



Friends of the Earth

Bromley

Newsletter

May 2012
No. 293

Bromley FoE: inquiries to Birch House, Grays Road, Westerham TN16 2JB
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May Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

The Plight of our Bees

*To mark the launch of FoE's campaign - **The Bee Cause**, we will look at the problems that Bees face, plus solutions and how we can all help halt the decline in their numbers.*

Tuesday 1st May - 7.30pm.

Everyone welcome – bring a friend

Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

SUNDAY 20TH MAY.

Contact details inside front cover.

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Do you know about Walk to Work week ?? See page 14

Diary dates:

May 1st (Tues)	Bromley FoE's May meeting: Peter Gandolfi on The Plight of our Bees
June 5th (Tues)	NO JUNE MEETING because of the Jubilee bank holiday but on the following Tuesday ...
June 12th (Tues)	Field trip to Bullers Wood School woodland habitat. Guided tour by Martin Bishop, 7.30pm start. (Replaces June 5 th meeting which clashes with the Jubilee bank holiday)
June 16th (Sat)	Bromley FoE Campaign stall , Bromley High Street
July 8th (Sun)	Keston Countryside Day – sign up to help at May meeting
July 14th (Sat)	Chelsfield Village Fair – sign up at May meeting
Sept 14/16	FoE local groups conference , Imperial College, London

May meeting - The Plight of our Bees

Bees are vital to our food supply and economy but are under threat and, without them, so are our food supply and ecosystems.

To mark the launch of FoE's campaign - **The Bee Cause**, the problems that Bees face will be looked at, together with solutions and how we can all help halt the decline in their numbers.

Re-user items [3]

Wall lights brass fittings and tulip-shaped glass shades; 2 single, one double. Matching central pendant light with 5 lights. Small donation to Bromley FoE.

Louvre doors, pine, suitable for wardrobes or cupboards; 6 sized 62½" x 21" (535 x 1590mm) and 6 sized 21" x 21" (159 x 159mm). Small donation to Bromley FoE.

Contact Sheila Brown 01689 851605.

Next Newsletter - copy details:

Any news, articles, poems, questions, views etc for the next Newsletter must be with the editor **by SUNDAY 20TH MAY:**

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

by phone to: 020-8460-1078, **by email** to: johnstreet@gn.apc.org.

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

April meeting report – from Anne Clark

Christopher Lloyd, journalist, lecturer, author and educationalist really did give us 4 Billion Years of Nature in 40 Minutes at our emergency venue in South St.

He explained that he wanted to capture youngsters' enthusiasm away from the 'bitty trench between science & history in the school curriculum'.

He donned a large coat with large pockets and delving into them one by one, we found clues which told a story. The Greeks used 'brain training to pass on knowledge, other than reading and writing.

In the first pocket was a bottle of WATER, said to have arrived on Earth via asteroids crashing into us and eventually forming 70% of world coverage. Another pocket produced a jar of air containing OXYGEN to form 'life': 35% of oxygen, years ago, brought huge life forms i.e. rats the size of donkeys, but when that dropped to 12%, a mass extinction occurred.

When no oxygen exists there would be a red sky. He went on to tell us about photosynthesis and 3.7bn years ago, bacteria were formed, producing food, and it massed together for protection, forming cells and nucleus. DNA reproduces for sexual reproduction in seas, to prevent extinction.

Delving in another pocket, he produced a FOSSIL or Trilobite of a woodlouse-like creature which evidently, could see and focus. Other life had genes & muscles and the instinct to survive.

FUNGUS was the first life form to emerge from the sea, 450 million years ago. Fish which don't rely on gravity had to form legs from fins, adopt neck bones and air breathing lungs to exist on land. Eggs were laid away from water so most had water inside a shell.

Some REPTILES including dinosaurs, were wiped out 65mn years ago, maybe as a result of an asteroid. PLANT life formed, flowers produced pollen to be collected by insects, fertilizing and becoming dominant. Dead trees formed coal, but none was formed during the mass extinction period due to lack of oxygen.

