

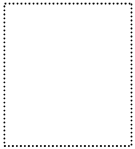


**Friends of the Earth**

**Bromley**

# June 2011 No. 282 Newsletter

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB  
email: [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com); website: [www.bromleyfoe.co.uk](http://www.bromleyfoe.co.uk)



## June Meeting

**Friends Meeting House,  
Ravensbourne Road, Bromley**

### **Improving the environment for everyone**

*Stewardship of a unique, unspoiled area of woodland within the school site provides practical learning opportunities.*

**Martin Bishop, Site Manager, Bullers Wood School**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June - 7.30pm.**

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by **SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**. Contact details inside front cover.

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***FoE's Greater South East Gathering – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June – see page 14***

### Diary dates:

<b>June 7<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's June meeting:</b> Martin Bishop on Bullers Wood School's Ecosystem
<b>June 11<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's High Street stall</b> – Energy Bill
<b>June 25<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>FoE Greater South East Gathering:</b> Bonhill House, 1-3 Bonhill St, London EC2A 4BX
<b>June 26<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Keston Countryside Day</b>
<b>July 5<sup>th</sup> (Tues)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE's July meeting</b>
<b>July 9<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Chesfield Village Fair:</b> Bromley FoE stall
<b>July 31<sup>st</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>Afternoon tea at Birch House</b> (see below for details)
<b>Sept 9-11</b>	<b>FoE local groups conference,</b> Nottingham University
<b>Oct 15 (Sat)</b>	<b>Bromley FoE campaign stall,</b> Bromley High Street

### Join us for Tea and Cakes on the Lawn – and more!

Note the date for a fun event new to Bromley FoE: Saturday July 30 at 3pm. Where: Ray and Marina welcome you to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham Hill, for a social get-together -- and some surprise items too!. There are ancient woods to inspect for those who want a short walk.

Refreshments and snacks will be provided, with all of the £4 charge going to BFoE funds. Family members are welcome but places are limited so please let us know if you will be joining us – phone 01959 571566 or email [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com). If wet, we will go into the house.

Grays Road runs from the Spinning Wheel pub at the top of Westerham Hill towards Knockholt where it joins Cudham Lane South. Birch House is just over a mile from the Spinning Wheel or half a mile from Cudham Lane South. While there are spasmodic buses to the Spinning Wheel and Cudham Lane South, there are none through Grays Road. There is plenty of parking at Birch House.

Looking forward to seeing you for a relaxed afternoon.

### 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> JUNE:**

**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

## May meeting report – Neville White, Amnesty International

Report by Ray Watson

In its 50 years' existence Amnesty International, which fights on human rights issues, has build up support in 150 countries – but it is not worldwide. Why? Because dictators and others in power clamp down on it because it gets results.

Neville White, chairman of Bromley and Orpington branch, spoke about some of the organisation's campaigning and asked the question: Does it work? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that it has expanded enormously over 50 years, has a powerful international network of groups -- and it influences governments, even those who have atrocious human rights policies. It primarily achieves this by getting its members to write lettered en masse to bring a spotlight on those suffering because their human rights have been stripped away.

He also asked the question: was Amnesty still needed? The proof of that was clear from just listing stories published in newspapers over a recent few days – and he quoted two dozen examples, ranging from violence against civilians in Libya and Syria to the arrest and imprisonment of an opposition leader in Uganda.

But, he said, it was not all bad news. For example, a number of dictators in North Africa had been thrown out while since 1977 the number of countries banning the death sentence had risen from 16 to over 100, in part due to pressure on governments.

Amnesty was formed as a result of one man's protest in 1961. A Briton, Peter Benenson, was outraged when two students in Portugal – then a dictatorship – were savagely beaten for raising a banner calling for freedom. He wrote a letter to The Observer newspaper and received huge support from readers when he asked them to write to the Portuguese government about the incident.

Since then Amnesty has focused on the treatment handed out to individuals such as prisoners of conscience, putting pressure on governments through publicity and by getting hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of letters sent to transgressors.

