



**friends of  
the earth  
Bromley**



*April 2015*  
*No. 328*

# ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

email: [bromleyfoe@gmail.com](mailto:bromleyfoe@gmail.com), website: [www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)

## April Meeting

*Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley*

### **Willow Wildlife Rescue**

*"The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please; we hold it in trust and must account for it to those who come after"*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm**

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

### ***In this Issue:***

Diary Dates	2	Waste4Fuel Update	8,14
April mtg	2	Plantlife request	9
ReUser Item	2	FoE Campaigns info	10,11
March meeting report	3	Global Justice Now	12,13
Climate and Energy	4,5	FoE on the Budget	14
Bill's Open Garden	5	FoE on Air Pollution	14
Nature & Bees Update	7	Bromley Contacts	15
BASECAMP	7	Non-members section	16

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

**\*\*\* SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL\*\*\***

Contact details inside front cover.

***Bill's Open Garden – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May***

**Diary dates:**

<b>April 7 (Tue)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's April meeting:</b> Willow Wildlife Rescue - Eddie and Pat Williams
<b>May 2 (Sat)</b>	<b>Bill Priestley's Open Garden:</b> 2.30 – 5pm
<b>May 5 (Tue)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's May meeting:</b> Tom Wright from FoE on the Run on Sun Campaign
<b>June 12-14</b>	<b>FoE's BASECAMP</b> at Castleton, Derbyshire
<b>June 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>Speak Up – Mass lobby of Parliament:</b> co-ordinated by the Climate Coalition
<b>June 20 (Sat)</b>	<b>Nature themed BFoE stall:</b> Coolings Garden Centre 10am-4pm

**April meeting – Willow Wildlife Rescue**

*"The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please; we hold it in trust and must account for it to those who come after"*

Eddie and Pat Williams run Willow Wildlife Rescue, a local animal rescue and rehabilitation organisation, responding to emergencies and treating 300 – 500 sick animals a year.

**Horticultural Show at Coolings Garden Centre**

**It's on Saturday 13th September.** Do you grow fruit or vegetables? Do you make jam or arrange flowers? Do you do photography? Then please support this local show at Coolings and you could win Coolings vouchers. Brochure with classes to enter will be available from Coolings soon.

**Reuser Item (1)**

Bill is in need of some more 3 inch flower pots, as he is using a prodigious number preparing for the open garden day. Call Bill if you can help on 01689 820469.

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

**Next Newsletter - copy details:**

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor by **\*\*\* SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL\*\*\***:

**by post** to John Street, 82 Babbacombe Road, Bromley, BR1 3LS

**by phone** to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: [johnstreet@gn.apc.org](mailto:johnstreet@gn.apc.org).

The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions for space, or other, reasons

## March Meeting Report – Sue and John Bocoock

Bromley FoE marked Fairtrade Fortnight by showing the film *Black Gold* and having an attractively displayed Traidcraft stall manned by Margaret Elves.

Traidcraft's Fair Necessities Appeal highlights the shocking number of small holder farmers in developing countries who are unable to access the most basic of life's essentials:-

**HELP** families grow more; **EARN** more and **EAT** more.

John Bassendine, the Sevenoaks FOE coordinator and Fairtrade coordinator gave a brief introduction to the film which focuses on the injustices of the global coffee trade and one individual's attempts to get a better deal for the members of his coffee farmers cooperative.

### **Black Gold – The Fairtrade Film**

This film was made by Nick and Marc Francis who were impressed by the inspiring passion and determination of Tadesse Meskela. He is the General Manager of the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union in the South and West of Ethiopia. We see him visiting a coffee processing centre, a coffee auction house and his union's headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia is the world's largest producer of coffee which is the second most traded commodity after oil. Globally, two billion cups of coffee are drunk daily. The coffee trade is controlled by four multinationals; Kraft, Nestle, Proctor and Gamble and Sarah Lee.

All declined to be interviewed in the making of this film.