CHALK tells us of drifting continents and climate change. In the Ice age creatures adapted by forming more fat. A lack of trees urged apes to stand, use hands for making tools and for protection and hunting.

Volcanoes and super-volcanoes have periodically come and gone with self replicating genetic molecules which emerge near sulphur-rich hydrothermal vents made from organic chemicals that may have been brought by comets. So life could survive another mass extinction in the future though humankind must deplete in some way.

Christopher came up to date without pausing for breath but to explain things in more detail, he has produced books and an illustrated, giant wall chart - rather like the Bayeux tapestry, called "What on Earth" for young & old alike. Those interested can contact him at chris@whatonearthbooks.com. All in all, a very entertaining speaker.

Campaigns, Climate and Energy – Ann Garrett

A FoE campaign stall was held at The Friends Meeting House on April 30th and 31st, as part of the Bromley Quakers 50th birthday celebrations. There were many placards about peace and information about their tireless work in this area. There was a steady trickle of visitors throughout the two days and people signed the energy and nuclear train petitions. Many thanks to those people who came to help - your support was much appreciated, and I think we were an important presence there.

Our next Bromley High Street stall will be about the Bees Campaign on Saturday June 16th from 2.30 - 4.30 pm outside Caffe Nero.

Climate and Energy

RWE and E.on prepare to sell UK nuclear project

RWE and E.on said on March 29th that they would not proceed with their plans for reactors in South Wales and Gloucestershire. This basically leaves the government's energy plans in tatters. Unite and GMB unions are worried of course about jobs, but environmental groups have stated that nuclear power is not a viable option under the circumstances.

It was reported on April 9th, however, that RWE and E.on have kicked off plans to sell their UK nuclear plant joint venture. They have consulted lawyers, corporate advisers, and investment banks to come up with ideas as to how they can sell Horizon Nuclear Power.

An industry source has said that this is a seriously proper sales mandate

where the selected adviser will have to create bidders. Their proposed stations could cost more than £15 billion. Because of the complicated nature of the business, which still has to select the reactor designs, the sale process could stretch into 2013.

FoE energy campaigner Paul Steedman has commented : "With energy firms abandoning plans for nuclear across Europe, the government should end its fixation with a technology that has always delivered late, and over budget on the odd occasion it has delivered at all."

It's going to be a tough job for anti-nuclear campaigners nevertheless when faced with big business wheeling and dealing. The only hope in the end is that the new nuclear reactors will prove too expensive in this age of austerity.

Solar Power Generation

The Prime Minister has been accused of hypocrisy of hosting a major green energy conference and at the same time slashing subsidies for solar power generation.

The Third Clean Energy Ministerial conference, featuring more than 20 ministers from the world's leading economies will take place in late April. Although the High Court ruled last month it was unlawful to cut the a new feed-in tariff for solar power generation, anyone who generates electricity through solar power could only gain benefits till the end of March.

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Figure it out... + Sustainable farming email

Figure It Out...

As ever, politicians twist a few words to suit their cause, and even the most exalted are guilty from time to time. Given that we have an airport in our territory – Biggin Hill – Bromley FoE keeps a watch on what is said about airport expansion, and we noticed this example of weasel words from George Osborne MP, chancellor of the exchequer.

In his budget speech he foreshadowed a change in government policy which previously was that there would never be a third runway at Heathrow, saying that 'we must confront the lack of airport capacity in the south east'. However, expert activists say that Gatwick is operating at 80 per cent capacity and Stansted at 50 per cent, and indeed, Gatwick is handling two million passengers less than five years ago.

Politicians are also spreading the myth that our airlines do not have the slots to allow them to serve expanding cities in countries like China. Not so, say Gatwick's well-respected conservation group, the slots are there and if there was enough business, airlines would have used them to meet demand.

Sustainable farming – email sent to the Minister for Agriculture

Graham Hemington recently sent this email to Jim Paice, Minister for Agriculture:

Dear Minister,

One year ago at Friends of the Earth's Sustainable Livestock Symposium, the Minister for Agriculture, Jim Paice, promised to take action to promote sustainable farming.