Amnesty also organises its members to send letters or cards to comfort prisoners, like those held without trial, to let them know that they are not forgotten.

He said the organisation's growth had come about because it captures a person's sense of outrage when a human rights violation issue appears. The UK budget is £23 million annually, much raised locally, and membership is 250,000, connected through 276 local groups. But in order to retain its independence no money is taken from governments and little from business.

The movement is very popular among the young; there are 648 youth and school groups and 102 student groups. There are also 220 trade union affiliates.

*/continued on page 6*

## Campaigns information, from Ann Garrett

### June 11th Campaign Stall

This as usual will be outside Caffè Nero from 2.00 - 4.00 pm in Bromley High Street or in the Mall precinct if the weather is bad. We will have general FoE leaflets and information on the Localism Bill including a letter for people to sign.

The Bill introduces the welcome concept of Neighbourhood Planning and creates a new community planning system which would be paid for by communities, but the cost burden of this raises great concerns.

Other factors include the removal of the need for planning permission, which could remove the opportunity to comment, and 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', which is ambiguous and could leave the door open for inappropriate developments. The 'larger than local matters' area although boosting environment aims, falls short on tackling those issues which rely on local action, but which cannot be dealt with solely locally due to the demise of the regional tier of planning.

### Energy and Climate - Carbon Reduction and Sustainability in Theatre Production

I attended an important forum at Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance in Sidcup on April 14th called 'Paint it Green'. The aims were to consider what can be done to improve the environment of theatres and their productions, investigate whether technical and design courses in theatre production are preparing students sufficiently to meet the UK Government's targets on carbon

reduction, and respond to the responsibilities producers and employers have to sustainability.

Philip Wigley, Director of Professional Development at the College, in his introduction spoke of the Higher Education Funding Council's aim of influencing institutions to cut their emissions by 50% by 2020, and the importance of behavioural change in colleges.

Sian Alexander of Julies Bicycle, an organisation formed to devise strategies to improve energy management in the performing arts, explained how this organisation helps the creative industries to navigate climate change and environmental responsibility. A coalition of theatre, music and scientific experts meet regularly to set up training and monitor what is happening in the creative arts industries. This involves inspecting the energy efficiency of buildings and the use of sustainable materials in scenic design and building.

Tim Atkinson from the Theatres Trust described the Eco Venue Initiative, which involves encouraging and supporting the building of sustainable theatre venues and rehearsal rooms in the fringe as well as mainstream. He mentioned the use of energy meters, weather data and monitoring water consumption, and generally creating greater awareness of how sites are being run.

Participants in the final discussion included theatre directors, technicians,

*/continued on page 6*

## Transport information, from Ray Watson

### Make cuts here!

Why have so few politicians missed the chance to make a sizeable inroad into the country's deficit by taking aim at the heavily-subsidised aviation industry? Friends in high places? Who knows? What is abundantly clear is that aviation should take more than its share of the cuts now going on all over the country because for years it has enjoyed tax advantages. It escapes VAT and fuel duty.

All of which means that, according to the Aviation Environment Federation, if all of the industry's tax breaks were removed that would reduce by over 20 per cent the cuts the Government is making.

The aviation industry must be worried because they have formed an alliance of 25 airlines, airports, destinations and tour operators to launch a campaign to persuade the Government not to increase air passenger duty, claiming it will put the tourism industry at a disadvantage to European countries. What they fail to mention is that because of subsidies Britain has some of the lowest air fares in comparison to other forms of transport.

### Car scheme a slow starter

Here is how you can get £5000 from the Government. Just buy an electric car.

The scheme was introduced to encourage buyers because an electric car can typically cost a third more than a petrol or diesel vehicle, but only about 500 have been ordered so far. Fortunately, the scheme has enough

finance for 8,600 cars in 2011 -- just as well because at least three manufacturers will be announcing new electric models this year.

Another cheering fact is that the AA estimate that electric cars can be run at about 2p per mile compared with 14p per mile for similar sized diesel or petrol engines. And they are exempt from excise duty.

