

Guildford and Waverley

Friends of the Earth

Newsletter: Feb 2012

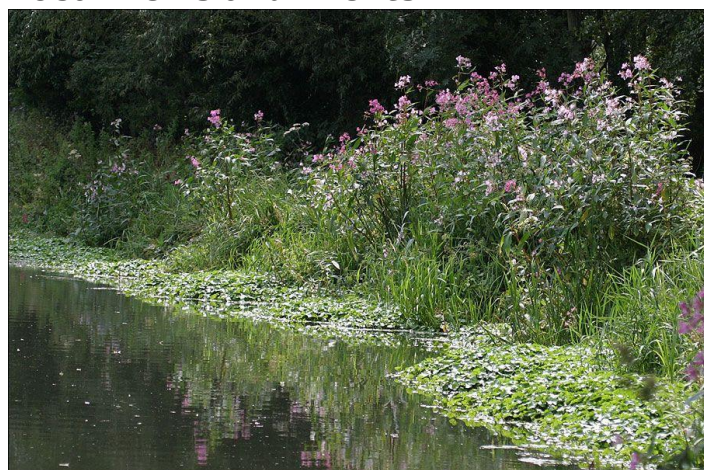


**Friends of
the Earth**

www.gwfoe.org.uk & www.foe.co.uk/guildford

Our last meeting on January 23rd was spent attending the Greening Alton and Holybourne AGM. Melissa Maynard, Communications Officer at the Department of Energy and Climate Change, was talking on “The Green Deal – what the government’s energy plans mean for local communities”. It was an interesting and worthwhile visit - Alton have been successful in gaining £100,000 (one of the so-called “LEAF” grants) and in setting up successful food initiatives.

Local News and Events



Would you like to help with a new project in Surrey tackling invasive species along the River Wey?

Many of you will already be aware that we are facing a serious problem from invasive species. The picture shows a particularly fine display of Himalayan Balsam which has now got a real grip on local riverbanks and adjoining areas along the River Wey. Guildford and Waverley Friends of the Earth has been concerned about this for some years but tackling it is a large project requiring money, people and resources. Fortunately Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) has taken the issue up and has been appointed by DEFRA to head

the Wey Valley catchment project. SWT is drawing together a list of volunteers who would like to survey for invasive species and also help with practical sessions removing Himalayan Balsam from the River Wey Catchment. We are certainly hoping an HB ‘pulling session’ can be organised in the Guildford and Godalming sections of the Wey this summer and we know there is already considerable local interest in this. If you would like to help with this project please email your contact details to Frances Halstead of SWT frances.halstead@surreywt.org.uk

Consultation on the Buses

www.surreycc.gov.uk/busreview Chris Meeks’ review is attached separately- thank you for such a thorough document Chris!

Feed in Tariffs/Wey Valley Solar – there will be a full update on this in next month’s newsletter but WVSS is hoping that panels will be installed at County School within the next couple of weeks.

Selborne Brickworks – new application submitted for planning permission for Anaerobic Digester to take food waste

As many of you know, in the summer of GWFoE supported a planning application for a new AD plant at Selborne in Hampshire, which is not far from Guildford and the towns of Waverley which are now collecting household food waste. There is currently no AD plant for municipal food waste operational in Surrey. Surrey’s municipal food waste collections alone are expected to produce 150,000 tons of food waste and although Surrey County Council has plans for a 40,000 ton AD plant in the north of the County at Shepperton there is clearly a need for more AD plants in this part of the South East as this 150,000 ton figure excludes commercial food waste.

A new planning application has been submitted to Hampshire County Council (HCC) for the proposed AD

plant at Selborne. This has all the benefits of the last application but on a smaller site thus removing the major planning policy objection which caused it to fail last time. The AD plant will take mainly food waste (20,000 tonnes) with some cattle slurry (2,500 tons) and will use the biogas created to fuel the brickworks. The heat from the brickwork kilns can then be used to warm the AD feedstock – a great example of synergy! Hilary has already written to HCC with our support and others may also wish to do so. The HCC application number is **EH015/20661/048** and the application can be accessed using <http://tinyurl.com/Selborne>

There is a second application in the pipeline as some of the new access is within the South Downs National Park. This is already constructed but requires a change of use. However we don't have the application number or a website link for this yet but that should follow in the next newsletter.

Saturday 4 February was the [Regional Gathering](http://www.foe.co.uk/events/greater_southeast.html) of **South East Friends of the Earth groups in London**. The day went well with 66 people which, considering the weather warnings of snow was a really good turnout. Look online to try and sum up the day:
http://www.foe.co.uk/events/greater_southeast.html

Future Events

POND's start-of-season work party for Puttenham Camping Barn is planned for **Saturday, 24 March** (with the barn 'opening for business' on Good Friday, 6 April). If you can help or wish to volunteer as a warden, ring Chris Meeks, 01483 422774

Web Actions

Marinet has posted a message to Richard Benyon to "stand firm and to lead on CFP reform loud and clear". The petition is on the Home Page of www.marinet.org.uk and the address is http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/biodiversity/press_for_change/fish_extinction_33701.html.

http://www.foe.co.uk/blog/lawson_shale_gas_34688.html is an excellent Friends of the Earth blog mainly written by FoE staff!

The next Friends of the Earth local group meeting will be on Monday, 27th February 7.30, back at our usual - Guildford Institute

Hope to see you on Monday. If not, the meeting dates for the year are 26th March, 23rd April, May 21st, 25th June and 23rd July so hope to see you at some of them, mainly in Guildford Institute.

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