I am pleased to see some progress on research into soy alternatives for animal feed.

I am however concerned at the lack of action in some key areas, like on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the use of food waste as animal feed, the promotion and education of sustainable diets and in helping farmers to sell direct to consumers.

An urgent priority is a CAP that helps farmers shift to planet friendly farming across Europe. With the CAP being debated now, DEFRA should be leading calls for green reforms.

Please can you ensure that DEFRA:

- Demands that all farmers receiving greening payments implement crop rotations with legumes
- Supports payments to increase the amount of home grown protein crops - reducing our dependence on imported soy
- Redirects payments from large farms to smaller farms and farms with high nature value
- Publishes a paper outlining its policies on the CAP reform that will shift the UK towards planet-friendly meat and dairy farming.

Visit to Hinkley Nuclear Power Station, Ms J Etter

The demo at Hinkley on March 10th was organised by the “Stop Nuclear Power Network” to mark the first anniversary on March 11th of the Fukushima disaster.

We boarded our coach at 7.30am at the Embankment and set off. It was a four hour journey, but seemed to pass quite quickly with info given out and passed round and conversation. Also we were given origami instructions on how to make a paper crane bird-of-peace.

We arrived at about 11.30am, the sun was out and it turned out to be a lovely day. We walked up the lane to join the other round and conversation. Also we were around 1,000 people, the largest anti-nuclear power demo since 1979.

There were several speakers, including CND general secretary Kate Hudson, Green MP Caroline Lucas, environmentalist Jonathan Porritt and, importantly, Fukushima refugees. Akiko and Makoto Jahiyama described what it was like to live through the disaster. Citizens only had one hour, wearing anti-radiation suits, to go back with bin bags to salvage what they could of their possessions.

Unfortunately, the PA system was not working correctly, so unless you were quite near, you couldn't all that was said.

Also, there were complaints that there was no proper organisation, and people were unclear as to what was happening and when. Nevertheless, we knew we were going to surround the site where they intend to build Hinkley C, the first of a new generation of UK nuclear power stations. Well, we did this, put up banners and ribbons and signs and at a

given time made as much noise as possible, some with old saucepans and wooden spoons.

Although this was a serious message, there was a carnival atmosphere, with lots of people and children in fancy dress and colourful clothes. There was an eight piece jazz group who wandered about entertaining us with their songs and music and who were all dressed in garments of shocking pink, one guy had a black skirt, hairy legs and a pink boa!

There were stalls selling wonderful veggie food, so nice I took some home, and tea, coffee and soft drinks stalls, as well as a compost toilet if required.

There was a perfect though hilarious example of 'Green Energy' with a guy furiously pedalling a stationary bicycle, on the back of which was a juicer. His companion was making lovely drinks out of mangos, pineapples and bananas and selling them. This had the bonus of the rider benefitting from lots of exercise.

Some people were going to stay overnight to blockade the existing power station and took sleeping bags. The police were mostly friendly and laid back, they had an easy day just hanging around enjoying the sunshine, there was no trouble.

After walking around, chatting to various people, many of whom had come from nearby Glastonbury and Bristol and certainly did not relish a new 'neighbour' we the rejoined our coach at 5.30pm and were back at Embankment by 9.30pm, I got home around 11. A very eventful and successful day.

Questions re nuclear waste trains + Beckenham development

Nuclear Waste Trains Questions

The following questions were asked to Bromley Council Executive on April 11th by Richard Hart of Bromley and Beckenham CND and as a result they decided to ask for an updated risk assessment from Network Rail.

Question to the Executive

Since trains carrying Nuclear Waste continue to travel from Dungeness through stations in the London Borough of Bromley close to people's homes on their way to Sellafield, and in view of the decision by Newham Council to suspend trains through Stratford during the period of the Olympic Games, is Bromley Council convinced that no satisfactory assessment of the risk posed to Londoners by the trains has been carried out?

(Such a risk assessment was commissioned by the then Mayor of London in 2006, but its final report was not published because in Ken Livingstone's words "the assessment was not able to address the key issue of the risks from terrorist or other deliberate actions.")