### Rail records

Latest figures show that rail's boom time is continuing, with passenger loads higher than ever, which, experts say, is due mainly to soaring motoring costs. Environmentalists can rightly say that their pressure to get the Government to spend more on rail is paying off.

Travellers will benefit from a reduction in the overcrowding and disruption for which the Great Western and east coast lines have become notorious. The London-Cardiff route will be electrified and 500 new carriages will be built, though this is a lot less than planned by the previous Labour Government. Total cost of the project is over £2 billion.

### Sign of the times?

Biofuels are still causing suspicion among motorists. The E10 fuel which contains 10 percent bioethanol has now gone on sale in Germany but many motorists are ignoring it, causing a run on pumps serving regular petrol. This has resulted in queues at filling stations because many reduced the number of their standard fuel pumps in

*/continued on page 7*

## Of Fairs, Fêtes, and Continuations

### Fairs and Fêtes

This summer we shall have a Friends of the Earth stall at the Keston Countryside Day, which this year is on 26<sup>th</sup> June (no clash with Wimbledon this year!) This day did not happen last year but is being reinstated for 2011. It's always a fun day with a lot of local environmentally minded exhibits as well as entertainments from schools and the Ravensbourne Morris Men.

On 9<sup>th</sup> July we shall be at the Chelsfield Village Fair and on August Bank Holiday Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, we shall again be at the Cudham Fete.

Our Friends of the Earth stall is usually a great attraction to families. While the children fish for ducks, we engage the parents in our issues and encourage them to sign postcards. We also have a treasure hunt game for children.

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### May meeting report, *continued*

Neville forecast that future areas to be tackled would include environmental questions such as land grabs and water disputes, plus more enforced evictions as occurred in the Balkans, maternal health – 'one woman dies every minute due to pregnancy problems' – corporate responsibility and trafficking of women and children.

Also, terrorism would continue, bringing further extraordinary rendition and torture cases. To this end he noted that Britain was the largest exporter of torture tools.

Bromley and Orpington branch of Amnesty is one of the oldest, originating in 1962 through Petts Wood

churches. It meets on the second Tuesday of every month at Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, while Beckenham branch meets every fourth Tuesday at various locations.

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### Campaigns report, *continued*

designers, tutors from production courses at drama schools and universities, and a range of other performing arts practitioners. I was there as a drama tutor and was also the only person from Friends of the Earth so it was an opportunity to mention the influence of our campaigns. There was a consensus that sustainability should underpin all courses with best practice and skills training guidelines being produced, and possible master class links between institutions.

### Energy and Climate - Norwegian fjords could provide us with electricity

The Norwegian fjords could be used as a giant battery to power Britain under plan being promoted by ministers.

Energy secretary Chris Huhne is pushing the plan for a European 'supergrid'. It would see a huge electricity cable laid between Britain and Norway to take advantage of hydro-electric power. During times of low demand here, excess electricity would travel under the North sea to pump water from a low lake to a high lake in Norway. At times of high demand, the water would generate electricity which would return under the sea to British homes. These details have emerged as a new cable linking Britain and Holland was switched on.

## A Soapbox Item – As Others See Us, from Ray Watson

The recently published book by ex-PM Tony Blair, *Tony Blair- A Journey* published by Hutchinson, has a surprisingly harsh comment on activist organisations such as FoE. One wonders why when, to take one example, he has over the years received much support from such groups for his drive to improve the lot of poor African nations.

A passage in the book hits out like this: 'I came to dislike part of the NGO culture, especially the Green groups. NGOs do a great job but the trouble with some of them is that while they are treated by the media as concerned citizens, which they are, they are organisations raising money, marketing themselves and competing with other NGOs. Because their entire *raison d'être* is to get policy changed, they can hardly say yes, we've done it, without putting themselves out of business'

One is tempted to respond to this as pure nonsense. In case he has not noticed, environmental and other pressure groups have enough causes and campaigns to last them for a century, so winning the occasional one is hardly likely to put them out of business.

