



# BROMLEY ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

February 2023



# WELCOME!

Welcome to the February 2023 issue of the Bromley Environment Network newsletter.

**The Bromley Environment Network** affectionately known as the **BEN**

We are a group of local Bromley community groups and organisations that share a belief that a greener and cleaner borough is good for everyone.

We aren't all eco-ninjas - but we do all think that the best way forward is establishing a useful local network to share interesting, helpful information amongst groups in the borough of Bromley to help make it a nicer place to live.

If you have any information you would like to share in the next newsletter then please email by:

**15 March 2023**

To: [bromleyenvironmentnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyenvironmentnetwork@gmail.com)

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We aim to ensure that articles are correct at the time of publication. However, we advise that you check with organisers prior to travelling to events.



# MEMBER NEWS

## BROMLEY LIVING STREETS

### Sewing into action at the Hub



Photo: Brendan Donegan

Hopefully you can forgive the terrible attempt at a pun in the title of this...my daughter and I attended a World Book Day Costume Making session at the Hub from Greener and Cleaner in the Glades, Bromley, and we had a total blast.

I hadn't touched a sewing machine since my mum showed me how to do it more than 2 decades ago. Turns out I still remember the basics. There is something incredibly satisfying about figuring out what you're going to do, getting the machine and fabric where they need to be, and pushing down on the pedal.

Thanks so much to Charlotte and Tamsin for their patient advice and help to me and the other families who turned up for the event.

### Cough Cough! Bromley Living Streets air monitoring

Bromley Living Streets will soon become the proud manager of a [Breathe London Monitor](https://www.breathelondon.org/)<sup>1</sup>, which will enable us to monitor particulate matter pollution in the borough. We are really keen to hear from residents and local organisations who (a) are adversely affected by air pollution, (b) would like to know more about our plans, (c) have ideas about how we can approach cleaning up our air, or (d) would like to find out results from our recent work with [Asthma and Lung UK](https://www.asthma.org.uk/)<sup>2</sup> to monitor air quality outside 5 schools across Bromley Borough. And we want to hear from you if you want to get involved!



One simple way to get involved: write to us at [bromleygroup@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:bromleygroup@livingstreets.org.uk) and tell us you'd like to join the monthly calls we have with the Breathe London Community Programme team at Imperial College London. These calls are a fantastic opportunity to hear from real air quality experts and engage with 30 community groups engaged in monitoring across London.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.breathelondon.org/community-groups/bromley-living-streets?rq=bromley>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.asthma.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/clean-air-champions-scheme/>

Photo: Ruben de Rijcke, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

## Bromley Kidical Mass bike ride 26 March 2023



Almost 100 local residents signed up to attend the first ever Bromley Kidical Mass cycle ride on Sunday 30 October 2022; the next one will take place on 26 March 2023. We're still finalising details so please send us an email at [kidicalmassbromley@gmail.com](mailto:kidicalmassbromley@gmail.com) to get more info. Part of the global Kidical Mass movement, the Bromley event is a family-friendly cycle ride and calling for safe streets for everyone. We hope the ride will highlight the urgent need for safer,



cleaner, and healthier streets for everyone. Johanna Johansson, founding member of Kidical Mass Bromley and one of the organisers of the ride said: "Bicycles are the main means of transport for our family of three. We rarely see other families on cycles locally. I hope this ride will bring cycling families together and encourage more to cycle."

"We want to highlight the need for safe, protected routes that enable children to walk, scoot and cycle in their local area."

"Cycling isn't just a greener alternative, it's healthier, cheaper and more enjoyable too."

One participant who attended the first ride with her three children, said:

"We love cycling as a family but that is often restricted to family friendly bike trails such as Bewl or Bedgebury. The kids loved the opportunity to take part in RideLondon in the City earlier this year – so we are really excited Kidical Mass has come to Bromley!"



"Bromley is viewed as a green borough and promoting safe cycling for all ages should be a priority when looking to the future where sustainable active travel is a must."

Photo: Unspecified. This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/) license.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Family\\_Ride\\_bicycle\\_cycle\\_trailer.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Family_Ride_bicycle_cycle_trailer.jpg)

## ENBRO (Environment Bromley)

ENBRO are a walking group, with an annual programme of organised walks designed to explore the rural environment of the London suburbs and the home counties as well as the urban green spaces, so that our members can appreciate the value of environmental protection. We also have Public Walks to encourage folk to join us and to get a better understanding of environmental issues. We actively promote walks to and from points accessible by public transport and discourage car use. We have over 500 active members and always welcome new recruits and new walk leaders.



