

Press Release

27 April 2012

**Fiftieth Anniversary of Satish Kumar's
8,000-Mile Walk for Peace
Marked by a Walk in Inner London**

June 1 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of environmentalist Satish Kumar's 8,000-mile peace pilgrimage. To celebrate this event, the former Jain monk will join Devon-based botanist Jon Every for part of a 110-mile walk across London to raise awareness of the importance of spending time in greener spaces.

Inspired in his early 20s by the example of the British peace activist Bertrand Russell, Satish embarked on an 8,000-mile peace pilgrimage. Carrying no money and depending on the kindness and hospitality of strangers, he walked from India to America, via Moscow, London and Paris, to deliver a humble packet of 'peace tea' to the then leaders of the world's four nuclear powers. The walk took two-and-a-half years and since then Satish has devoted his life to the environment movement, including editing for almost 40 years *Resurgence* magazine, which this year celebrates its 45th anniversary.

Reflecting on this walk, Satish Kumar says: "What I learnt from my walk, I could not have learnt in any other way. First and foremost we are all members of one human community and one Earth community. That is our primary identification. All other identities, such as being Indian, Hindu, Christian or other, are all secondary."

Jon Every, who is the Nature Education Officer at the Yarner Trust in Devon, will be walking 110-miles around London at the end of May to bring greater awareness of the need to protect our green spaces, both in the city and the countryside. He will set off from the new Olympic Stadium site in East London on Tuesday May 29th and walk 20 miles a day following the route outlined in The Green London Way, by inner-city

conservationist Bob Gilbert. He will be joined on the last day of his sponsored walk (Saturday June 2) by Satish Kumar to celebrate his own 8,000-mile pilgrimage.

Jon says: "I want to raise awareness of the importance of spending time outside in green spaces – something which less and less children and adults seem to be doing, particularly in urban areas. I am particularly delighted that Satish Kumar, who is recognised for walking for peace will join me on the last day of my walk."

Satish Kumar adds: "I am delighted to be a part of Jon's journey as I believe that making 'Peace' with the Earth is a pre-requisite for making 'Peace' with people. Jon and I share a love for the natural world."

If anyone would like to sponsor Jon on his walk, or join Satish and Jon on the walk, they should visit www.yarnertrust.org for more information.

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For further information, or to arrange an interview with Satish Kumar, contact:

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Notes to Editors:

1. Satish Kumar has dedicated his life to campaigning for peace. At 26 he undertook an 8,000-mile peace pilgrimage and at 50 he went on another 2,000-mile peace pilgrimage around Britain. His radical and wide-ranging work has included creating the Small School in Hartland, Devon (a pioneering secondary school, for young people aged 11-16) and he is the founder of Schumacher College, in Devon for the study of ecology. He teaches, lectures and runs workshops internationally on reverential ecology, holistic education and voluntary simplicity. 2
2. *Resurgence* is published six times a year, at £4.95 an issue. For membership and further information, visit www.resurgence.org. Resurgence magazine is published by The Resurgence Trust (no.1120414) registered at Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon, EX39 6EE, UK. 2
3. The Yarner Trust in Welcombe, Devon is dedicated to promoting sustainable and creative living, offering a wide range of practical workshops and inspiring courses. www.yarnertrust.org 2