Supplementary question

In view of this are Councillors not concerned that no satisfactory risk assessment of the dangers posed by the trains has been carried out and will you make recommendations to the Mayor of London and the GLA that such an assessment should be urgently carried out in view of the enhanced terrorist threat in London and if so what contingency plans do the Council have ?

Beckenham development opposed

Bromley FoE has joined Beckenham residents in opposing a plan to sandwich three blocks of flats into a tight site behind the High Street – something that appears to be totally out of scale. The plan was rejected by Bromley Council after objections from residents and BFoE but the developer has gone to appeal. This was the note we sent to the planning inspector:

I have been requested by Bromley FoE to write to you to record our total opposition to the proposed development at High St, Beckenham.

This group has been in existence for 40 years and has considerable experience in planning matters in the London Borough of Bromley. We oppose this development primarily because it would be out of scale with surrounding sites. In particular, we draw attention to the height of the proposed buildings and the over-density proposed (three four-storey blocks in a tight area of mainly two-storey buildings).

Such a development would produce a negative impact in the immediate area and reflect poorly on existing buildings. Insufficient car parking spaces would add to pressures already extant in the immediate area.

Please also take into consideration the risk of flooding and the potential impact on wildlife in the vicinity. Overall, this site is important to maintaining some openness in what is already a busy and crowded suburb. Its loss would point the way to further decline.

Blast from the past - Co-ordinators Report for 1991

It has been another busy year!

Recycling: we continued to run our regular can collection until November, when sadly the can crusher had to be returned to ACRA. Many thanks to all those (especially Geoff, Simon and others) who gave up their time to make this such a success over a period of nearly 3 years. I am sure it helped raise public awareness about recycling in a general sense. We gained some very positive press coverage and it was a lucrative source of funds (something we will have to replace in 1992).

Local Fairs: another regular feature was the 'Bromley FoE' stall at several local fairs. Thanks to Geoff for organising the sale of merchandise and perhaps more important for ensuring the stall was kept up to date with all the latest information sheets on each of the campaign areas. This activity could easily be extended - we just need the volunteers to 'man' the stall. We have even talked about setting up more sophisticated displays - the ideas have been brilliant but again we just need some enthusiastic helpers to transform the ideas into reality!

Talks: once again Dan has continued his 'FoE one-man roadshow' - that is giving numerous talks to local clubs, schools and radio stations. Many new members have been recruited this way and this has also been a good source of funds for the group.

I am not sure how many 'performances' Dan gave in 1991, but at least last year he was able to delegate a few of them and did a 'double act' at others - with Clare Birks at St. Olaves. (Quite a

challenge as the audience was 90 sixth formers) and with Steve Davies at Bromley High School, to name but two. Thanks Dan, you do a great job and hopefully if we run a second Public Speaking workshop, you will get some more volunteer speakers for 1992.

Highlights: what else happened in 1991 - I suppose each of us will remember different things. But for me, one of the highlights has to be the visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology, organised by Mike Parish. It was an excellent weekend, thoroughly enjoyed by the 20 or so people who attended. Companies spend thousands of pounds sending their staff on team building courses, Mike managed to arrange one for us for around £.50 a head! Thanks Mike and we wish you and your family every success in your new venture at Corris in Wales. Bromley FoE will miss you, but we hope we will be able to arrange a trip to see you in 1992.

Bike to the Future: you either loved it or hated it. Either way it certainly was an event to remember and it did raise much needed funds for FoE at a UK level. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day - especially to Judy who badgered us all so hard to help in the first place. Let's hope Underwood Street will have heeded some of our comments for Bike to the Future 1992!

Days of Action: other important events have been the days of action. Two stick in my mind - the returnable bottles day in May and the Tropical Rainforest day in November. The former because this

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Co-ordinators Report for 1991- *continued*

was the first time we were asked to do a questionnaire and with over 10 volunteers we managed to survey 800 people - 84% of which said they would be prepared to return glass bottles to their local supermarket. The latter because this was the first time we managed to 'take action' in three locations on the same day. It took some organising and not everything went smoothly, but I hope we will be able to build on this success in 1992. Our first day of action for this year is on Energy Efficiency, later this month.