Our members come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have a wide variety of interests, including botany, wildlife conservation and ornithology, and we also feature walks based on local history, industrial archaeology and historic landmarks, so we can offer something for anyone who would like to take part in our activities.

Annual subscription is just £7.

You can find out more about ENBRO, including a list of their monthly walks, at their website:-

<http://www.enbro.org.uk/>

For details re membership please contact:

[membership@enbro.org.uk](mailto:membership@enbro.org.uk).

## ECO CHURCH NETWORK BROMLEY

Launching a new series of meetings, helping eco-churches across Bromley get together, share knowledge and ideas, and hear inspiring talks. Travelling to different churches to see what different congregations are each doing on their patch.

Our first three meetings: (all starting at 7.30pm)

**Wednesday 29th March** : Christchurch URC, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH

“Going for Gold” - Revd Nadene Snyman

**Wednesday 3rd May**: St Paul’s Church, Beckenham, BR3 1RB

“What we learnt from hosting a green hustings” - Paul Kunert

**Wednesday 31st May**: Emmanuel URC, West Wickham, BR4 9JS

“How it all started” - Revd David Pickering

Open to all churches and other faith groups in Bromley. You don’t have to be registered with Eco Church to come, you could be just starting to think about it.

For further details, please contact Ian Moore at [ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com](mailto:ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com)



## GOODGYM BROMLEY

GoodGym Bromley are a group of energetic volunteers who **get fit by doing good**, supporting local organisations with physical tasks that might otherwise be costly or time consuming.

As well as looking for members who are keen to join our mission, we're always on the look out for new charities, schools, park friends groups and community centres who can make use of us!

In recent weeks we've moved logs to create stag beetle habitat in **Betts Park**, painted walls at **Valley Primary School** and cleared cables and pegs left after **Lightopia in Crystal Palace Park**.

We believe in community connection, taking energy that might be used running nowhere on a treadmill or lifting weights that don't need lifting, and putting that back into our communities to make them happier, safer, cleaner and greener places to live.

If you're part of a group or know any that could do with a quick burst of **people power**, head to our website where you can 'Request A Task' and find out more: [goodgym.org/areas/bromley](https://goodgym.org/areas/bromley)

**GoodGym  
Bromley are  
looking for new  
organisations  
to work with!**



## ST PAUL'S CHURCH, BECKENHAM



### St Paul's Church Climate and Ecology Team meets with Beckenham MP

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the Climate & Ecology Team at St Paul's Church, Beckenham, welcomed Col Bob Stewart, MP for Beckenham, for an informal meeting. The event was hosted by the Vicar, Rev Simon Couper. A wide-ranging discussion covered aspects of the Government's performance in meeting its legal targets under the Climate Change Act, as well as international aspects of the climate crisis, such as the prospect of future massive immigration caused by resource poverty. At the end of the meeting, Col Stewart was asked to find an opportunity to speak to the Prime Minister to ask what his views on climate change are, and how much of the two-year action plan set out in the Skidmore Report ('Mission Zero', published that morning) he would undertake to implement in the next two years. Watch this space!

Members of St Paul's congregation are also being encouraged to take action in the way they live, as a Christian response to the climate crisis. This involves making some challenging changes, seeing the world in a different light, not as a resource to be used, but as God's creation which we are mandated to serve and keep.

The Climate & Ecology Team have produced a leaflet "Keeping the Earth" with suggestions on:

- Energy – changes to home heating, insulation and travel
- Food – eating a more plant-based diet and choosing LOAF food (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade)
- Clothes – buying fewer and keeping them for longer Practical action – calling for change by government and other organisations

Whilst recognising that not all our circumstances are the same, we believe that everyone can play their part in making a difference.

## THE CHISLEHURST SOCIETY

Cycle racks have been installed at two entrances to Scadbury Park, thanks to a grant from The Chislehurst Society. Cycling is not allowed within the park in order to protect the nature reserve but we have been pleased to support access in this way. Scadbury is a fantastic local green space with good access by public transport. The car parks are very much under pressure and anything we can do to encourage alternatives to motor vehicles is a boost to the well being of residents, human and animal alike.



The Friends of Scadbury Park have received several positive comments from visitors and hope the installation of this infrastructure helps encourage visitors to walk and cycle as much as possible.

If you would like to know more about the park or get involved the Friends group has its AGM on 29th March, 7.30pm at The Old Chapel, 3 Queens Passage, Chislehurst and is looking for volunteers to join its Trustee Board.