Tadesse Meskela travels to America and the UK where he tries to promote Ethiopian coffee by eliminating several middlemen. In the film we see scenes of Ethiopian coffee farmers praying to God for a higher price for their coffee. The farmers talk about their lives and wishes for their families: education for their children, better housing, health centres, clean drinking water and improved sanitation. A farmer explains how he is cutting down his coffee plants and growing Khat, a narcotic drug and stimulant. This is the result of the low price he receives for his coffee.

We also see in the film, footage of the New York Board of Trade commodity trading floor. This is where the international benchmark price for coffee is set each business day, based on supply and demand. It explores the effects these international prices have on Ethiopian coffee growers. There are scenes from Starbucks coffee shops and the World Barista Championship in Seattle 2005. These scenes stand in stark contrast to the impoverished conditions faced by the Ethiopian coffee farmers and their families.

This short but very powerful film highlights the vast inequalities between the world's richest and poorest peoples. Seven million Ethiopians are dependent on emergency aid, Africa's share of world trade amounts to less than 1%.

Our thanks to our projectionist Peter Gandolfi and to Margaret Elves for bringing the Traidcraft stall.

## Campaigns, Climate and Energy – from a Special Correspondent

### **Campaign Stall Report (March 21<sup>st</sup>)**

A big thank you to all 14 people who turned up to help with the stall in BromleyThe Mall precinct in a bitter wind. It was particularly helpful to have people from Bromley Against Fracking who had useful information for the public on the details of the fracking process and its implications.

We gave out a lot of leaflets, although we didn't get that many FoE cards signed or signatures on the petition due to the cold. The stall looked very colourful with Bee campaign and Run on Sun cards as well. Julie Etter brought several attractive bee materials to attract the public's attention.

### **Climate and Energy**

#### **Climate Change March and Rally**

It was good to be part of the rally with our banner on March 7th. Many thanks to Sylvia Chance and Mary Ingledrew who helped with the banner and for us to be a presence there.

An estimated 20,000 people were on the march called 'Time to Act' and was designed to increase support for action ahead of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in November. There was a wide range of speeches from different organisations including one from a passionately committed 15 year old school girl.

Caroline Lucas said: "The most important thing is that we are making a difference. The way forward that we are suggesting is an incredibly positive one. If the climate change activists are

right then the consequences are going to be extremely grim. If they are wrong then our policies such not using fossil fuels, are good in themselves".

The organisers said that they want the environment to be top of the agenda at the General Election in May. Sarah Jane Trebar an allotments campaigner from Watford said: "I think it is important that kids see all this and that they get involved from a young age".

And there was plenty to see and hear - puppets, painted faces, large masks, and portable music systems, and the sun shone!

#### **Record Broken in Denmark**

Climate Record reported on January 21st that during 2014, 39.1% of the electricity used in Denmark came from wind power, setting a new world record in renewable energy production from wind. This is more than double the percentage it was a decade earlier. Denmark's goal is to see half of its energy produced by wind power by 2020. By the end of 2015 Denmark aims to be powered 100 % by renewable energy.

#### **Solar Powered Plane**

How exciting to see the single-seater Solar Impulse 2 complete a 300 mile journey from Abu Dhabi to Oman - a route that crossed the Pacific and Atlantic. The company that built the plane want to show the world that old polluting technologies can be replaced. The carbon fibre aircraft weighs about the same as a car, but its wings which have solar cells built into them, are larger than a Boeing 747's.

## Bill's Open Garden and Plant Sale - We need your help!

**Annette Rose writes:** We had a very successful day last year and we are hoping the weather will be kind to us again for this important fundraising day. But we couldn't have done it without all the fantastic helpers we had.

Can you help this year please? We will be passing around a sheet for volunteers to sign up at the April meeting or you can contact the people below.

