



**friends of
the earth
Bromley**



November 2014

No. 323

ewsletter

Bromley FoE: enquiries:

email: bromleyfoe@gmail.com, website: www.bromleyfoe.co.uk

November Meeting

Friends Meeting House, Ravensbourne Road, Bromley

Jan Watkins of No to Waste-4-Fuel

*Speaks about the campaign against the toxic tip
on the Orpington / Footscray border **plus***

Joe Jenkins, Director of Engagement, Friends of the Earth
plus

Pre-Christmas TRAIDCRAFT stall

Tuesday 4th November - 7.30pm

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Copy for the next Newsletter must be with the Editor by

***** SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER *****

Contact details inside front cover.

***Visit to Croydon Ecology Centre – Sunday 2nd November
Contact Sue Bocock on 020 8464 5990***

Diary dates:

- Nov 1st (Sat)** **Progressive Bromley Film Co-op:** 6pm for shared food, 7pm film starts. Friends Meeting House
- Nov 2nd (Sun)** **Visit to Croydon Ecology Centre 2.30pm** – See page 3
- Nov 4th (Tues)** **Bromley FoE's November meeting:** "The rubbish dump next door": Jan Watkins from No to Waste-4- Fuel + Joe Jenkins, FoE's Director of Engagement
- Dec 2nd (Tues)** **Bromley FoE's December meeting:** Treasures of Bromley Museum and traditional seasonal Social Evening
- Jan 6th (Tues)** **Bromley FoE's January meeting + AGM**

November meeting

In addition to Jan Watkins of No to Waste-4-Fuel

Joe Jenkins, Director of Engagement, Friends of the Earth will be attending our meeting, as much to listen and get to know us but will be happy to answer our questions.

PLUS Traidcraft Stall providing another chance to buy fair traded Christmas cake ingredients, Christmas cards, Advent calendars and gifts.

Re-User Item

Order your Christmas tree now! I have an 8 foot Christmas tree growing in my garden that has to go. It will be chopped down for you for when you need it in December. Buyer to collect from my garden in Petts Wood. £10 donation to BFoE please. Contact Annette Rose on 020 8402 7586.

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 16TH NOVEMBER***:**

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

October meeting report, *Anne Clark*

The history of Beckenham Place Park was given by its enthusiastic former chairman Mal Mitchell. There is a "Friends" group of 200+ members, a newsletter, website and they always have scope to accept volunteers for numerous jobs including staffing the visitor centre on Sundays (1.30-3.30 in season) and gardening.

The Quaker, John Cator, from Ross on Wye, married Mary Collinson, daughter of Peter, a famous botanist, and they had their own daughter, unfortunately dying in infancy, but in the eighteenth century he bought Beckenham Villa and estate, later improving the building and grounds to his own liking.

Adding extra Adam style frontage and portico, grounds with a lake fed from nearby Foxgrove Farm spring, stable block and clock tower. The family is mentioned in Diaries of the Napoleonic era and pictures of Home farm (demolished in the 1930s.) Many local roads are still named after family members in Beckenham, with John getting Southend Road moved more distant from the mansion. John is buried in St George's Church cemetery and the estate passed to nephews after his death in 1806.

The railway bisected the estate and a large area became a golf course in 1907 and was made public in 1930. In 1903 the mansion became Craven College Boys School, then a health centre for the mentally ill and those with addictions.

In 1927 the LCC bought the park from Cator Estate, passing it on to the GLC

in 1972 and then to local authorities, including Lewisham council. In the war it was used as a prisoner of war camp, and in 1991 David Lloyd Leisure wanted to make it into a tennis centre, which was rejected but it was eventually sold to Lloyds but then sold on to a brewers.

At one point theatre memorabilia was housed there, in the hope that it would become a theatre museum but it was not to be. The stable block and clock tower were left and destroyed by fire. However, Lewisham Council's application for lottery funding to restore the eighteenth century landscape and save the park (part of which is in Bromley) was accepted, with a flood retention scheme along the river Ravensbourne under consultation.

A lovely sensory garden has been designed and planted to promote the environment. Now the "Friends" are opposing a suggestion to close the golf course – but that's another story.

Visit to Croydon Ecology Centre:

Sunday 2nd November at 2.30 pm.

It's at The Old Orchard, Heathfield, Coombe Lane, Croydon CR0 5RH, a couple of miles south-east of Croydon off Ballards Way where it joins the A212. Tram No. 3 stops at nearby Coombe Lane station, and buses stop on the A212.