He goes on to say that such groups are playing the media game adeptly – 'it is all 'outrage', 'betrayal', 'crisis', - balance is not in the vocabulary'. Are we to assume that activists are the only ones making efforts to get heard via the media? Do politicians never spin? Offer an MP (or PM) the chance

to appear on TV and you would be severely damaged in the rush.

Tony Blair also attacks the Greens over nuclear power, the case for which he says is overwhelming. 'Frankly, it is almost irresponsible to oppose its development. I bet that many of them know that privately but it would be such heresy to say so, and that would divide the movement'

While acknowledging that this was written before the nuclear holocaust in Japan, it just shows how wrong you can be.

Finally, he sums up that NGOs are 'treated as independent observers when they clearly aren't. Partly they campaign for a cause, and partly for vested interests'. He adds: 'This does not mean that everything they say is wrong, and they are part of a healthy democracy'.

Well, thank you for at least recognising that. Much good in changing attitudes and policies has been done in the UK by NGOs, including FoE. Perhaps Mr Blair should be reminded of just one such occasion when his Government was forced by FoE and others to pass the Climate Change Act, the first such act in the world.

**Transport info, the final few words** readiness for E10. An added factor was that BP, the main producer of E10, cut its output of the fuel, adding to the pressure on standard petrol supplies.

*Sorry, no room for final paragraph*

## The Green Thing

*This has been circulating around various email lists recently.*

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bag because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained: "We didn't have the Green Thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. The former generation did not care enough to save our environment." He was right; that generation didn't have the Green Thing in its day.

Back then, they returned their milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized & refilled so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the Green Thing back in that customer's day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she was right; they didn't have the Green Thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters,

not always brand-new clothing. But that lady was right; they didn't have the Green Thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house....not a TV in every room. The TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for them. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; they didn't have the Green Thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a paper cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled their writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the Green Thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus, and kids walked, rode their bikes, or rode the school bus instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi

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## THE ENVIRONMENT – Are we winning? *from Sheila Brown*

Have we really made progress in our environmental thinking over the past two decades? There is certainly a lot more awareness of global warming, carbon emissions, personal carbon footprint, recycling – **but**

So many everyday items that we do not even think about are disposable, for instance, ballpoint pens – the refillable ones are now a rarity and the fountain pen even rarer, and when it does exist it is refilled by disposable plastic cartridges.

The whole cosmetics industry is a huge purveyor of, often very handsome, plastic packaging, which usually constitutes a far higher proportion of the total product than its contents. Everything is disposable.

Washable terry nappies have all but disappeared with a strong reliance on disposables – and the vast quantity of these going to landfill is truly staggering.

At one time our doorstep delivery reusable glass milk bottles were an exemplary illustration of good practice; then the whole structure of the milk supply industry changed, and cheap milk in plastic bottles from the supermarkets has undermined this practice, with now very few people sticking to their environmental principles and using returnable milk bottles.

I think it is in the area of cleaning products that we have seen the worst new trend, with almost all products now sold with trigger action tops (more plastic). Any move towards re-fillable

bottles seems to have come to nought. And to make your cleaning even more effortless, there are all sorts of impregnated disposable cloths and wipes – no more recycling of old vests for the current generation!

As to the giant strides made by technology with computers, telephones, televisions, radios and personal entertainment items rapidly being overtaken by new technology, dare one even confront the enormity of the disposal problem this has created? And when we have to switch entirely to digital radio and television – what a mountain of obsolete equipment this will cause.

Environmental campaigning focuses on big issues, and all the while there has been a stealthy takeover of the everyday elements of people's lives.

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**The Green Thing**, *continued*  
service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. They didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how "wasteful" the old folks were just because they didn't have the Green Thing back then?

### All Around My Patch

**Articles Needed - please contact the editor at the address on page 2 if you can help**

## FoE and Alternatives to Nuclear Power

Responding to a new report published by the Energy and Climate Change Select, in which MPs warn that current Government proposals on Electricity Market Reform (EMR) will effectively subsidise nuclear power, Friends of the Earth renewed its call on the Government to commit to decarbonising the grid by 2030 and prioritising the development of safer, greener alternatives to nuclear such as renewable energy and measures to cut energy waste.