**1. Can you contribute some plants for the plant sale?** You are welcome to bring the plants to Bill's house any time from 10am on the day if you wish or just bring them when you come. Contact Bill on 01689 820469

**2. Can you bake a cake for the refreshments table?** Contact Judy on 07958-324910

**3. Do you have something we can put in the raffle?** Contact Sheila on 01689-851605

**4. Do you have something to go on the bric a brac stall?** Any items that might sell including books would be most welcome. Please bring along on the day

**5. Can you help on the day even for a short time?** This could be helping with refreshments, being on the bric a brac or BFoE stall, taking money on the door, selling raffle tickets or helping to clear up.

Contact Annette on 020-8402-7586.  
Thank you in advance for your help.

**Mary, Sylvia and Ann with Bromley FoE banner on Climate Change march/rally on March 7th**



### **New Bee World site found?**

Have we been able to find a site for a 3<sup>rd</sup> **Bee World** in the Borough? No, unfortunately we haven't!

We initially had a good response to our email which we sent out earlier this year to the Friends Forum asking if any Friends Group would be interested in creating a wildflower site. Annette & I eventually visited two sites and one appeared to be ideal, but the Council officers are pretty insistent that only local wildflower seeds be used, which our free seeds are not. So, for the moment, our search has been put on hold.

### **Beach Party site found?**

Our search may have had one good outcome though – the possibility that we may have found a venue for our proposed **Beach Party**. We are just waiting to see if we can tie in a date for this summer. You may recall that in the January newsletter I mentioned we may do this, as a way of connecting people with marine issues. How many of us realise that a small piece of rubbish, for instance, dropped near one of our local rivers or brooks, can eventually make its way to the sea?

FoE have recently teamed up with the **Ethical Consumer** magazine, as I have just come across on the web-site – via Facebook I have to say. You can download the magazine which has an article by Paul de Zylva in it, and the issue is all about wildlife friendly gardening.

Hopefully you will have recently seen in the news that the German chemical giant Bayer has failed in its bid to

attempt to sue Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) over its claims that a **pesticide**, manufactured by Bayer, harms bees. A judge in Dusseldorf ruled that Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) had a right to voice its concerns about thiacloprid.

Thiacloprid is a type of pesticide called a neonicotinoid. The European Commission banned 3 other 'neonics' – as they are often known – after damning findings back in 2013. Europe's official food safety agency stated they posed a "high acute risk" to honey bees.

Thiacloprid wasn't among the banned neonics. It remains on sale in Germany, and in shops and garden centres here in the UK. There is evidence that it can make bees more likely to die from some common diseases – and can make it harder for them to find their way back to their hives.

### **Devon's beavers' clean bill of health**

Also in the **news** recently - Vets have given Devon's beavers the green light to remain in the wild. With a clean bill of health, the species is now free to legally roam the English waterways for the first time in hundreds of years. It's a major victory for the local people and organisations that have campaigned for them to be allowed to swim free. The animals are now set to be released into the wild. The Devon Wildlife Trust has been given a licence to conduct a five-year trial reintroduction of the species.

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## The excitement that is BASECAMP (June 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>)

**Basecamp seems to be racing towards us this year, and we can't wait.**

**Cat and Michelle** from Isle of Man Friends of the Earth and Huddersfield Friends of the Earth write:

How could you not be excited? There'll be workshops on everything from fracking to willow weaving, alongside live music, top speakers and dance classes. And that's just a smidgen of the packed programme for the weekend, all taking place in the wild beauty of the Peak District.

It's really not hard to see why Basecamp is one of the brightest spots in our campaign calendar.

And with the momentum building on the Road to Paris and beyond, it's a unique chance to connect with friends old and new, share knowledge and learn with others from the UK and beyond.

That's why we need your help.

We want Basecamp to be brimming with people as passionate about protecting people and the planet as you. We'd love it if you can invite all your friends, family and campaigning networks along to Basecamp this year.

Please share Basecamp on facebook and twitter. There's even a template email to send out to anyone you think would love to be part of Basecamp weekend (12-14 June 2015 in Castleton, Derbyshire.)

We're looking forward to seeing you all in June!

