court and adjoining Hodson Crescent as at the highest level of flooding risk. Bromley Council's reports usually contain a clause headed 'Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children' which, so far, I have not once seen identify or examine the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. Indeed, in response to our Public Written



BfOE stall in Bromley High Street on 21st October. The theme was the Warm Homes Campaign and we handed out leaflets and got signatures on the petition

Questions, there often seems to be a determination to avoid acknowledging this issue, even when the facts are raised. (A list of the Questions and answers asked to the relevant Council Committees is appended to this document).

5(a) The choice of options for support and guidance to residents at risk of flooding is extremely limited in our experience. Our Local Authority, Bromley Council, as the Government designated Lead Local Flood Risk Management Authority has the primary responsibility to provide information and support and publicise the issue, working in partnership with the other statutory agencies, the Environment Agency, GLA/Drain London, London Fire Brigade, Thames Water, the NHS, TFL etc and local housing associations and schools and adjoining boroughs. We have been unable to find any minutes of Partnerships meetings or Resilience Forum meetings online, and subsequently, reports relating to investigations of local flooding and flood risk in our area, and any plans to mitigate the effects. Why is there such secrecy with regard to these bodies and their roles?

5(b) Our attempts to obtain relevant information on this topic from Bromley Council via Public Written Questions over a long period has generally met with evasion, obfuscation and what sometimes feels like hostility and contempt. (We had been advised by opposition Councillors that our questions had caused annoyance, and that the number of Questions (each of 50 words maximum) would be limited further from 2 per person to 1 for each committee). The change in the Council's Constitution to enable this was agreed at full Council last April. Most of our

Questions are directed to portfolio holders at the Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, where very little discussion or scrutiny of flooding issues appears to take place. Freedom of information Act standards are ignored, and 'background documents to reports are rarely listed, and available, even for example in a Risk Report, where the document name is quoted as the evidence of mitigating a risk.

5(c) As a campaigning group, we are strictly non-partisan, and rely on a combination of research, documentation, observation and personal testimony to investigate issues and inform our campaigns. We usually collaborate and form networks with other local and sometimes National groups on projects of common interest. We are currently working with Bromley Friends of the Earth on the Cray Valley case study.

6(a) Bromley Council's website should be a resource of organised, accessible and understandable information on flooding for Bromley residents, regarding flooding risks, what the Council and other bodies are doing to mitigate them, and what residents themselves can do, including what technical and financial assistance is available, with contact information. Also needed is an archive of related committee reports, plans, strategies, minutes of meetings etc organised by subject in date order to enable research without time wasting. The website is user unfriendly, and needs a makeover to improve access.

6(b) Bromley produces a (hard copy) newsletter, 'Environment Matters' a few times a year, delivered to the door, as well as available on line. This is attractive, and well presented, focussed mainly on waste management and recycling, with items on Friends Groups, tree planting etc. This newsletter could present opportunities to inform Bromley residents about the climate crisis and flooding, and making suggestions about actions to mitigate the effects. So far, only the provision of cheap water butts to collect rain water seems to have appeared. Encouragement to use paving in gardens and parking areas which allows rain water to percolate through, instead of creating more surface water run-off is a missed opportunity. Exhibitions in libraries, road shows and public meetings in areas most threatened by flooding are needed to kick-start campaigns and public awareness. Cuts in Local Authority funding are limiting all Councils' spending on non-statutory areas, including Bromley, but lack of action on these issues now will be more costly later on.

6(c) The Mayor of London should set up a dedicated website, dealing with the Climate Crisis, it's effects and the need for Resilience. Contact names, job titles, emails and phone numbers need to be clearly displayed. All related documents should be categorised, linked and archived on it. Meetings of the Partnership Groups and Forums should be open to the public, and advertised online and in newspapers. Views of residents, communities and flood groups should be featured. Funding opportunities for community groups should be displayed, to encourage local initiatives on joint projects. Government funding for mitigation projects should be

promoted and for this level of publicity campaigning and public involvement. For people who are digitally excluded by reason of lack of skills, disabilities, poverty etc, special provision needs to be made, including training, and regular hard copies of material made available in libraries etc. and standards set to improve website design for the visually impaired. These provisions also need to apply to Borough websites.

