How we work. Together
When Charles Dickens famously wrote “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…” over 150 years ago, he could have been commenting on the present day.

On the one hand, plenty has happened this past year that threatens progress on Friends of the Earth’s agenda. Britain’s vote to leave the European Union risks swathes of environmental legislation, while the election of Donald Trump presents a range of challenges, not least his announcement that the US will be withdrawing from the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

But there is also much to be hopeful about.

Thanks to your support, Friends of the Earth has played a leading role in highlighting the importance of European legislation to protect the environment, helping secure important promises from Environment Secretary Michael Gove. He has pledged that the UK will “maintain and enhance” environmental protections post-Brexit.

Similarly, the global community has responded to Donald Trump’s attempt to sabotage the Paris Agreement by coming out with stronger support for it than ever before, with some of the world’s largest companies and cities pledging to reinforce international action.

Meanwhile the cost of renewable energy is falling, and its share of global energy generation is scaling up faster than anyone predicted.

Electric vehicles are starting to become mainstream, bee-harming pesticides are set to be banned, and attempts to create a brand new fossil fuelled industry in the UK have stalled, as public support for fracking has plummeted and backing for renewables has blossomed.

Friends of the Earth has played a leading part in achieving all this progress. And we’ve been able to do it because of your support.

It is our role, especially in the more challenging times, to offer hope and wisdom when it comes to the solutions to environmental problems. And it is our job to demonstrate how – with the right actions – the best of times are still before us. Thank you for playing your part in making this happen.

Craig Bennett, Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth
A key goal for Friends of the Earth is to roll back the many threats to our natural world and ensure the next generation can enjoy nature flourishing everywhere.

Central to this is our Bee Cause campaign, which aims to reverse UK bee decline by banning neonicotinoid pesticides or “neonics”.

The decline in these vital pollinators could have a serious impact on our natural world, not least the production of our food crops.

**BEE-HARMING PESTICIDES – HUGE PROGRESS IN 2017**

Since the campaign launch in 2012 we’ve helped bees so much thanks to your support, and 2017 was a good year for all of us wanting a ban on neonics.

At the start of 2017 Cornwall council joined Devon and Dorset in agreeing to restrict neonic spraying on their parks, farms and road verges.

More recently, Somerset has also committed, meaning the whole of the South West is more bee friendly. Our local group volunteers have played a huge part in this success, pressurising their local councils and raising awareness in their communities.

In February, Conwy Council became the first local authority to be officially given “Bee Friendly Status” – part of a unique community-wide initiative launched by Friends of the Earth Cymru with the Welsh government.

A health authority, social housing, schools, universities and community groups have followed suit. Friends of the Earth’s local groups remain central to developing these Bee Friendly areas across Wales.

In April, with thousands of people ramping up the pressure by emailing their MPs, the UK government rejected the latest appeal by the National Farmers’ Union and refused to lift the restrictions on the use of neonics.

In May, we managed to get B&Q to become the first of the UK’s big 10 garden centres to stop using neonics. Others followed suit when we approached them and eventually we only had Homebase left to persuade.

In early November we delivered an 18,000-signature petition to Homebase. Within days, they announced that they would no longer use neonics on their own plants, or sell the pesticide to the public, by the end of 2018.

**A MILESTONE VICTORY FOR NATURE**

In the biggest victory of all, after years of pressure, the government has announced that tougher restrictions are needed on bee-harming pesticides.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove announced in November that the government now backs tougher restrictions on neonicotinoids. This followed overwhelming scientific evidence about the harm to pollinators that these pesticides cause, and that farmers are growing crops successfully without them.

There’s still much more to do to save our precious pollinators. But this progress could not have happened without your generous support. Thank you.
Climate change is happening right now and the threat of runaway climate change is very real unless we keep global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees, in line with the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Burning fossil fuels is a major driver of climate change and at least 80% of fossil fuel reserves must be kept in the ground if we are to meet the Paris goal. In the UK this means immediately stopping all new fossil fuel extraction, including coal and gas from fracking, investing heavily in demand reduction measures, and rapidly moving to a clean energy power supply.