Newsletter special thanks to Dan for all his hard work on the Newsletter (and to Judy for doing some of the typing, Dave Davis and all the other contributors). Dan edits it, does the layout, photocopies and collates it. The end result I think you will agree is a very professional production. Without Dan we would probably have to settle for a couple of simple A4 sheets - the cost of getting anything similar printed commercially would be beyond our financial means. Keep up the good work Dan and keep that midnight oil burning, thanks!

Other activities: Local Groups Conference and FoE campaign workshops have generated new ideas and stimulated much enthusiasm in the group. A key event for Sue was to attend the Development weekend for staff at Underwood St. We recommend any of these for anyone who wants to know more about what makes FoE tick.

Meetings: our general monthly meetings were well attended with between 30 and 50 at each one - (I am

sure this has much to do with our excellent refreshments provided by Shirley and Geoff, not forgetting the washer-uppers). We enjoyed excellent talks from speakers on a wide range of topics from 'Ethical Funding' to 'Raptor Rescue'. But to my mind some of the best meetings were those run by ourselves - on Green Tourism, Recycling and Energy and the new members meeting, which was a great success (due to one of Dan's brilliant environment games) despite the fact that no new members attended on that particular evening!

1991 saw the first of the Penge sub-group meetings. This could be an exciting new development for the future. We could hold more local meetings - in say Petts Wood, Beckenham, West Wickham, Orpington etc. Bromley is a huge Borough and we cannot hope to cover the interests of everyone in just one monthly meeting. Any volunteers please!

At an international level the Earth Summit due to meet in June is already getting a lot of media coverage. The green rhetoric is likely to 'hot up' as the summer approaches. It also means topics such as Global Warming and Third World Debt will be top of the agenda.

Thank you to all campaign co-ordinators, committee members and others who have done their bit.

Our continued success in 1992 will depend on the involvement of many and not the efforts of a few.

FoE press releases on our energy system

More than four million households in debt to their energy supplier

Commenting on research by U-Switch today which shows over four million households are in debt to their energy suppliers, Friends of the Earth's Energy Campaigner Paul Steedman said:

"It's scandalous that energy companies are raking in huge profits while millions of us can't afford our fuel bills - it's time to end the big energy rip-off.

"Our dependence on expensive imported gas is the reason our bills are rocketing - it's not surprising that 70 per cent of us want the energy companies to develop clean British energy from our wind, sun and sea.

"The Government must wake up to the fact that renewable energy and energy saving are our best hope for affordable fuel bills in future - developing them will kick-start economic growth and create thousands of extra jobs in Britain."

Government papering over cracks of our broken energy system

Commenting on an announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg today (Wednesday 11 April 2012) that energy companies will be obliged to tell their customers about their best tariffs, Friends of the Earth's Energy Campaigner Paul Steedman said:

"Clegg's admission that we can't control world energy prices points to the real problem for energy customers - that just six big energy firms have us hooked on dirty, expensive, imported gas.

"The Big Six's addiction to fossil fuels saw bills rise by up to 18 per cent last autumn - but despite this the Government wants to fuel their habit by building yet more gas-fired power stations.

"Rather than papering over the cracks of our broken energy system we need Ministers to make our homes more efficient and to switch to clean British energy from the wind, sun and waves we have in abundance."

Campaigns, Energy and Climate – *continued from page 4*

Ministers have blamed the popularity of the feed-in tariff on their decision to cut the rate, insisting that it is too expensive to maintain.

Antarctic news

The British Scientific Research body [BAS] which discovered the hole in the ozone layer has had its research budget cut by 25% , which means its future work is seriously threatened.

The Foreign Office, however, intend to contest the decision, which is good news, especially as the research is essential in monitoring the impact of climate change. A report is due out in the journal 'Polar Research' which will reveal that Britain's role in Antarctic science is unparalleled.