PS - We've also put all the travel options for getting to Basecamp in one place, so it is easy as pie to find a journey that suits you.

More info about Basecamp on the FoE website at [www.foe.co.uk/page/basecamp-2015-0](http://www.foe.co.uk/page/basecamp-2015-0)

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### **Nature Update**, *continued*

#### **Tugmutton news** –

I was recently invited to attend a small committee meeting with the Tugmutton Friends group to discuss a proposed open day they will be hosting this summer. We have been asked to participate as Bromley FoE is a stakeholder within the grassland meadow (where our Bee World is).

A date is to be announced soon, but will probably be mid-week in July, as they wish to involve their junior school neighbour.

It will be focussing on the biodiversity in the meadows, as by then there will be a country path laid connecting entrances and the new pedestrian bridge, plus a biodiversity board, bat and bird boxes, and wood piles for insects, to help enhance the area. It will be a fun day!

## Waste4Fuel Update – Annette Rose

I received the information below from the environment agency about six arrests with links to the Waste4Fuel site in Cornwall Drive. Jan from the group commented 'It's a little too late but it's a start.'

The NotoWaste4fuel group is also very concerned about a planning application for a 'recycling centre' in Old Maidstone Rd and are concerned there might be a link with the same people.

### From the Environment Agency-

Dear Cllr/Sir/Madam,

I thought it would be helpful to update you as you may have seen coverage in the local and national media of a series of arrests that were made earlier today, relating to illegal waste sites in Bristol, Scunthorpe and Newark.

The six arrests are linked to our wider national investigation into illegal waste activities across the country, which may have links to the Waste4Fuel site in Cornwall Drive.

We will be continuing our investigations over the coming months with our multi-agency partners which may lead to further arrests or action against those involved.

I will keep you updated on our progress and in the interim I have attached a copy of our full press release for your information. Please feel free to share this information in the community.

With regard to the site in Cornwall Drive we are continuing to work towards a long term solution with our partners at the London Borough of Bromley and

the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.

### Press Release from the Environment Agency

#### Six arrests in nationwide waste dumping raids

Six people were arrested during dawn raids today (Tuesday 10th March) - four for suspected waste offences and two for suspected human trafficking. This follows a nationwide Environment Agency probe into illegal dumping of potentially hazardous waste at illegal waste sites in Bristol, Scunthorpe and Newark in Nottinghamshire. The investigation is also looking at links to an abandoned waste transfer site in Orpington run by operators Waste4Fuel.

More than 40 Environment Agency investigators supported by Humberside, Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Police swooped on suspects' home addresses and the sites as part of Operation Encore. Environment Agency crime staff from across England, including a number in specialist breathing apparatus, have been brought in to support the operation due to its large scale.

The Police were deployed to support with arrests, access properties and assist with collecting evidence. Home Office Immigration Enforcement and Social Services were also involved, as part of this multi-agency operation, due to a suspected number of illegal workers at the sites.

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## An email request from Plantlife

### **New National Plant Monitoring Scheme**

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to let you know about the National Plant Monitoring Scheme which launched this month.

The scheme is the first of its kind and asks for volunteers across the United Kingdom to visit a kilometre square local to them and record the plants they find there in several different plots.

The scheme will enable us to explore how plants in different habitats are responding to changes in the environment.

It may be that there are people within your parish / community who would like to be involved in this government backed scheme which is being delivered by a partnership comprising Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland; Centre for Ecology; Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Plantlife.

### **What support will volunteers get?**

- All volunteers registering for a square on [www.npms.org.uk](http://www.npms.org.uk) will receive a survey pack (survey guidance; species list; species guidebook)
- All volunteers will be able to access telephone and email support provided by the volunteer coordinator
- All volunteers will be able to access free training courses

### **Additional information**

- Squares have been randomly selected across the UK and it is possible to see if there is a square in your area by visiting the website above.
- Volunteers are asked to record up to 30 plant species in any one square or linear plot as long as it fits into 1 of the 28 NPMS habitats
- Volunteers are asked to survey 5 plots in 1 square
- Volunteers carry out the survey of their plots 2 times per year
- Volunteers may be individuals or small groups

### **Especially need volunteers...**

Whilst we are looking for volunteers across the UK we know that we have lots of unallocated squares in: Cornwall, South Hams (Devon), Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Brecon, Pembrokeshire, Snowdonia.

