

Ai Weiwei offers to buy 30 tonnes of buttons from closing Croydon factory

I think Chinese artist AiWeiwei must read the New English Review. Eight years ago I went to Tate Modern to see his Sunflower seed installation. I wrote [Independent newspaper](#) report that

The artist Ai Weiwei has offered to buy 30 tonnes worth of buttons from a Croydon-based factory that is closing down.

Weiwei, who has previously created artworks out of thousands of Lego bricks and shells, was responding to a message on Twitter when he made the offer.

“I’ve been asked to share this call to save buttons from landfill,” the initial tweet by Amy Clare Tasker reads. Brown & Co Buttons (a 104-year-old button factory in Croydon) needs to dispose of 30 TONNES of buttons as the factory is shutting down.” *More British industry dies. It need not happen, with political will to protect it.*

Weiwei responded by writing: “Can I have them all?”

Sarah Janalli, of Brown & Co Buttons, told *The Independent* that they have seen the post, but Weiwei had not yet been in contact.

I expect it is just a matter of great minds thinking alike. My button box now runs into three tins thanks to a recent inheritance; but they are mine! All mine!