<https://www.scadbury-park.org.uk/support/about/the-friends-of-scadbury-park>

## PARK LANGLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



With a funding contribution from Veolia and also Park Langley Residents Association, local residents are working with the residents association to share information with local residents about wildlife and pollinator friendly planting, to invest in signage "Excuse the weeds we're feeding the bees" and to plant bulbs and wildflower seeds across Park Langley's roads and tree pits. They are also encouraging residents to use their front gardens to feed bees, butterflies and other pollinators. For more information contact Park Langley Residents Association:-



<http://www.plra.org.uk/>  
[plra@live.com](mailto:plra@live.com)



## GREENER AND CLEANER

**Celebrate good times, come on! We are 1 and 4.**

Back in 2019, as the Facebook group grew members started organising workshops and attending events, setting up a Community Interest Company. Not long after this, Greener and Cleaner were shortlisted for Best Bromley Charity/Social Enterprise and Highly commended in the category Best Green Businesses in the 2019 Bromley Business Awards, and founder Parisa, won the Local Hero Award.

The pandemic hit in 2020 and, with face-to-face events no longer being an option, Greener and Cleaner went digital, coordinated a masks and scrubs sewing group, and focussed on what the future would hold; including converting Greener and Cleaner into a charity and making ambitious plans for a new green community hub in The Glades shopping centre.

There have been many more milestones on the way. The Facebook group is still very much growing and you can join it here:

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

In the run-up to their birthday Greener and Cleaner plan to share sustainable party and celebration tips across all their social media, so if you don't already follow their public profiles on [Facebook](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Instagram](#)<sup>2</sup> or [Twitter](#)<sup>3</sup> now is a good time to start.

Today, the registered charity and The Hub are also a reality, manned by a great team and volunteers offering their time on a regular basis. The Hub also forms the basis of a ground-breaking research project<sup>4</sup> to find out what is needed to better understand attitudes, experiences and viewpoints; know what stops people from acting; and learn what drives them to make and embed change in their lives.

<sup>1</sup> [www.facebook.com/GreenerCleanerBromley](https://www.facebook.com/GreenerCleanerBromley)

<sup>2</sup> [www.instagram.com/greenerandcleaneruk/](https://www.instagram.com/greenerandcleaneruk/)

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/GreenerCleanerB> [www.instagram.com/greenerandcleaneruk/](https://www.instagram.com/greenerandcleaneruk/)

<sup>4</sup> [www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/about-us/ground-breaking-research/](https://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/about-us/ground-breaking-research/)



As The Hub celebrates how far it has come in its first year, Greener and Cleaner invite you all to come in and chat with a volunteer about what help you may need to live a little greener or to try an event or workshop for the first time.

**In The Hub you can:**

**Be inspired by changes you can make and receive practical advice**

**Learn a skill by joining a talk or workshop**

**Leave us your feedback**

**Borrow equipment from Bromley Library of Things**

**Find information on community groups, apps and local schemes**



**Ask questions on how to get involved**

An extremely welcoming place, the team are often busy hosting events to cover a wide variety of aspects such as mending, upcycling, or teaching skills that may be in decline (like sewing a button on to extend the life of clothes), saving energy, and many how-to events.

Suggestions and speakers or teachers for events are always welcomed so if you have a skill to share or know anyone who does, please get in touch with Anna Ciecierska, Greener and Cleaner's Events and Engagement Coordinator, [info@greenerandcleaner.co.uk](mailto:info@greenerandcleaner.co.uk).

In addition, if you have a community space you'd like to see some events run from, or access to a community you feel we're underserving, or could serve better, please do get in touch with Anna or Rachel Stoye, Marketing and Publicity Officer, [rachel.stoye@greenerandcleaner.co.uk](mailto:rachel.stoye@greenerandcleaner.co.uk)

And don't be shy, the team look forward to welcoming you in The Hub!

Pop in for a chat with our volunteers, more ideas and to see what activities are on.

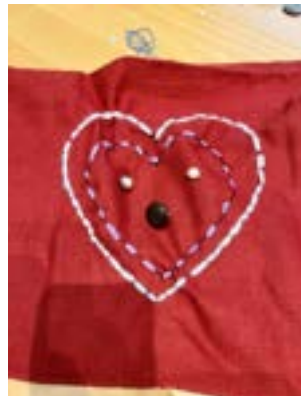
[www.facebook.com/TheHubGreenerCleaner](https://www.facebook.com/TheHubGreenerCleaner)

**The Hub from Greener and Cleaner**

Your community-powered space offers support with greener and cleaner more sustainable living.