Access through the courtyard entrance of the orchard gate via the walled garden. Cost is £2.50 per person including a cream tea. Please contact Sue Bocock 020 8464 5990.

Visit to Neuwied, Bromley's Twin Town – Sheila Brown

The London Borough of Bromley has been twinned with a town in Germany since 1987. Neuwied (pronounced Noy-veed) lies on the Rhine, near Cologne, Koblenz and Bonn and very close to the wine growing area. A group of 47 Twinning Association members travelled by coach and Eurotunnel over a weekend in late September joined by 15 tennis players from the Park Langley Club who were having a return tournament with Tennis Club Neuwied.

For those who have never been to Germany – and some may have a mental picture of a grey, industrialised place – my impression is always how highly wooded it is, something that strikes me every time we cross the border near Aachen. The use of wood is also very apparent in the interiors of houses and restaurants and gives a warm, mellow feel.

Neuwied is unique in that the town built a dyke in 1931 to protect itself from the Rhine's constant flooding and one cannot but think this has made it unpopular with other neighbouring towns (as the water has to go somewhere). Near the Dyke Information Centre there is an indicator marking the height of floodwaters in recent years, which shows that the dyke has certainly earned its keep.

Neuwied's motto is 'Tolerant und Lebendig' (tolerant and full of life); tolerance refers to religious tolerance in the 17th century when Moravians, Mennonites and later the Huguenots were made welcome. The administrative district of Neuwied is, like Bromley, made up of a number of

villages, but there is open countryside in between, unlike our joined up suburbs, reflecting the lower population of 70,000 inhabitants (Bromley 300,000)

In the 70s a nuclear power station was built close to the town. It barely started operating when it was deemed unsafe due to a geological fault, and was quickly decommissioned. The area is volcanic, with a touristic volcanic park, and a lake – the Laacher See – which was caused by a major volcanic eruption of huge geological significance some 12,900 years ago. The region is also subject to earth tremors! There is an Ice Age museum full of interesting facts.

The Romans were in this area and the Limes (equivalent to Hadrian's Wall) marked the boundary of their Empire, and locally the remains of one of its important forts is a well preserved site.

One of the aims of town twinning is for people to meet personally, stay in each other's homes, get to know each other and experience everyday life. We've been going to Neuwied for more than 20 years and have got to know many families and individuals. The Germans are extremely hospitable and welcoming; indeed the level of the hospitality they lay on for us at social events is overwhelming and always hard to match on their return visits.

Our recent weekend included a guided tour of Neuwied for first time visitors, an afternoon trip through the Westerwald to a schnapps distillery

/continued on next page

Are we killing the planet with our addiction to meat, *Peter Gandolfi*

Some of you may remember a talk given to us by Vicki Hurd from FoE earlier in the year on food. The following is more information along the lines of her talk. It is meant to be challenging, to promote further views and to initiate debate – here in this newsletter. Let's hear them please.

We are now eating twice the amount of meat of 50 years ago, and running out of space to grow the crops we feed to the animals. 40% of all corn in US is fed to cattle. The average annual American eats 110 Kg of meat a year, here in the UK it's 80 Kg

Each cow can produce 500 litres of methane a day, (20 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas as CO₂). A cow has a similar carbon footprint to a family car. Few people would willingly give up their car, but we can choose to eat something else or have meat free days.

Likewise, pets have a surprising impact, being a similar to that of farm animals. (I wrote about this in the newsletter a little while ago.

Perhaps a cow could become a unit of environmental damage.

The total impact of livestock production is about the same as all transport - boats and planes included.

Chicken is 3 or 4 times more efficient in meat conversion.

15 million tons of food is thrown away each year

Conclusion: Eat much less meat and dairy products. This is one of the most effective ways to reduce our personal carbon footprint. Even one day a week is worthwhile. Or are we so addicted to meat for this to be impossible, with the inevitable outcome?

How can we as environmentalists, shunning the use of personal transport, etc, not be vegetarian ourselves?

Comments please

Finally a quote allegedly from Albert Einstein: Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on Earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet.

Visit to Neuwied, *continued*

with copious samples! There was a very full programme on the Sunday with a trip by coach to Cochem, visiting the castle with a commanding view over the River Moselle followed by a boat trip on the river.

In the evening we were entertained magnificently by our Neuwied hosts with a marvellous buffet of hot and cold food.