CAMPAIGNING AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS – FRACKING

Despite the government pledging to go “all out” for fracking in 2012, 2017 passed without fracking starting, and there has been no fracking in the UK for six years in a row.

Key to our approach this year has been:
- Stopping fracking
- Putting pressure on decision makers to ban fracking
- Raising awareness among the public, investors, landowners, councils and other politicians, that the UK government is increasingly isolated in pursuing a failing and hugely unpopular industry.

Bans and moratoria have been put in place in Europe and around the world. In June, for example, the Irish government voted to ban fracking in Ireland, after pressure from Friends of the Earth Ireland and others.

And in the UK too only England is now open to fracking. After campaigning by Friends of the Earth Scotland and local communities, the Scottish government banned fracking.

Our work at a local level this year has included:
- Our lawyers and planning experts providing advice on planning and legal issues to local anti-fracking groups.
- Using social media, mainstream media and Friends of the Earth local volunteers to spread the word about the threats of fracking in their communities.

Our work on the national stage has included:
- Briefing MPs to enable parliamentary questions on fracking.
- National petitions: in January we delivered more than 250,000 signatures to then-Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom, protesting at the threat by petrochemicals giant INEOS to frack in Sherwood Forest.
- Legal letters to ministers, highlighting problems with some companies’ safety compliance.

We’re helping to expose fracking as a dying, unviable industry, compared to the success of renewables – going from providing 9% to almost 30% of UK electricity in just six years.

CUTTING OFF INVESTMENT IN FOSSIL FUELS

We’re part of a growing global alliance persuading people to divest from fossil fuels – in other words, move their investments out of coal, oil and gas.

Barclays bank, for example, has faced increasing pressure from Friends of the Earth and our partners in the divestment movement, to sell its investment in Third Energy, the company that wants to frack in Ryedale, North Yorkshire.

Our work included encouraging people to write to the bank threatening to close their accounts, and raising the issue at the company’s AGM.

Barclays has now announced it will be withdrawing its investment in Third Energy.

Throughout 2017 more and more institutions joined a growing list of organisations moving away from dirty energy investments – including a third of our universities, the TUC, UNISON, large parts of the Catholic church and some councils.

Friends of the Earth’s volunteers have played an important part in persuading these local authorities to divest – from meetings with councillors to handing out information where they live – and the list now includes Hackney, Waltham Forest, Southwark, Haringey and South Yorkshire councils.
FOCUS: KEEPING COAL IN THE GROUND

With your support, we have been working hard to prevent new coal extraction and to stop coal being used to generate our electricity.

In Druridge Bay, Northumberland, for example, we’ve been working to stop a proposed opencast coal mine in a local beauty spot, loved by local residents and tourists. We spent months focusing media attention on the contradiction between this huge new project and the government’s commitment to phasing out coal.

We joined local people objecting to the proposals, taking part in public meetings, asking our supporters to email councillors and mustering more than 10,000 objections to the mine. The government called in the decision – the first time a Secretary of State has ordered an inquiry into a fossil fuel extraction project citing climate change reasons.

Our experts played a key part at the public inquiry arguing, among other things, that the scheme was inconsistent with the government’s climate change targets and its stated preference for renewable energy. (As we’re going to press, in March 2018, we’re hearing the good news that the government has rejected the Druridge Bay coal mine.)

FOCUS: WORKING WITH LOCAL PEOPLE IN WEST SUSSEX

There was more good news for the climate when oil company UKOG withdrew plans to drill four oil wells under the South Downs National Park, following pressure from local residents supported by Friends of the Earth.

Our planning experts and regional campaigners helped a residents’ group set up an easy way for people to object to plans online, which were being proposed by UKOG.