**We're open**

10am - 6pm: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.  
11am - 5pm: Sunday.



Lots of children and adults discovered what could be made from old magazines and scrap fabrics at the Hub over Half Term. New skills such as Rag Rugging and stitching were acquired. Many children worked with their parents to create their World Book Day costumes from old outfits and re use fabrics and will not be buying anything new for this event.



**JOIN AN EVENT AT THE HUB!**

Check [www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/events](http://www.greenerandcleaner.co.uk/events) for up to date info and to book. All events are free unless stated otherwise, a voluntary donation is always welcomed though!

Every Monday, 12-2pm	Knitting and Crochet group
Every Saturday, 12-2pm	Mending Clinic
Thursday, March 2, 10:30am	Mums Meet-Up
Thursday, March 2, 3:00pm	Become a volunteer and make a difference!
Thursday, March 2, 7:00pm	Healthy Eating Workshop
Sunday, March 5, 2:00pm	Grow your own salad
Tuesday, March 9:30pm	Carbon Literacy Training
Saturday, March 11, 10:30am	Energy Saving Workshop
Saturday, March 11, 14:00am	Paint a T-shirt or a Tote Bag for Mother's day
Saturday, March 11, 14:00am	Sustainable Pom Pom Party Decorations
Thursday, March 16, 11:00am	Make a shopping bag from a broken umbrella
Thursday, March 23, 6.30pm	Knit and Crochet Social Community Group
Sunday, March 26, 2:00pm and Last Sunday of every month	Stitch it don't ditch it - Social Mending Session
Friday, April 7, 11:00am	Less is more - decluttering workshop

## It a wrap!

As most wrapping paper cannot be recycled, Bromley residents are asked to put all wrapping paper into their general rubbish where it will be sent for incineration, rather than in with their paper collection - so, how about starting to wrap presents that you give throughout the year in something practical such as a scarf, tea towel or handkerchief or putting them in a reusable fabric bag to save a wrapping headache!



On 2 February, Charlotte English, Greener and Cleaner's Head of Crafts, ran the last of a series of reusable fabric bag workshops funded by Bromley Council.



Greener & Cleaner's Charlotte English (right) and Jackie Baxter, Bromley Council's Environmental Campaigns Officer (centre), with three of the attendees.

If you would like further details about making reusable fabric bags, search "fabric gift bag" on YouTube for plenty of ideas and tutorials or contact [info@greenerandcleaner.co.uk](mailto:info@greenerandcleaner.co.uk).

# COMMUNITY FUNDING

## VEOLIA

**DEADLINE: 29 September 2023**

Launching 21 April 2023, just in time for Earth Day, Veolia's Sustainability Fund could help your project come to life with a cash donation, in kind resources or volunteers.



Available to any not-for-profit organisation, community group or individuals. Access up to £1000 for your community project, from local waste collection company Veolia <https://www.veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund>

## PLATINUM JUBILEE PARKS FUND

**DEADLINE: 01 April 2023**

As part of HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the London Borough of Bromley have dedicated £1 million to contribute towards community led projects that improve our green spaces. The Parks Platinum Jubilee Fund will contribute towards both the refurbishment and renewal of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces, along with the installation of new assets through community led projects.

The council received nearly 30 applications in the first funding round and as work continues to approve the remainder which meet the criteria, a further round is being announced. Applications were invited for up to £40,000 of funding available for each ward with a ceiling of £20,000 for each proposal. A wide variety of additional applications are expected over the lifetime of the fund.

Initial organisations to be awarded money are as follows:-

- Chislehurst Cemetery
- Chislehurst Common
- Coney Hall Recreation Ground .
- Cudham Recreation Ground
- Queensmead Recreation Ground
- Scadbury Park

At the end of January 2023, there had be no applications from the following wards:-

- Bromley Town
- Biggin Hill
- Clock House
- Chelsfield
- Farnborough & Crofton
- Mottingham

You can find the latest update on the Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund and how to apply here:- [www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/458/platinum-jubilee-parks-fund-makes-bromley-green-spaces-even-better](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/458/platinum-jubilee-parks-fund-makes-bromley-green-spaces-even-better)

# OTHER NEWS

## **BROMLEY BEST PLACE TO LIVE FOR GREEN SPACE**

Bromley has been awarded **first place in the London Borough index** for London Boroughs which have the most accessible green spaces, according to [www.essentialliving.co.uk](http://www.essentialliving.co.uk) ! Bromley scored the maximum 10/10 thanks to it's 2585 hectares of green spaces.