6(d) The Government is sorely lacking in its duties to protect it's citizens' safety, health, well-being, livelihoods and environments from the threats posed by the Climate Crisis. The indulgent treatment of the water companies after privatisation is a public scandal. I can remember at the time, that we were promised that the reason for privatising Water was that there wasn't enough public money to enable modernisation of the old, inadequate Victorian infrastructure, and the only way in which this could be done was with private investment. It is now clear that the structure which was adopted for these monopolies is designed to increase prices for their captive users, while at the same time, enabling senior executives to receive golden salaries, however poor their performance, and for enormous dividends to be paid to foreign shareholders. When water companies are fined by the Regulator, who pays the fines? Is it the executives responsible; taken from the dividends; or is it the customer? In tandem with this performance, our ancient, inadequate drainage systems and

sewage treatment works contribute very significantly to surface water flooding, unable to absorb the increasing run-off from new build properties and hard paved areas. Our rivers and coasts are heavily polluted with sewage, destroying ecosystems and damaging our coastal economies. The Government's response to this catastrophe is to loosen the restrictions further. What confidence and trust can the public have that standards will improve? How will the removal of Section 9 Flood Risk Regulations under the 'Brexit bonfire bill' affect the responsibilities of the bodies involved? We should be told.

7(a) I believe that there are many green initiatives that can be taken to mitigate the effects, and create resilience, as a small though increasing number of people are demonstrating. My personal feeling is that we are sleepwalking towards catastrophe, and people in public life, holding power, politicians, MPs, Councillors etc of all political persuasions need to wake up and act positively before it is too late.

APPENDIX A: Public Written Questions and Answers from Bromley Council Meetings, documenting independently evidence of the Council's response to the issues raised by the Community Care Protection Group.

NB The details of these questions and answers can be accessed in the minutes of the relevant Committee Meetings on the Council's website.

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY CTTEE. 21 March 2022, 21 June 2022, 22 November 2022, 25 January 2023, 16 March 2023, 29 June 2023

EXECUTIVE CTTEE. 29 June 2022
EXECUTIVE, RESOURCES AND CONTRACTS POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY CTTEE. 23 November 2022, 22 March 2023

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT CTTEE. 8 March 2023

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD 8 December 2022, 30 March 2023

COUNCIL 12 December 2022, 27 February 2023, 24 April 2023

Susan Sulis MA. CMLI (retd).
Secretary, Community Care Protection Group

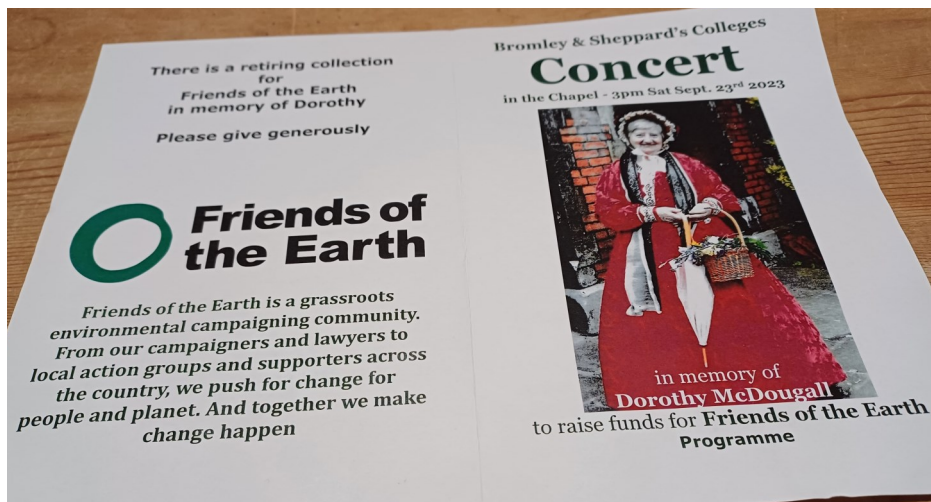
Fund-raising Concert for FoE Ann Garrett

On September 23rd, I attended a most enjoyable concert on behalf of BFoE in memory of Dorothy MacDougall to raise funds for Friends of the Earth in the chapel at Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges.