We also encouraged local people to send letters to all councillors in the area, highlighting key environmental concerns about the four proposed wells at Markwells Wood, near Chichester in West Sussex. These included potential water, air and noise pollution.

Over 2,000 objections were sent in to the planning authorities, highlighting the unpopularity of the scheme, and just a week before the planners were to decide on the project, UKOG withdrew its application.

“The expert report we commissioned showed that this is not a suitable site for drilling – the risks are too high”
The UK government describes air pollution as “the largest environmental threat to public health in the UK”; 40,000 premature deaths annually are associated with dirty air.

Children are disproportionately affected and can have stunted lung growth where pollution is particularly bad. Polluted air increases the risk of asthma, heart disease and lung cancer.

There are many sources of air pollution, but there is clear consensus that road traffic is the biggest problem, and diesel vehicles are worst of all. Our Clean Air campaign aims to end the use of diesel in UK road transport by 2025. This is intended to help reduce UK deaths from air pollution.

As part of our campaign, in late 2016 we launched one of the biggest-ever nationwide citizen science experiments, to find out more about air pollution.

Since then more than 4,000 people (including schoolchildren) have tested the air quality all around the UK using our unique Clean Air Kit. Many of the results have been alarming.

By uncovering hidden pollution hotspots this work has helped to put Britain’s polluted air firmly on the political agenda. Our National Air Pollution Map and groundbreaking report show dirty air is a far wider problem than national and local government suggest.

Now our Clean Air Schools Pack, endorsed by the National Union of Teachers, is helping to educate a generation of children on the dangers of air pollution – and what we can do about it.

In the run-up to the June General Election we produced a six-point plan for tackling air pollution. It led to dramatically improved commitments from two of the main political parties, including a pledge by Labour to end illegal air pollution by 2018 – in line with Friends of the Earth’s position.

Other progress includes exposing how some garages were offering to remove vital air pollution filters from cars, in order to boost vehicle performance, even though the practice is illegal. Following our investigation, we put in an official complaint to the authorities and now all garages are banned from advertising this service.

We’re helping to unmask diesel as a dirty fuel of the past. By the end of 2017, diesel sales were in an unprecedented decline, with eight consecutive months of reduced year-on-year sales.
SNAPSHOT: SUCCESES AT A GLANCE

After years of campaigning, we persuaded the Northern Ireland Secretary to end secrecy around political donations. This means donors to political parties in Northern Ireland will have to be more transparent – as they are in the rest of the UK – so that we can see what potential influence they might have on environmental and other decision-making.

In March, thanks to the legally enforced recycling targets we campaigned for, Wales was named third best recycling country in the world (behind Germany and Taiwan).

In July we won a crucial legal challenge over sand dredging in Lough Neagh – the UK’s biggest freshwater lake, and one of Europe’s most important wildlife sites. The country’s highest court – the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal – ruled that the Northern Ireland government acted unlawfully by not stopping sand dredging, which has been taking place on a huge scale at Lough Neagh without planning permission and other authorisations. The only legal option now open to the government is to stop the dredging.

We helped keep important legal action affordable so that ordinary citizens, charities and communities could still challenge bad environmental decisions in court. Previously the legal costs in these cases (called judicial reviews) were capped at £5,000 for individuals or £10,000 for an organisation, if they lost the case. The government wanted to loosen those rules. We felt that would deter everyone except the well-off from taking legal action. With the RSPB and Client Earth we challenged the government in the High Court. And, thanks to our generous supporters funding a highly effective legal team, we won.

The Welsh government has committed to a Clean Air Plan following pressure from Healthy Air Cymru, a coalition of organisations including Friends of the Earth Cymru.

We supported 44 young people to become the next generation of campaigners through the My World My Home project. Working with the National Union of Students (NUS) we're supporting 160 young people over five years to deliver local campaigns and gain an OCN (Open College Network) accredited qualification in Community Campaigning. The project is part of Our Bright Future, a programme of 31 projects across the UK funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Each project has received around £1 million of funding to help young people step up and create what is rightfully theirs: a healthy planet, a thriving economy and a better future.