Friends of the Earth's senior economy campaigner Simon Bullock said:

"This report shows the Government's plans are stacked in favour of nuclear power over renewable energy and are so vague they risk locking the UK into a new generation of polluting fossil fuels.

"We don't need to gamble on new nuclear power - by boosting green energy alternatives and slashing energy waste we can tackle climate change and create new jobs."

The Coalition Agreement promised that there would be no public subsidy for new nuclear power, but MPs believe that new long term contracts with nuclear power stations and a carbon price floor will hand them windfall profits.

The committee's recommendations include:

- \* The Government should accept the advice of the Committee on Climate Change to decarbonise the grid by 2030 and put this at the heart of EMR;

- \* A stronger Emissions Performance Standard is put in place to wean the UK off fossil fuels and switch to renewable energy;
- \* A new type of feed-in tariff should be established through EMR to help develop major renewable energy projects and other clean technologies
- \* The wholesale electricity market should be fundamentally reformed to break-up the power of the Big Six energy companies;
- \* EMR should include an energy demand reduction objective.

### FoE warns on Localism Bill

Too much power for businesses and vague wording in the Localism Bill could give way to 'free for all' development and urban sprawl, Friends of the Earth warned as MPs prepared to vote on the Localism Bill.

FoE has written to Localism Minister Greg Clark with concerns about recent amendments to the Localism Bill that will enable businesses to bypass the planning system and obtain planning permission for new commercial developments without having to consult the local authority.

FoE argues that this is exacerbated by the lack of an explicit definition of sustainable development in the Bill, which leaves wording open to interpretation by businesses who may seek to develop areas for commercial gain at the expense of local communities, wildlife and the environment.

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**Letter from Caroline Lucas, MP - *Environment and business are compatible***

***This letter from Caroline Lucas, Green MP for Brighton Pavilion, was published in the Guardian recently***

The CBI report calling for urgent government action to boost confidence in low-carbon energy reveals the extent to which Cameron's coalition faces a crisis of faith on its green policies (Report, 26 April).

The criticism from the UK's business community, as well as by NGOs and environmental campaigners, represents a strong and coherent call for change - and demolishes the myth that environment and business are incompatible.

This government has so far failed to engage with business to deliver the transition to a low-carbon economy we so desperately need if the UK is to meet its targets on carbon emissions and renewable energy. With its misguided U-turn on subsidies for solar panels, the coalition created real uncertainty in one of the few industries to generate thousands of new jobs in recent months.

The green investment bank, one of the coalition's flagship green policies, could have been the key to unlocking the £450bn in finance for renewable energy needed in the next 15 years. But thanks to Treasury interference, it's now a bank that can't borrow.

These policy turnarounds do nothing to encourage the confidence and trust needed to attract long-term investment. And neither does the inclusion of the Climate Change Act and other key environmental laws in

the government's insidious red tape challenge.

Labour would have you believe it was greener. Yet after 13 years of a Labour government, the UK was getting more of its energy from fossil fuels than in 1997. Road building increased, aviation grew, and Britain languished at the bottom of the EU's renewable energy league.

Business and environmentalists are united in their call on the government to deliver a consistent message on support for renewables. Without greater clarity and certainty, the UK's massive green potential may never be realised - to the detriment of both our economy and our environment.

**FoE warns on Localism Bill, *cont'd***

FoE's Executive Director Andy Atkins said: "The Localism Bill is becoming a sham - giving more planning power to businesses without proper safeguards is unfair and risks paving the way to a development 'free for all' at the expense of people and wildlife.

"As well as boosting local economies, businesses have a vital role to play in cutting carbon emissions and protecting the natural environment - we need a policy framework that ensures they will deliver.

"To protect future generations and build a greener, fairer future, Ministers must properly define sustainable development and place it firmly at the heart of the Localism Bill, Big Society, and the entire planning system."

## CAAT news - Gaining momentum

Time and again, the Government responds to our campaigning with the assurance that it has a "responsible" policy on arms sales. Now, the evidence that it is otherwise is there for all to see.