Residents from the colleges gave recitals on the organ, harp, piano, saxophone, recorders and zither and there were songs from the choir that Dorothy belonged to. The music was a mixture of folk, classical and popular genres. Poems were also read and people spoke of their deep regard for Dorothy.

Over £500 was raised in donations and the colleges were proud to send this to Friends of the Earth.

It was Dorothy's wish for the whole event to take place and she had been part of the planning before she died.



Seat in Memory of Paul Rainey

Ann Garrett

In September a seat was erected at the top of Martins Hill in Bromley in memory of Paul Rainey – a Quaker, peace campaigner and much respected member of Bromley Friends of the Earth and Friends of Bromley



Town Centre Parks and Gardens group for many years.

Paul's family, the latter group and Idverde were responsible for the erecting of the seat and the family gathered for a small ceremony to remember Paul.

SELCE

South East London Community Energy (SELCE, pronounced 'cell-see') is a Society for Community Benefit, which is a mix of a charity and a co-operative. They are part of a community energy movement committed to building a greener, fairer world.

Founded by local volunteers concerned about the climate crisis, SELCE offers a range of impartial advice services to help people who are struggling with their energy bills, households who want to invest in greening their property, and organisations that are looking to become more sustainable. Readers of this newsletter will be aware of their work facilitating the installation of solar panels on community buildings, and their proposals for the installation of solar panels on the Spa and Pavilion leisure centres in Bromley, which Bromley Friends of the Earth has supported. You may be less aware of the work they do to support local communities experiencing fuel poverty and their advice on how to make your home more energy efficient, which includes a series of free webinars, as well as the option of paying for advice from one of SELCE's trained domestic energy advisors. All of this is, of course, extremely relevant to Friends of the Earth's current Warm Homes campaign. I attach a link to SELCE's website for those who would like to find out more. <https://selce.org.uk/>

I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas

Visit The Hub from Greener and Cleaner on 18-19th November for the Greener Christmas Fair. With tips on how to be more sustainable over the festive season, free workshops such as Furoshiki (Japanese

art of gift wrapping with fabrics), make your own Christmas Crackers and more, secondhand and homemade gifts on offer and preloved Christmas jumpers, outfits and party wear - it's a one-stop shop for your Christmas needs.

There will also be the chance to buy tickets for the Epic Christmas Raffle and the ever-popular children's lucky dip. With face painting and the option of a refreshing drink too, it's the Christmas Fair you need to visit.

Continuing with their greener Christmas theme, look out for Christmas jumper making, tie dye snowman and decorate an existing jumper workshops all taking place at The Hub in early December too.

Wilding

We were lucky enough to get along to the London Film Festival and see a couple of films. The first we saw was a short film called Wilding. It was a documentary style piece which told the story of how the Knepp Estate in East Sussex has been rewilded over the past 22 years.

Isabella Tree and her husband Charles Burrell moved to Knepp Castle having inherited it from Charles' grandparents. They tried to make the intensively-farmed dairy herd and 3500 acre estate pay until 2001 when they realised they were losing the battle. They saw that the very land they were farming was slowly dying, so they sold off the dairy herd and farming equipment. Subsequent

planting of meadows, introduction of deer, wild cattle and horses, beavers, storks etc have seen the estate flourish into a wildlife haven and a self-managing ecosystem.

The film is based on a book by Isabella called Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm. It is fantastically positive, highlighting that the estate seems to attract rare species looking for somewhere to live such as turtle doves and purple emperor butterflies. Well worth a watch if you can track down a screening.