### **How you can help us?**

We would be grateful if you could circulate this email within your local community or networks. We do hope that people within your local area will be inspired to take part. Why not follow us on twitter @theNPMS?

With many thanks in advance for your support.

Felicity Harris  
Head of Outreach

## Friends of the Earth Campaign News

### Have you nominated your Earthmover yet?

**Editor's Note – Although this is in the past, I thought it would be of interest.** The deadline to nominate (25 March) is getting closer and closer, so I really wanted to flag this with you and make sure that you have the link to nominate:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZZRJ CQY>

If you haven't heard about Earthmovers before, it's Friends of the Earth's prestigious annual award ceremony, celebrating the inspiring campaigns and people within the Friends of the Earth network and beyond.

The ceremony will take place at Basecamp on Saturday 13 June, which brings me nicely onto my next update.

### Do you want to be involved in promoting Basecamp ??

I'm working on promotion for Basecamp and I was wondering if you would like to be involved?

I'm looking for volunteers to help Cat (Isle of Man Friends of the Earth) and Michelle (Huddersfield Friends of the Earth) with a ringround of local groups.

They will be contacting coordinators in April and May to share some insights into what we have planned. If you'd like to do some calling too, please drop me a line at [emily.williams@foe.co.uk](mailto:emily.williams@foe.co.uk). Even if it's just a few hours, it would be fantastic to work with you.

In other news, we're developing a page on our website that will house all our policy positions. If you want to check our policy on an issue, for example nuclear power, this page is the place to look first. We've also got a brand new digital magazine, which is definitely worth checking out and a new book by Tony Juniper, "What Nature Does for Britain", is available for purchase on our website.

### Time to Act and look forward

About 20,000 climate change protesters gathered in central London on 7 March calling for strong action on climate at the Paris climate talks in December and beyond. The march was one of the first movement building events in 2015. By the time the UN climate talks come round in December our movement needs to be bigger, better and stronger than ever before.

### Over a third of schools in Northern Ireland will be solar by Easter

Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland significantly boosted the promotion of a Department of Education scheme that had set aside £10m funding for schools to go solar.

Their intervention also led to an extension to the deadline for applying to the scheme, which has resulted in a total of 315 schools being approved for solar installation. This means that, including those already using their own solar electricity, over a third of schools in Northern Ireland will be solar by Easter.

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## Friends of the Earth Campaign News, *continued*

Added to this, Northern Ireland Community Energy has launched a community share offer, which aims to fund ten photovoltaic installations on public and community buildings, including three Northern Ireland primary schools. One of the schools hoping to avail itself of this alternative funding stream is Forge Integrated Primary School in Belfast, which was one of the finalists in Friends of the Earth's competition to win photovoltaic panels.

### **Crucial vote in Wales**

On Tuesday 17 March the Welsh Assembly will vote on the final Well-being Of Future Generations Bill. This follows three years of hard work by nearly 30 organisations across Wales. Recently, the Sustainable Development Alliance has been successful in getting the Assembly to pass amendments to strengthen the Bill.

If the Assembly now votes for this Bill as amended (THEY DID) it will become law; a law which has a clear duty for public bodies to carry out sustainable development, as well as a clear definition of sustainable development.

The Well-being Of Future Generations law would also set long-term goals that tackle the big issues for the future, like climate change, and make sure that everyone knows how far and how fast we need to move to achieve them. It would also have the potential to help tackle fuel poverty, create jobs, boost the economy and help support people around the world, as well as protecting and enhancing the environment.