And so the weekend was soon over; goodbyes were said (or should I say 'Auf Wiedersehen') on the Monday morning and we set off again on the coach for Bromley.

For more information on the twinning, visit www.bromleytowntwinning.co.uk

Croydon Ecology Centre + Waste4Fuel licence revoked

Jim Clugston, Croydon FoE, writes:

We of Croydon FoE are running a joint project with Croydon Ecology Centre, based in the grounds of Heathfield House the former home of the Riesco family.

The House is normally used by the council for training their workers and is set in formally landscaped grounds. The site for the Bee World is by the rockery, some preparatory work has begun.

Also in the grounds is Croydon Ecology Centre whose main purpose is to educate/raise awareness of conservation/environmental issues with the help of Sam and Ben, two Herdwick sheep.

The House and the Centre are Croydon's best kept secret, a beautiful peaceful place and well worth a visit.

I have copied Lorraine Chatfield the Warden into this email so we can set up a visit by Bromley FoE as you are our nearest FoE group.

This is a big project so we need all help, we envisage this as a permanent installation, with plenty of information for visiting schools and the public.

The priority, of course, is the bees: if we educate people then the bees will survive and so will we. At the recent Green Heritage Fair, Croydon FoE had two stalls, one of which was running the film "More Than Honey" on a loop; we were also talking to many interested people about making Bee & Bees.

Email from Environment Agency

Dear Cllr/Sir/Madam

As you may be aware our work to re-profile the waste at Waste4Fuel to allow London Fire Brigade (LFB) safe access is now complete and our contractors have left the site. We have agreed a joint daily monitoring plan from 10 October onwards, with LFB, which will focus on site security and fire risk. There have been no outbreaks of fire over the last week however we will continue to respond to any environmental incidents reported to us through our Incident Hotline (0800 80 70 60).

Following the notice of revocation issued on 9 September, Waste4Fuel's environmental permit was revoked on 8 October.

It is a criminal offence to operate a waste facility on land without the benefit of an environmental permit and our daily site inspections will monitor the levels of waste on the site.

We understand the frustration of local residents and we will continue our regulatory action against Waste4Fuel. We are committed to working with our partners, including the London Borough of Bromley, to find a long-term solution.

Please feel free to share this information within your local community and to contact us on 03708 506 506, if you have any questions during office hours.

UN Sept 23rd Climate Change Conference

The result of the New York Conference raised momentum for a universal agreement in Paris in 2015 and made a progressive step to galvanize transformative action in all countries to reduce emissions.

Closing the conference Ban Ki Moon said ' I ask for bold initiatives from governments, businesses, finance and civil society to make significant contributions'.

More than 70 countries including developing countries and 1000 companies endorsed developments to build carbon trading mechanisms, and several European countries said they would pursue the target of 40% greenhouse gas emissions. The areas covered energy, climate finance, transport, industry and agriculture.

More than 30 companies endorsed the Caring for Climate Business Leadership criteria on carbon pricing.

The outcome was generally considered to be positive, and Ban Ki Moon stressed the importance of maintaining a spirit of compromise and commitment.

Home Energy Efficiency

The Lib Dems have announced that households will be offered an extra £100 million to make homes more energy efficient by claiming cash back on double-glazing, new boilers and insulation. The Government's Green

Deal initiative was launched at the beginning of 2013 and offers households upfront loans with repayments made in instalments over 10 - 25 years.

Nuclear Power Plant Gets Go-ahead

EDF's £24.5 billion Hinkley Point C , the third reactor at the Somerset site will be up and running in 2023 after being given approval by the European Commission. The cost will be £5.5 billion more than the initial £16 billion quote.

A Greenpeace adviser has called the deal a ' world record sell-out ' saying that ' there is no legal, moral or environmental justification in turning taxes into guaranteed profits for a nuclear power company whose only legacy will be a pile of radioactive waste '.

Water firms' Use of Waste

Thousands of UK residents will soon be cooking with poo-power !

In a national first, water firms including Severn Trent, Wessex Water and Cumbrian Water are preparing to pipe a continuous supply of bio-methane gas directly from sewage-treatment plants into the national Grid.

Previously sewage had just been used to generate electricity on-site only, so this is a marked development.

IF NOT FRACKING THEN WHAT?