Friends of the Earth launches new campaign to Save the Bees

UK faces annual bill of £1.8 billion without bees - Friends of the Earth launches new campaign

It would cost the UK £1.8 billion every year to hand-pollinate crops without bees - 20% more than previously thought - according to new research launched today by Friends of the Earth as it unveils a new campaign to save the bee.

The new figure - equivalent to the annual wages of 60,000 teachers - comes from research conducted by leading bee experts at the University of Reading on behalf of the environment charity as it launches The Bee Cause to call for action on bees before it's too late.

Friends of the Earth is also creating a temporary 150 square metre wildflower meadow in the shadow of the National Theatre, London, to highlight the need for more bee-friendly habitats - with the flowers used to create the spectacle given away to passers-by to encourage gardening that will help bees to thrive.

In recent years Britain has lost over half the honey bees kept in managed hives and wild honey bees are nearly extinct. Solitary bees are declining in more than half the areas they've been studied and some species of bumblebee have been lost altogether.

Costly hand-pollination is already being used in parts of the world, notably pear trees in Hanyuan County, China, where native bee populations have been wiped out by a combination

of loss of their natural habitat and intensive farming.

Friends of the Earth is urging David Cameron to save these important pollinators and save the nation billions by committing to a British bee action plan. The plan outlines action on the planning of our towns, the way we farm and use pesticides and funding for nature experts in the Government to ensure vital bee populations are restored.

The charity is also providing information and resources on how people can help bees in their gardens and communities, including giving away 20,000 packets of wildflower seeds.

To support the call to David Cameron and find out what else you can do to help bees, visit www.foe.co.uk/bees.

Paul de Zylva, Nature Campaigner at Friends of the Earth said:

"Unless we halt the decline in British bees our farmers will have to rely on hand-pollination, sending food prices rocketing.

"Bees are responsible for most of our favourite fruit and vegetables so as well as the huge blow to our economy, our diet would also suffer.

"David Cameron must make the changes needed now to give our bees a fighting chance and save Britain billions."

WDM on the West Africa Food Crisis

I'm writing to you today because West Africa is experiencing a major food crisis. Millions of people already face food shortages throughout the Sahel region. In Niger 5.5 million people are at risk, 3.5 million in Mali and 1.7 million in Burkina Faso.

This will be the region's fourth food crisis in eight years. Droughts, poor harvests and food price rises have all played a major part, but so have underlying structural causes.

Aid is essential in the short term, but will not help to prevent further crises in the future. Our reaction must go beyond aid and address the underlying political issues which have fuelled poverty and suffering in West Africa and throughout the world.

For decades the World Bank and IMF have been pushing 'structural adjustment' programmes on developing countries including those in the Sahel region. Countries have been forced to grow unconventional crops for export rather than producing food for local people and withdraw government support for food production.

The forced removal of border duties has led to local farmers being undercut and markets destroyed by cheap imports supported by rich governments' subsidies.

It is essential that we increase our campaigning on this key issue in light of the food crisis in West Africa and last year's crisis in the horn of Africa.

Increasingly liberalised markets have de-prioritised national food security and left African countries exposed to the volatility of the free market. To allow countries to prioritise food for their own people rather than distant export markets, Africa needs food sovereignty.

This is the simple principle of people being able to produce food to meet their own needs, in a way that is culturally and environmentally appropriate. It views food as a right rather than a commodity and rejects the corporate control of natural resources, which is aided by the IMF and World Bank.

Food sovereignty is a concept that originated in the developing world. It gives rich countries a chance to learn from the experience of developing countries, rather than dictating damaging, self interested policies to them. Food movements influenced by these principles have now emerged throughout the world, including Europe and the UK.

The principles of food sovereignty were agreed by delegates from around the world at the Nyeleni conference in Mali in 2007. West Africa is a hub for food sovereignty activism and a region that could benefit hugely from being able to apply its principles.

Farmers and small scale producers globally are pioneering new techniques which are environmentally and economically sustainable so that they can feed themselves and sell any surplus they have.

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Campaign Against Arms Trade email bulletin

Cameron at it again: another mission to sell arms to human rights abusers

In Indonesia, just six months ago, three people were killed and 90 injured after police in armoured carriers opened fire on peaceful protesters. Amnesty recently condemned torture, ill-treatment and impunity for human rights violations.