### **Day of Action against TTIP, 18 April**

April 18<sup>th</sup> is a Day of Action against TTIP. People in groups across the country will be taking action against TTIP and we'd love for you to join us. For anyone wanting to take action, there are some great ideas in our TTIP Action Guide. We're sure that you'll have lots of ideas of your own and we'd love to hear about them.

Let us know if you're thinking of getting involved by emailing [julien.pritchard@foe.co.uk](mailto:julien.pritchard@foe.co.uk). Check out our TTIP briefing for more information and Friends of the Earth's position.

### **Free training day on wellbeing - London, 25 April**

Are you interested in how we can guide policies towards improving wellbeing, not just increasing economic growth? We're holding a free training day on wellbeing in our London office on 25 April.

This interactive day will introduce our work on wellbeing and how this fits within our work on resources and environmental limits. It'll also provide an opportunity to take part in a trial wellbeing workshop. Groups are already running these workshops in their communities - they're bringing in new people and creating new initiatives, campaigns and alliances for a better future.

Find out more and register your interest via the FoE website.

## Info from Global Justice Now

### Who are we

Global Justice Now is a democratic social justice organisation working as part of a global movement to challenge the powerful and create a more just and equal world. We mobilise people in the UK for change, and act in solidarity with those fighting injustice, particularly in the global south.

The way the world currently works is unjust and unacceptable. A few use the world's resources to generate incredible wealth and power for themselves. Meanwhile, many millions of people are unable to access the essential resources – like food and water, housing and energy, healthcare and education – that they need to live decent lives.

Political elites have helped big business take over our resources and subvert our democracy, fuelling poverty, inequality and injustice. It remains true that poverty and injustice are most acute in the global south, which continues to be drained of its wealth and resources. But there are deepening levels of poverty in the global north.

Financial markets, one-sided trade agreements, and privatisation all take control out of the hands of the ordinary people, especially the poorest. We campaign, produce research, make policy demands and take action to expose and confront this corporate takeover. We work with others in a global movement to build alternatives which put people before profit.

A better world is possible: a world where our resources and decisions about how they're used lie in the hands

of the many, not the few; a world where resources are available to all, not just to those who can afford them.

We need to make really big changes in the world. But this won't happen overnight because power is rarely relinquished easily by those who possess it. That's why we try to build a long-term movement for justice based on the perspectives of those resisting injustice directly. This includes:

- Amplifying the voices of groups trying to prevent the takeover of their resources;
- Forging a community for change here in Britain;
- Using the political system to control the power of big business.

All of these activities help ordinary people across the world reclaim power in their societies and make the really big changes that we call economic and social justice.

### The fight for seed freedom

Today (March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015) US AID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are hosting an invite-only, secret meeting with aid donors and big seed companies to discuss a strategy to make it easier for seed companies to sell patented 'improved' seeds in Africa. However this agenda will increase corporate control over seeds, benefitting big companies at the expense of small farmers in Africa.

For generations, small farmers have been able to save and swap seeds. This vital practice enables farmers to

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## Info from Global Justice Now, *continued*

keep a wide range of seeds which helps maintain biodiversity and helps them to adapt to climate change and protect from plant disease.

However, this system of seed saving is under threat by corporations who want to take more control over seeds. Big seed companies are keen to grow their market share of commercial seeds in Africa and alongside philanthropic organisations like the Gates Foundation and aid donors, they are discussing new ways to increase their market penetration of commercial seeds and displacing farmers own seed systems.

Corporate-produced hybrid seeds often produce higher yields when first planted, but the second generation seeds will produce low yields and unpredictable crop traits, making them unsuitable for saving and storing.

This means that instead of saving seeds from their own crops, farmers who use hybrid seeds become completely dependent on the seed companies that sell them. Often the seeds are sold in packages with chemical fertiliser and pesticides which can lead to spiralling debt as well as damaging the environment and causing health problems.

Global Justice Now along with the UK Food Sovereignty Movement are protesting at the meeting today in solidarity of with small scale farmers in Africa who are fighting for their seed freedom.