Tunbridge Wells United Nations Association is holding a public meeting and talk on

Friday 14th November 2014 at 7.30 pm
in the Victoria Suite, Camden Centre, Market Sq.,
Tunbridge Wells

The title of the talk is: *IF NOT FRACKING THEN WHAT?*

Chair: Dr Brian Beeley

Guest speakers are:

Mr Howard Porter MA (RCA) Coordinator for Tonbridge and Malling Friends of the Earth. Howard is an environment and social justice campaigner and a member of the Green Party. He is an advocate for local and independent businesses.

Mark Moody Director of STEM Specialism at The Skinners' School. Mark is an advocate of renewable energy. He is in charge of all eco projects at the school implementing the installation of solar panels, wind turbine and many 'circular economy' projects.

Dr Alan Bullion Alan works on food security and energy policy issues for Agra Europe and teaches on conflict resolution for the Open University. He has a PhD on the civil war in Sri Lanka, and has also stood as a Lib Dem parliamentary candidate.

After the talk there will be a question and answer session and refreshments.

Contact: Julia Jarrold on 01435 830150 Email jlj@mistral.co.uk
for more information.

Marinet now independent +++ WDM agrees name change

Marinet becomes an independent organisation

Following a near unanimous vote by its members, Marinet has elected to become an organisation in its own right, wholly independent from its former parent – Friends of the Earth (England Wales and Northern Ireland).

With effect from 30th September 2014 Marinet is now a limited liability company run on a not-for-profit basis. It will continue to be run by its Members, essentially on a voluntary basis. Its focus is to seek protection for both the world's oceans and the marine and coastal environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and to assist its Members in this purpose.

Membership is available at £1.00. See www.marinet.org.uk for details.

David Levy, Marinet Chair, says: "Marinet believes in this Mission Statement: Marinet will work with any person, academic institution or responsible agency truly committed to real time solutions, in the knowledge that the urgent needs of the marine world are not being addressed by Government and their Ministries and agencies.

"Marinet will engage with the issues with all its resources, and lead with original thought when it can justify such thinking. Marinet is not scared to be out on its own, will speak with a true voice, in the knowledge that this is an absolute need not presently being met by most major marine NGOs."

WDM name change agreed – now it's Global Justice Now

Earlier this month, members of the World Development Movement from around the country voted to change our name to Global Justice Now.

Changing our name is just one step in a bigger 'relaunch'. This isn't about changing our values, but expressing them more effectively. About building a bigger movement and running more high profile campaigns which can really start to change the world.

We will officially become Global Justice Now in January as part of a wider relaunch of the organisation, but I wanted to write and let you know it is happening – especially as so many of our supporters were involved in making this decision.

After 45 years of WDM we realise this is quite a step to take, but the debate in the organisation, and in the AGM itself which took the decision, focussed on the need for our name to reflect better what we stand for. We feel that the concept of 'development' has been thoroughly captured by big business. For many of our allies in the global south development means exactly the kind of mines, dams and luxury shopping centres which exacerbate inequality and rob people of their livelihoods.

WDM stands with communities facing these kinds of injustices and against the power of the tiny elite who have increasingly monopolised the world's resources for themselves.

Good news from Greenpeace

In the fight for a greener and more peaceful planet, moments of overwhelming celebration are rare. This is one of them! (actually, two of them...)

India's Supreme Court just scrapped over 200 coal mining licences. This includes almost all licences issued in the past 17 years! The court was horrified by the corruption it found. Mining companies and government officials were working together to make themselves rich at everyone's expense. And we all paid the price too: coal is the world's number one source of climate-wrecking CO2.

This is great news for the people of Mahan, fighting to save their forest from a giant coal mine. Essar, the mining company that wants to destroy the forest, will have to give up or apply for a new licence. More than 90,000 of us signed the petition to save Mahan Forest. This isn't just a body blow to the coal industry. It's an opportunity for India to choose renewables over coal, bringing clean power to the 300 million people still without electricity.

A couple of years ago, we got the biggest palm oil producer in Indonesia - Golden Agri Resources - to quit trashing forests. Working together, we forced massive brands like Unilever, L'Oreal and Procter & Gamble to wean themselves off dirty palm oil produced at forests' expense. The companies that supply them with palm oil had no choice but to follow suit.

Now the rest of the industry is moving!
This month, some of the biggest

palm oil growers agreed to turn off the bulldozers and put forest destruction on hold.

The fight's not over. These companies could break their promise at any time. But if they keep their word, it shows that the palm oil industry is ready to operate without chopping down ancient trees and tiger habitat. That would be tremendous news.

Progress sometimes isn't as fast as we'd like. But every now and then we take a giant leap forward. This week is proof that when we come together, and stay together, we win.