### Equipment

In the last year, the Government approved the supply of equipment including tear gas, crowd control ammunition and sniper rifles to Libya and Bahrain, even though both are authoritarian regimes with a well-documented record of human rights abuses. Armoured vehicles sold by the UK have been used against protesters in Libya, and Saudi Arabia sent UK-made vehicles to help crush pro-democracy protests in Bahrain.

### Opinions

CAAT has been working hard to make sure that this gets the coverage it deserves — and now it's not just anti-arms trade activists asking tricky questions. A February opinion poll reported that only 7 per cent of people thought that the UK was right to sell arms to Libya.

So how were such licences approved in the first place? Quite simply, they were approved because, whatever Government policy says, Government practice is all about selling arms.

### Routine

Unfortunately Libya is not a one-off. The UK routinely supplies regimes that have appalling human rights records. These include Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Israel and Sri Lanka. Successive UK governments have promoted the sale of arms and internal

security equipment with virtually no discrimination.

The current Government is no different — except it has expressed concern that its predecessors were a little too squeamish and proclaimed it has "no embarrassment" about its plans to increase arms exports.

### Selling

Unbelievably there was little embarrassment from the Government when, in the midst of brutal suppression of protest, the Prime Minister chose to go ahead with an arms promotion tour in the Middle East.

At the same time, a large UK delegation was displaying its wares at the regional arms fair IDEX. This included representatives from the UK Trade & Investment Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), which has designated Libya and Saudi Arabia as "priority markets" for UK arms.

It is clear that the focus of UK government policy is on promoting, not controlling, arms sales — and while this remains the case, a "responsible" arms export policy is impossible.

### DSEI

In September, the Government plans, once again, to support a massive arms fair in London. This cannot happen again. Our campaign has huge momentum at the moment. Public opinion is with us. Together we can end the arms fair, and end the promotion of arms sales to dictators.

## Jubilee Debt Campaign info

### **Great news: we've won again on Vulture Funds!**

Last month the British Government announced that it will make the Vulture Funds Law permanent. This law restricts the ability of unscrupulous financial companies — Vulture Funds — to buy up cheap 'Third World' debts, then sue developing countries for huge profits in British courts. We fought hard to get the law onto the statute books last year, but it was due to expire in June.

The news that it will become permanent is an incredible victory in the face of lobbying from the powerful financial services industry. It is testament to your support and activism — and to the power of campaigning. The law has already saved the west African country of Liberia around £25 million, and will now protect 40 of the world's poorest countries from these vultures.

### **Putting Dodgy Deals in the spotlight**

Our priority campaign in 2011 is to end Britain's Dodgy Deals. The little-known Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is owed £2 billion by developing countries as a result of dodgy deals like weapons to repressive regimes and dirty energy projects. We are uniting human rights, poverty and environmental groups to bring this department out of the shadows.

Business Secretary Vince Cable has been inundated with Dodgy Deals postcards. We are also stirring things up in Parliament, where Lisa Nandy MP is introducing a draft law which would audit the ECGD's debts and

prohibit support for the export of damaging products. But we have a long way to go if we're to challenge the vested interests who want to keep the ECGD's unjust debts a secret. You can use the order form in Drop It! to order more copies of our Dodgy Deals campaign materials.

### **In the past year:**

- The UK government announced it will make the vulture funds law permanent
- 8,000 people joined our campaign to cancel debts to Britain which result from dodgy deals
- We called for the new state of South Sudan not to be born into debt
- We campaigned for Pakistan to receive debt cancellation in the wake of floods
- We joined the call for a debt audit in Greece, to ensure people have a say over their economies across the world
- Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Togo have received debt relief, bring the total to \$120 billion for 32 countries

### **Winning the argument for Debt justice**

The world is changing. Witness the recent events in Europe, North Africa, the global South. More than at any time since the Jubilee campaign was launched, people around the world desperately need a new financial system — one based on debt justice, freeing people from the chains of debt and their ongoing dependence on financial markets.