After campaigning by Friends of the Earth Cymru and others, the Welsh government committed to move Wales away from coal and confirm its opposition to fracking. Pressure from us and other groups has also resulted in Wales introducing renewable energy targets – including for community renewables and local ownership.
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 May 2017

**Friends of the Earth Trust**

Friends of the Earth Trust is committed to the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment and promotes sustainable development for public benefit. It furthers these objectives by campaigning, undertaking research, education and publishing, and providing an information service on solutions to environmental problems.

Friends of the Earth comprises two separate legal entities – Friends of the Earth Trust (a registered charity) and Friends of the Earth Limited (a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee). They work closely together, sharing staff, resources and a brand, in order to achieve their separate but similar objects as cost effectively as possible.

### Breakdown of expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Climate</th>
<th>3,283,650</th>
<th>37%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Nature</td>
<td>2,256,539</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Health</td>
<td>1,511,666</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Raising funds</td>
<td>1,821,034</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>8,872,889</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income** 9,126,749

**Expenditure** 8,872,889

**Surplus for the year** 253,860

Since 2014 players of the People’s Postcode Lottery have raised over £4 million to support Friends of the Earth

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**Thank you**

Many thanks to everyone whose generosity has helped make our work possible this year. Special thanks to:

- Annapurna Recruitment
- Dr Anthony Lewis
- Ashden Trust, Mark Leonard Trust and J1 Charitable Trust
- Barbara Cairns Trust
- The Big Give and The Reed Foundation
- Big Lottery Fund (Our Bright Future)
- Canopy & Stars
- Ecotricity
- European Climate Foundation
- The Freshfield Foundation
- Good Energy
- Graham Hales
- Gregory Nasmith & Samantha Rowe-Beddoe
- Henoco Law Trust
- Lesley and Leslie Michaels
- Liforme
- Martin Gore
- Mike and Kathy Smyth
- Miranda and Jacob Caatingius
- Neal’s Yard Remedies
- Paper Round Ltd
- Patagonia
- Peck and Strong Bakery
- The Persula Foundation
- The Pickwell Foundation
- Players of the People’s Postcode Lottery
- Rachel and Geoff Evatt
- The Raphael Trust
- Miss RCR Angel Charitable Trust
- Richard Constant
- Rod and Diane Wood
- Roger De Freitas
- Roger Ross and all those at the Lots Road Auctions
- Shine Investments
- Stephen Taylor Foundation
- Rosie Pearson
- Triedos Bank
- The Underwood Trust
- Sir Victor Blank Charitable Trust
- The Waffle House, St Albans
- Waitrose
- Wool and the Gang

Friends of the Earth Europe and Friends of the Earth International through which we have received grants from the European Commission for our contribution to joint projects.
**Friends of the Earth Limited**

Friends of the Earth Limited is a campaigning organisation and exists to protect and improve the environment through influencing political policies and business practices, inspiring personal and political action, and stimulating wide and intelligent debate.

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**Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 May 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friends of the Earth Limited</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>1,487,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>1,212,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>275,061</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Breakdown of expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>£</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Campaigning and information provision</td>
<td>1,160,633</td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Fundraising</td>
<td>23,133</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Management and administration</td>
<td>29,060</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1,212,826</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Gifts in wills**

We would like to pay tribute to those supporters who generously donated gifts in their Wills to protect the long-term future of our planet. Our grateful thanks go to:

- Arthur John Allen
- Nathalie Andre
- Mary Ruth Atkins
- Brenda Austin
- Edward George Austin
- Jenny Baines
- Allan Ball
- John Blatten
- Jean Margaret Blair
- Jennie Bone
- Freda Olive Briden
- John Peter Burden
- William Ernest Burroughs
- Rosinia Cakkaron
- Evelyn Sarah Chalk
- Karen Marguerite Childs
- Penelope Irene Collins
- Don Ramon Connor
- Jennifer Craven
- Joyce Creasley
- Diana Christine Croes
- Pauline Daphne Crewe
- Susan Jane Darrell
- Richard William Dent
- Douglas Head
- John Rossford Edge
- Gladys Eschaliier
- Bernard Fitter
- David Forward
- D Fosdike
- Ursula Margaret Gayler
- Nigel John Hilton Gooding
- Nada Gosling
- Arthur Francis Gough
- Dorothy Rose Gribble
- Diana Christine Gurney
- Frederick George Gurnsey
- Dorothy Shaw
- Ronald Percival Hawkins
- Avril Kay Henry
- Jill Frances Hobday
- Kenneth Izzard
- John Knight
- Anne Marion Leaker
- Ursula Norah Leggatt
- Lady Helen Judith Mackerras
- Nigel Gordon Mallett
- Olive Melior
- Lesley Milne
- Audrey Noble
- Joan Mary Palmer
- Koki Patel
- Thomas James Perriman
- Christopher Powell
- Olive Priestnall
- Anne Lenore Reynell
- Margaret Rhodos
- Beryl Mary Mildred Roache
- George Frank Rogers
- Janet Royle
- James Walton Schofield
- Douglas Richard Scowell
- Pauline Shanahan
- Beatrice Sonfield
- Lily Sterner
- Thomas Jan Stevens
- Hilda Taylor
- Margaret Ruth Tidball
- Bridget Unwin
- Alan Webb Coney
- Joan Gladys Webster
- Nanette Elizabeth Mary Whittbread
- Marion Winning Whitehead
- Mavis Whycher
- James Keith Winward
- Eileen Leithbridge Wood
- John Norris Wood
- Roy Robert Magnus Wright

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Wool and the Gang is pleased to be supporting Friends of the Earth and hopes that this support helps increase awareness of the causes of climate change and leads us all to become more considerate to the environment.
The year ahead

Our goal is that by 2030 the next generation will enjoy an environment that’s getting better:

● a safer climate
● flourishing nature
● healthy air, water and food

A safer climate

In 2018 we will:

● Pressure the government to get the UK on track to meet our Paris Agreement climate change commitments to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

● Accelerate the end of the age of fossil fuels with more successful work to stop fracking taking off in the UK and end coal extraction on UK soil.

● Continue to promote renewable energy as a viable, clean alternative to power our country.

● Continue to work with communities directly affected by fracking and coal extraction plans – supporting them with legal and planning advice, and in developing their campaigning skills.

Flourishing nature

In 2018 we will:

● Work for an EU-wide ban on bee-harming neonicotinoid pesticides.

● Continue working with farmers to support alternatives to bee-harming pesticides, and to inspire people and councils around the country to create spaces for bee-friendly planting.

Air, water and food

In 2018 we will:

● Roll out a nationwide campaign for Clean Air Zones in cities.

● Work with those most affected by dirty air, especially schools.

● Demand government action to end throw-away single use plastics which pollute our oceans and rivers, and are made of climate-damaging fossil fuels.

● Ensure that Brexit does not erode important EU environmental protections – from controls on toxic chemicals and waste, to ensuring our air and water is safe from contamination.

● Work for a radical overhaul of agriculture funding to protect nature as well as provide sustainable food.

Innovation

In 2018 we will:

● Explore solutions to environmental degradation by developing experimental projects aimed at showcasing what a more sustainable world could look like.

● Our projects include a plan to massively increase the vegetation and wildlife in a residential street in London, and set up a community electric car scheme in Bristol.

Thank you for your support in 2017
Friends of the Earth is an international campaigning community dedicated to the protection of the natural world and the wellbeing of everyone in it. We bring together more than two million people in 75 countries, combining people power all over the world to transform local actions into global impact.