FoE say Govt response to MPs concerns over Bee Action Plan inadequate

Commenting on the Government's response to a report by a Committee of MPs that was critical of its draft National Pollinator Strategy, Friends of the Earth Nature Campaigner Sandra Bell said:

"This response will simply add to fears that the National Pollinator Strategy won't be up to the task of safeguarding our bees. The Government seems intent on allowing a business-as-usual approach to spraying pesticides and fails to set out a plan for helping farmers turn the countryside into a less barren place for bees. Councils, businesses and people across the country are already playing their part in protecting Britain's bees – it's time Ministers took ambitious action too."

FoE Campaign Update : Paraguay - big win for a small community

Since 2008 Friends of the Earth has been working with a number of small rural communities in Paraguay, teaching them how to use the law to fight the damaging impacts of soy expansion. The community of Luz Bella has carefully managed a forest reserve for many years.

But in November 2012 the reserve was occupied in a land invasion, orchestrated by a local soy grower who is keen to get his hands on the territory. The new occupants set about immediately clearing the land, cutting down the forest and setting up homes. Community members began a lengthy campaign to lobby the Paraguayan authorities and call for justice.

Now, after 22 months, Paraguay's National Forest Institute has finally declared the deforestation illegal. Justice for the poor is rare in Paraguay – this is a fantastic win, and a great step forward for the community.

FoE say in a press release - The land invasion in Luz Bella in Paraguay is officially declared illegal

Since 2008, Friends of the Earth has been working with small rural communities in Paraguay threatened by the impacts of soy expansion. At the end of 2012, one of our partner communities, Luz Bella, was invaded.

The local forest reserve, that was owned and carefully managed by the local community, was grabbed in a land invasion. Believed to be orchestrated by a local soy grower, the new occupants set about immediately

clearing the land, cutting down the forest and setting up homes.

We've just heard that the land invasion is officially declared illegal.

We have been working with a number of communities in Paraguay to provide community empowerment training, including teaching people how to use the law to fight this kind of land grabbing. Armed with this knowledge, community members made the long trip to the capital Asuncion and began their lengthy struggle for justice.

Friends of the Earth supporters in the UK added their voice in protests to the UK government, and as a consequence the new British Ambassador to Paraguay raised the issue with top ministers and officials in the country.

Now, after a huge lobbying effort by the community, Paraguay's National Forest Institute has finally declared the occupation illegal.

This is a fantastic win for the community. Their hard work and the support from the international community means that they can start to reclaim the land stolen from them two years ago.

FoE - UK needs more affordable homes - but they must be green

The supply of affordable homes must be increased to help tackle the housing crisis, but they must be built to high environmental standards and situated in the 'right place', Friends of the Earth said in mid October, ahead of publication of a Labour-commissioned review of the issue.

The environment charity said in particular that rising energy prices and the urgent need to tackle climate change meant it was essential to ensure all new homes are super-energy efficient.

Last year Labour set up a commission, chaired by Sir Michael Lyons, to "draw up a road map that will set out the changes to housing and planning policies and practice that are required to deliver the new homes and communities we need".

Friends of the Earth, which published a new policy briefing today, is calling for a major overhaul of housing policy to ensure all our homes are warm and affordable and have high environmental standards. This overhaul must include both new and existing homes, infrastructure such as transport, shops and services, and access to nature.

Friends of the Earth's Head of Policy Mike Childs said:

"Urgent action is needed to tackle the shortage of affordable homes, but any new construction must not lead to significant increases in carbon pollution or damage nature. A radical overhaul of housing policy is also urgently needed. This must include new and existing homes, water and energy efficiency, access to nature and the prioritisation

of public transport. Britain's housing stock must be future-proofed to deal with a world facing rising energy prices and the threat of catastrophic climate change."

Notes to editors:

1. Friends of the Earth's new briefing on housing:

<http://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/environmental-socially-just-agenda-housing-48776.pdf>

2. Friends of the Earth is calling for an environmental and socially just agenda for housing which leads to:

- Renovation and future-proofing of the UK's dilapidated housing;
- More renewable energy generation and water recycling;
- The introduction of policies to ensure affordable homes;
- Making the best use of existing larger homes;
- Improving people's access to well-managed and safe green areas, including spaces for nature by integrating it into our buildings and communities through green roofs, green walls and green streets;
- Building millions of new homes in our towns and cities, designed to take advantage of public transport, shops and services
- Putting local government and local people at the heart of achieving change, including enabling local government to borrow billions of pounds to build, together with Housing Associations, mixed community housing, with a high proportion of affordable homes.