Contact Jubilee Debt Campaign at [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk), [info@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](mailto:info@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk), or 020-7324-4722.

## Bromley Council - Garden Waste Sites Re-open

Bromley's green garden waste sites have reopened for the gardening season.

Five temporary sites operate every weekend, taking grass cuttings and prunings from residents for turning into compost. The sites save gardeners having to travel and queue at our busy permanent sites in Waldo Road, Bromley and Churchfields Road, Beckenham.

The sites are open each Saturday from 11am to 4pm and Sunday from 8am to 12 noon. The free local sites will be available until November 27<sup>th</sup> at:

- Beckenham, Unicorn Primary School (Creswell Drive off South Eden Park Road)
- Biggin Hill, Charles Darwin School (Jail Lane)
- Bromley, Norman Park (Hook Farm Road entrance off Bromley Common, A21)
- Green Street Green, Salt Depot (Shire Lane 'spur', off Sevenoaks Road)

- St Paul's Cray, Cotmandene Crescent car park (off Chipperfield Road)

Please note, the St Georges Road car park site in Beckenham has closed and is replaced by the Unicorn Primary School car park in Creswell Drive.

There will also be temporary site-closures

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Bromley Norman Park closed for the Bromley Pageant of Motoring

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Beckenham Unicorn Primary School closed for Summer Fayre

To use the temporary sites, you will need to show your waste permit or proof of residence such as a recent utility bill. Please be aware that garden waste is not accepted outside operating hours - sites are closely monitored and fly-tippers will be prosecuted.

## Greater South East Gathering – Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>

The next regional gathering for the Greater South East will be in London on Saturday 25 June 2011. If you're a local group member or thinking about getting involved locally this event is for you.

The Gathering brings together group members and staff to discuss environmental issues, campaign tactics and everything in between.

The venue is Bonhill House, Bonhill House, 1-3 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4BX - close to Liverpool Street and Old Street stations.

It's free to attend the Gathering but we'd be grateful if you could let us know you're coming. You can book online at <http://gserg.eventbrite.com/> or by calling Tom Wright on 020 7566 1673.

## Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

### Co-ordinators:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605  
*email – sheilabrown336@msn.com*  
Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295  
*anncgarrett@yahoo.com*

### Campaigns Organiser:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Secretary:

Ray Watson 01959-571566  
*r.watson865@btinternet.com*

### Treasurer:

Debbie Witherick  
*debbie.witherick@sky.com*

### Press Officer:

vacant

### Programme Organiser:

Sheila Brown 01689-851605

### Outings organisers:

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*johnboccock@hotmail.com*

### Newsletter Editor:

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*johnstreet@gn.apc.org*

### Membership Secretary:

Dan Sloan 01689-838819

### Merchandising:

Anne Clark 020-8289-8483

### Teas:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

### Campaigns –

### Transport:

Ray Watson 01959-571566

### Climate and Energy:

Ann Garrett 020-8460-1295

### Food and Ethical Farming:

Peter Gandolfi details below

### Planning and development:

Tamara Galloway 01689-855352  
*tamaragalloway@yahoo.com*

### Waste and Recycling

Annette Rose  
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### Bromley FoE web site:

***www.bromleyfoe.co.uk***  
Peter Gandolfi  
*famgando@hotmail.com*

### Letters to the Editor

Why not write us a letter if you have a strong opinion on something or just want to share your thoughts. Send them in and perhaps even start a discussion - who knows.

### Need a lift to meetings?

If you require a lift to Bromley FoE meetings, please contact Ray Watson or Sheila Brown on the numbers shown above.

### Disclaimer

Please note that any opinion expressed in this Newsletter is not necessarily that of Bromley Friends of the Earth or Friends of the Earth.

**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 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 either of our co-ordinators, Sheila Brown (01689-851605) or Ann Garrett (020-8460-1295); their email addresses are 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 should be sent to: Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham, Kent, TN16 2JB; phone 01959-571566, email [r.watson865@btinternet.com](mailto:r.watson865@btinternet.com).

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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