### **Help Nigerian farmers resist the corporate land grab**

An area of land in Eastern Nigeria, the size of 42 thousand football pitches, is being turned into a huge rice plantation for the profit of multinational company Dominion Farms.

This land has been used by the local community for generations to feed their families and small-scale farmers depend on it for their livelihoods. The local community say they were not consulted and there is no plan for resettlement. And, incredibly, the UK government is channelling over £140m of aid money into an initiative to attract multinational corporations, including US company Dominion Farms, to Nigeria.

Already, local people have been cut off from public water systems, forced to abandon their traditional grazing rights and large fishing ponds have been filled with sand. Stand with small-scale farmers resisting the land grab and tell Dominion Farms to pull out.

Local farmer, Alhaji Mairiga Musa says "We are speaking in one voice against Dominion Farms because we are opposing their activities... They came with security personnel to evict all farmers who were working on their lands"

Take action now - tell Dominion Farms CEO Calvin Burgess to stop the land grab - <http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/>

More info about Global Justice Now (formerly WDM) from their website <http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/>

## FoE on the Budget and Toxic Air Pollution

### FoE on the 2015 Budget

Massive new tax breaks for dirty gas and oil highlights how out of touch the Government is on climate change, Friends of the Earth said today in reaction to the Chancellor's latest Budget.

George Osborne announced a package of support, including tax breaks, worth £1.3 billion to boost North Sea gas and oil. Friends of the Earth has calculated that previous tax breaks in this Parliament have already been worth over £3 billion to the industry.

Friends of the Earth's Senior Economics Campaigner David Powell said: "With growing calls to divest from fossil fuels, massive tax breaks aimed at squeezing more gas and oil out of the ground show how dangerously out of touch the Chancellor is on climate change.

"The Chancellor should heed the Bank of England's warning about the threat climate change poses to our financial well-being by ditching support for gas and oil extraction - instead of propping it up. Clean power and ending our fossil fuel addiction must be at the heart of energy and economic policy, not just a half-hearted sideshow."

### FoE - Health warning over toxic air pollution

Commenting on the ongoing high air pollution episode in the UK today, Friends of the Earth's air pollution campaigner Jenny Bates said: "Yet again people across the UK are choking on filthy air which breaches legal limits. Air pollution kills tens of

thousands of people prematurely in Britain every year, and puts extra pressure on our overstretched NHS.

"Ministers must protect our health by acting urgently on the main cause of this pollution, which is too much dirty traffic – they should scrap road-building plans and cut traffic through better cycling facilities and modern public transport. They must act so we can play our part in cutting Europe's air pollution – which would allow all of us to breathe more easily."

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### Waste4Fuel, *continued*

The six people arrested have all been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries. The investigation is ongoing and expected to take many more months to complete.

Andy Higham, Head of the Environment Agency's National Investigation Team, said: "The Environment Agency will relentlessly target organised criminals who risk damaging health, livelihoods and the environment by trading in illegal and hazardous waste for criminal gain.

"Following a covert Environment Agency investigation we have worked with the Police to arrest these suspects and secure evidence. Our enquiries will continue to probe the full extent of suspected offending.

"We take waste crime extremely seriously. This is a live and complex investigation, anyone with further information should contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

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Bill Priestley 01689-820469

**Campaigns –****Campaigns Organiser:**

*vacant*

**Transport:**

Ray Watson 01959-571566  
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**Climate and Energy:**

*vacant*

**Food and Ethical Farming:**

Peter Gandolfi details above

**Planning and development:**

Mary Stirling  
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**Campaigner:**

Annette Rose  
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**Fracking / Clean British Energy**

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**Bee Cause**

Judy Palmer  
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**Monthly Meeting reporters:**

John and Sue Bocock, Anne Clark,  
Graham Hemington, Annette Rose and  
Ray Watson

**Merchandising:**

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

**Teas:**

Mary Ingledew / Sylvia Chance

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

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

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

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**Non-members' Section**

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

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

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

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

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Email Address.....

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

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