FoE - Six genius ways students are switching to planet-friendly food

What we eat day-to-day is seriously harming the planet. So university students are doing something about it. Young people are more clued up than ever about the impact of our diets on the environment.

Indeed, that's why we're offering £500 to the university students with the best ideas to get people eating sustainable, lower-meat diets.

What's the evidence of student zeal for altogether better meals? Here (in no particular order) are 6 genius ways that students from universities across the country are revolutionising how they fill their bellies:

1. Growthampton

Growthampton is the brain child of a group of students at the University of Roehampton, who wanted to make it easier for everyone to grow their own food. It's been a fantastic success since its launch in 2013 – so successful, in fact, that they have set up their own café, The Hive. It sells their campus-grown fruit and veg, as well as other ethical and sustainable tasty treats.

2. Sutton Bonington Farmers Market

Frustrated that there wasn't a way to access the food produced in the countryside around the campus, a group of students at the University of Nottingham decided to start their own farmers market in 2011, inviting local producers to the campus. Since then the market has doubled in size, providing sustainable food for the students and local community, and picking up a prestigious BBC Food and

Farming Award for Market of the Year in 2012.

3. Sheffield on a Plate

What doesn't Sheffield on a Plate do? Three of Sheffield's higher education institutions are working together to create space for growing food, running sustainable cooking courses, supporting local food banks, helping students to reduce their waste and starting student food markets. Phew.

4. Slow food on campus

Slow Food on Campus groups have been popping up in universities all over the UK, with students coming together to discover the pleasure of regional delicacies and environmentally friendly dishes. Holding picnics, dinners and cooking classes, they are spreading the Slow Food joy of food.

5. People and Planet SCOOPs (Student Co-Ops)

By clubbing together, students have been gathering the buying power to allow them to buy directly from sustainable, organic local producers. It's cheaper to bulk buy, which is a win for student wallets, and the producers get a fairer price, which is a win for the farmers. So far, People and Planet have helped set up more than 40 SCOOPs.

6. NUS student eats

This year NUS took their Student Eats Garden to the Chelsea Flower Show, picking up awards and medals. It's a brilliant result for the NUS scheme that supports students from 23 universities, helping them create growing space for students and staff to produce their own food.

CAAT begins legal action against BIS over arms sales to Israel

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) has instructed law firm Leigh Day to pursue an application for judicial review to challenge the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) decision not to suspend or revoke 12 existing licences for the export of arms/components to Israel.

The decision followed a review that was overseen by Vince Cable MP and the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and identified 12 licences for components that could be part of equipment used by the Israel Defence Forces in Gaza. However, BIS decided that it would not even suspend these licences unless 'significant hostilities' resumed.

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has indicated that grave breaches of international humanitarian law and other serious breaches of international law may have occurred during 'Operation Protective Edge', which was launched on 8 July 2014 against the population of Gaza and killed over 1900 people.

The wider legal basis for the legal action is outlined in the letter to BIS. All of the correspondence between CAAT and BIS is available on the CAAT website.

Andrew Smith from CAAT, said:

"The UK government's response to the bombardment of Gaza was unacceptable. Vince Cable himself oversaw a review that identified 12 licences for arms that he accepted were likely to have been used in Gaza. He refused to even suspend them at

the time, saying that he would only do so if the violence continued."

"The violence continued, more people died, and yet he failed to follow through on his word. This wasn't the first time UK weapons have been used against Gaza, so the licences should never have been granted in the first place.

"This is yet another example of the UK government doing everything in its power to promote and facilitate arms sales despite terrible ramifications for human rights. Arms sales don't just provide military support to the recipient, they imply a strong level of political support too."

Rosa Curling, from Leigh Day, who represents CAAT, said:

"The decision by BIS not to suspend or revoke the twelve existing licences is unlawful. The review that was conducted by the department was flawed as it envisaged considering whether weapons 'have been' used at the point at which "significant hostilities" resume. This is too late.

"The licensing criteria are very clear, that licences should be revoked if there is a 'clear risk' that equipment 'might' be used in violation of international humanitarian law or internal repression. This must be assessed at the time the licensing decision is made.

"The Government must now look at this with urgency and comply with the law on arms export to ensure that UK arms are not responsible for breaches of international law."

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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:

Anne Clark / Ivy Smith

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: may be sent by email to *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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