Sadly Bromley's overall score is reduced due to it being the borough with the **least affordable public transport**.

If you would like to read more you can visit Essential Living here:-

<https://www.essentialliving.co.uk/blogs-insights/the-london-borough-index/>

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## JOIN THE NETWORK

The Bromley Environment network brings together community groups from across Bromley Borough.

We aim to share information, inspire and support local people, fellow community groups, and the Council to make our borough a greener, healthier and more sustainable place to live, both now and in the future. Join us for FREE online:-

<https://membermojo.co.uk/ben>



## DOWNLOAD PAST NEWSLETTERS

This newsletter as well as previous copies, can be downloaded from a Google folder – you can access this using the shortened link: <https://tinyurl.com/bromleyenvir>

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

We would love to hear what network members have been up to.  
Please email your articles by **15 March 2023**

## MAKE A DONATION

We hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter. If you were interested in making a donation to help fund future issues, then please contact us at [bromleyenvironmentnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyenvironmentnetwork@gmail.com)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## **02 March World Wildlife Day**

There will be activities available in Greener and Cleaner Hub, resources and posters, pop in for inspiration and watch out for new events being announced.

## **02 March World Book Day**

## **02 March 10:30am Greener and Cleaner Mums Meet-Up**

## **02 March 3:00pm Greener and Cleaner Become a volunteer and make a difference!**

## **02 March 7:00pm Greener and Cleaner Healthy Eating Workshop**

## **04, 11, 18, 25 March 12:00-2:00pm (and every Saturday) Greener and Cleaner Mending Clinic**

## **06, 13, 20, 27 March 12:00-2:00pm (and every Monday) Greener and Cleaner Knitting and Crochet Group**

## **05 March 2:00pm Greener and Cleaner Grow your own salad.**

## **07 March 2:00pm Greener and Cleaner Carbon Literacy Training**

## **06 - 12 March Cultivation Street Week**

A focus on community gardens and what makes them so fantastic:  
<https://cultivationstreet.com/>

## **08 March International Women's Day**

## **11 March 10:30pm Greener and Cleaner Energy Saving Workshop**

## **11 March 14:00pm Greener and Cleaner Paint a T-shirt or a Tote Bag for Mothers Day and Sustainable Pom Pom Party Decorations**

## **13- 19 March Compost Week**

## **16 March 11:00 Greener and Cleaner Make a shopping bag from a broken umbrella**

## **18 March Global Recycling Day**

Look out for a new video from Greener and Cleaner featuring local hacks for recycling.  
<https://www.globalrecyclingday.com/>

## **19th March Greener and Cleaner's 4th Birthday**



**20 March The Greener and Cleaner Hub's 1st Birthday**

**20 -26 March Trees Are The Key Awareness Week**

<https://www.wordforest.org/week/>

**20 March - 01 April The Big Walk and Wheel (previously The Big Pedal)**

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/uk-wide/schools/sustrans-big-walk-and-wheel/>

The UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge; it aims to inspire hundreds of thousands of pupils to get active during the school run. Running for over 12 years, and originally a cycling contest, the event has grown to be more inclusive. It now includes walking, using a wheelchair, scooting and cycling to reflect its multi-modal approach.

**22 March World Water Day**

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

**23 March 6:30pm Greener and Cleaner Knit and Crochet Social Community Group**

**25 March 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm is Earth Hour**

At 8.30 pm, lights across England and many countries around the world will be switched off, to send a message that we care about the future of our planet. This year organisers are also encouraging everyone to spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet.

Whether it's litter picking, cooking dinner with sustainable ingredients, planting a tree, or getting your friends together for an Earth Hour event, anyone, anywhere can join the #BiggestHourForEarth <https://www.earthhour.org/>

**25 March - 10 April The Great British Spring Clean**

Keep Britain Tidy's annual national clean-up campaign.

**26 March 2:00pm (and last Sunday of every month)**

**Greener and Cleaner Stitch it don't ditch it – Social Mending Session**

**26 March Kidical Mass Family Friendly Bike Ride**

**29 March 7:00pm Eco Church Network Bromley Meeting - Christchurch URC**

**29 March 7:30pm Friends of Scadbury Park AGM**

**01 April Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund DEADLINE**

**07 April 11:00am Greener and Cleaner Less is more – decluttering workshop**