Isabella Tree lectures on the subject here:
<https://youtu.be/kvD1DGSS8Aw?feature=shared>

Interesting Articles

Bee-killing pesticides banned in EU found at unsafe levels in English rivers
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/22/bee-killing-pesticides-unsafe-levels-english-rivers-neonicotinoids>

The hunt for a new way to tackle clothing waste
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-66985595>

Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS)
<https://www.eonenergy.com/energy-efficiency-grants/great-british-insulation-scheme-gbis.html>
'Change is in the air': a stay at a rewilding project in Yorkshire
<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2023/oct/19/change-is-in-the-air-a-stay-at-a-rewilding-project-in-yorkshire>

Scientists close the cycle on recycling mixed plastics

<https://phys.org/news/2023-10-scientists-recycling-plastics.html>

'Trees have no legal status': calls rise for stronger protection in UK against felling
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/oct/23/trees-have-no-legal-status-calls-rise-for-stronger-protection-in-uk-against-felling>

Heat pump grant rises to £7,500
<https://www.rightmove.co.uk/news/articles/property-news/boiler-upgrade-scheme-heat-pump-update/>

The world will need less energy after the energy transition
<https://www.sustainabilitybynumbers.com/p/electrification-energy-efficiency>

LOW-IMPACT REFILL SHOP

ART OF ZERO LIVING

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Bring your own container
2. Tare container with lid
3. Fill
4. Scan label & weigh again
5. Pay
6. Feel good

7A Greenwich Market
SE10 9HZ LONDON
www.artofzeroliving.uk
hello@artofzeroliving.uk

Art of Zero Living

We discovered another refill shop while walking through Greenwich market. It was busy and choc full of produce. All the usual cleaning products and well as a large supply of organic dried items.

They run a home delivery service although I'm not sure they'll travel as far as us in Bromley. It might be worth asking if you're interested though.

In case you wonder, the word 'Tare' in the picture means the weighing of an empty container. Not a word I'd heard before, I had to look it up.

Recipe

If you would like to try and reduce the amount of meat you're eating to help with your environmental impact, or if you already do and are just interested in new recipes, we'll be publishing a number of vegan and vegetarian recipes over the next few months. If you have any suggestions, then please send them in to the editor. All ingredients should be generally available from most local shops or supermarkets.

Borlotti Bean and Butternut Casserole for Two

Diana Hurd

We are fortunate to have two mini one-person casserole dishes which I fill with the ingredients and then you can eat straight from the dish, but you can make this in one dish just as well.

Ingredients

600g butternut squash peeled and cut into chunks

20 sage leaves roughly chopped (ideally fresh from the garden)

1x 400g tin borlotti beans – keep the liquid

1x 400g packet of organic tomatoes chopped into quarters (min. 2 medium sized ones per person)

150 ml white wine

4 cloves of garlic chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

4tbsp olive oil

Method

If using two mini casserole dishes, share the beans and liquid between the dishes first then share the rest of the chopped, prepared ingredients.

Bake at 200 degrees centigrade for an hour. Serve with warm bread to soak up the juices.

Bon appetite!

News From BEN

Robert Clark

We have been informed that thanks to inspiration by Bromley Environment Network, Greenwich have now formed their own Greener Greenwich Community Network which has its 3rd meeting on 18th October!

Supplies That Don't Cost the Earth

No/Low Waste or Refill Shops

The Green Room Online shop only now is delivering household product bottle refills: <https://www.javaandchai.com>

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

Beldi Maison 11 Sundridge Parade, Plaistow Lane BR1 4DT (Sundridge Park Station):

<https://beldimaisoninteriors.com/>

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

Herbivore, Southborough Lane, Bromley:

<http://www.carnivorefoods.com>

herbivorebromley@gmail.com 020 8460 9647

Art of Zero Living 7a Greenwich Market SE10

9HZ: <https://artofzeroliving.uk/>

IT & Phone Repair *Orpington IT Centre*, 92 High St, Orpington BR6 0JY

(Opposite Aynscombe Angle)

www.orpingtonitcentre.co.uk

Donate Your Tech

Clearcommunityweb:

<https://clearcommunityweb.co.uk/donate-your-tech/>

Internet

Greener & Cleaner Consumer action!