But this does not deter the Prime Minister who last week told the world: "Britain makes some of the best defence equipment in the world and it is right that it is available to Indonesia... That is why some of our leading defence companies are with me on this visit."

Arming repressive regimes? There's an app for that...

With the government routinely arming repressive regimes it's vital that it can be held to account. That is why we have launched a new web app that presents UK arms export data as it's never been seen before.

The Guardian says: "This interactive guide from the Campaign Against Arms Trade finally gives us a way to navigate the official data." What you've been saying: "Horrid data, beautifully presented", "Absolutely staggering", "Scary but cool".

The app shows at a glance that sales to Indonesia in the last few years have included aircraft, helicopters, drones, and small arms. Check it out at <http://www.caat.org.uk/resources/export-licences/licence?rating=Military®ion=Indonesia>

Artists revealed their message to the National Gallery. Watch the video at <http://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/disarm-the-gallery/>

Please tell others why it is important to act against the arms trade. Forward this email to friends or view our Disarm the Gallery video and share it: www.caat.org.uk/disarm-the-gallery

West African Food Crisis – *continued from page 12*

Droughts and poor harvests will happen, but hunger has been exacerbated by the actions of the World Bank and the IMF, rich countries' governments and global corporations.

Food sovereignty will help countries determine their own path out of poverty and enable them to deal with issues like poor harvests as rich countries are already able to.

The movement for a fairer food system in the developing world is positive and hugely inspiring, but it needs global action to support it.

You can help us challenge the free market principles that are fuelling land grabs, forcing farmers to grow export crops rather than food for their own communities and polluting the land that people rely upon for survival. With your help we can increase our action for food sovereignty.

Walk to Work Week (May 14th to 18th) - Press release template

[name of workplace/council/area] are walking their way to a healthier lifestyle this national Walk to Work Week

This May, people across the UK will be leaving their cars at home and taking to their feet in the Great British Walking Challenge. **National Walk to Work Week, May 14th to 18th** is one event taking place during the month long challenge which encourages commuters to walk their way to a health lifestyle.

With the latest figures showing that a quarter of UK adults are now classified as obese and government figures showing that we jump in the car for over a fifth of journeys shorter than one mile, commuters in *[area]* are being urged to walk their way to a healthier lifestyle during national Walk to Work Week.

[Name of workplace/council/area] will be taking part in Walk to Work Week and will be encouraging people to incorporate walking into their daily routine. During the week, employees will be encouraged to log their walking miles, whether its on the way to or from work, during their lunch break, or even as part of a walking meeting using a special online tool.

National charity Living Streets run the Walk to Work Campaign, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, to highlight the role that walking can play in bringing some much-needed activity into our daily lives. *[name of workplace/council/area]* is taking part in this year's Walk to Work Week by *[fill in event details here]*.

The benefits of walking, for health, the environment and people's pockets, are well documented. What's often missing is the encouragement to make walking a regular part of people's daily lives. Living Streets, supported by *[name of workplace/council/area]* aims to change this by encouraging people to incorporate walking into their daily routine and supporting them with tips, advice and motivation.

[suggested quote from workplace/council or local area representative]

"Incorporating walking into our daily journeys brings great benefits for individuals and for *[name of area]* as a whole. Walking all or part of your commute is an excellent way to get some activity into your day, doing wonders for both your mental and physical health. Even if its not practical to walk the whole way, by getting off the bus earlier or jumping off the train a couple of stops in advance, we can all walk more in our daily lives and reap the benefits."

Tony Armstrong, Chief Executive of Living Streets said: "This May we're hoping to get the whole country walking. Walking to, from, or at work is a great way of keeping your activity levels up and your stress levels down.

"We are urging everyone to give it a go during Walk to Work Week this year. We think you'll be amazed at what a difference a short blast of fresh air can do for you. That time spent away from your inbox will break up your day and improve your productivity once your return."

Bromley Friends of the Earth - List of Contacts

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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!

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.

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.

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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