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

Peep Eyewear revitalise vintage frames or recycle those that can't be reused: <https://www.peepeyewear.co.uk/peep-donation-address>

If You Care products including recycled tin foil and sandwich bags: <https://buyifyoucare.com>

Peace With the Wild - Household products: <https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk>

My Green Pod - Wide range of biodegradable and natural products: <https://www.mygreenpod.com>

Ethical Superstore - 'Ethical' products news and advice: <https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com>



This is the first of 12 playing cards produced by the Bromley Climate Action Alliance of which BFoE is a member. Each card highlights a common trope about our various causes and debunks them. Very useful if you are debating with a sceptic.

TECHNICAL OPTIMISM



TECHNICAL OPTIMISM

"We should focus our efforts on current and future technologies, which will unlock great possibilities for addressing climate change."

Technological optimism diverts attention from the (near-term) regulation of fossil fuels and demand-side energy use, while focusing attention on the long-term (uncertain) prospects of technological change.

Technological optimism often refers to past transitions between technology systems, implying that such a transition will naturally occur for climate mitigation due to human ingenuity and market forces. A more specific 'technological myths' strategy takes advantage of short-termism in the public and media debate by repeatedly claiming, over time, that a low-carbon technological breakthrough will happen in a few years. This breakthrough is typically presented as imminent enough to discourage other forms of climate action (e.g. reducing demand), but also as far enough in the future to justify why it is not happening already.

Also, hyping low or declining carbon intensity of current technologies, ignoring the absolute emissions associated with growth in demand for these goods and services. Confusion over the importance of absolute rather than relative emissions growth.

'What's stopping you?'
A series of 12 cards on
'Discourses of Climate
Delay'. References
follow the QR code.



**BROMLEY CLIMATE
ACTION ALLIANCE**

email: BCAAAlliance@protonmail.com

#4 IN A SERIES OF 12 CARDS: COLLECT THEM ALL.



world, many organic: <https://>

List Of Roles

Everyone below can be contacted via the email address: **bromleyfoe@gmail.com**

Acting Co-ordinators/Mentors:

Sheila Brown 01689 851605
Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295

Treasurer:

Sheila Brown

Press Team:

Ann Garrett, Annette Rose

Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown

Outings Organisers:

John & Sue Bocock 0208 290 0485

Merchandising:

Anne Clark

Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 07414 920920

Social Media Admins:

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

Admin Team:

Judy Palmer, Rob Clark, Annette Rose

Bromley Environmental Network BEN Reps:

John Pavitt, Judy Palmer

Meeting Reporters:

John & Sue Bocock, Anne Clark, Annette Rose, Peter Gandolfi, Sheila Brown, Helen Loughlin, Ruth Fabricant, Michael Hall, Liam Redmond - More volunteers for this team, always welcome.

Website & Technical Support:

Peter Gandolfi

Refreshments

Vacant.

Newsletter Production:

Dan Sloan

Newsletter Editor:

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

Campaigns: You can join one of the campaign teams at any point if you are interested. Just contact us via our main email address or speak to one of us at a meeting.

Campaign leads bold - specialisms bracketed

Campaigns Administrator:

Judy Palmer

Climate:

Ann Garrett

Sheila Brown
Ruth Fabricant
Paul Garratt

Nature:

Diana Hurd (trees)

Paul Garratt
Judy Palmer

System Change:

Tamara Galloway (Planning)
Ruth Fabricant (Anti racism)
Ann Garratt (Planning)
John Pavitt

Planet Over Profit:

Annette Rose

John Pavitt (Food)
Sheila Brown (Plastics)



Non-members Section

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

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

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

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

Name:

Address:

Post Code: Phone No:

Email address:

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

.....

Please return this form to: Bromley FoE, 2 Bucks Cross Cottages, Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent BR6 7RN. Enquiries regarding the group should be sent to bromleyfoe@gmail.com or contact one of our co-ordinators via their details inside.

You can also pay online using the following details. If you do this, then please email us with your name and address so that we know who has paid us.

Bank Details: Name - Bromley Friends of the Earth A/C - 06342260 S/C - 77 91 48