

Guildford and Waverley

Friends of the Earth

Newsletter: Mar 2012



**Friends of
the Earth**

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

Our last meeting on January 23rd was spent discussing how we intend to work with SWT to help eradicate Himalayan Balsam, restore bikes at the Bike Reuse project, look into how water shortages can be debated at local council level and enquire further how we can see whether the Surrey Climate Change Partnership is doing anything effective!

This month sadly (or positively?) too many of us are busy at other events so I've cancelled the meeting on Monday 26th March.

Local News and Events

Selborne Brickworks – new application submitted for planning permission for Anaerobic Digester (AD) to take food waste. We are still awaiting the outcome of this, though my Woking MP J Lord, did send me a letter about the Food Waste Bill, saying that the Government has been financially supporting anaerobic digestion facilities! We shall see....

National Friends of the Earth are supporting the **Food Waste** campaign and I would like to join with some of the members of **Transition Guildford** to put on a **local event** that links local food growing and bee friendly ways. Please help Rachael and me to do some joined up thinking!

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 WORK PARTY JOBS
SAT 24 MARCH - START TIME ~ 10.30 A.M.

31 March: National Friends of the Earth **Community Energy Masterclass** –How to set up or support a renewable energy project in your community. Enquire at Tom.Wright@foe.co.uk

The Bee Cause National Friends of the Earth are launching this month an exciting new campaign aimed at halting the decline in bees and building public understanding of the important role biodiversity plays in our day to day lives, and of the need to restore, preserve and protect healthy ecosystems. I have signed our group up. Anyone attending one of the series of 'Bee Prepared' Training Days would be great?:

http://www.foe.co.uk/news/bee_prepared_34833.html



On Wednesday 11th April Friends of the Earth will be taking over a central London location in Covent Garden, Southbank or Bank and transforming it into a temporary wildflower garden, with photocalls, bee costumes, etc..... There's loads more lined up, including campaign briefings, quizzes, honey tasting, bee friendly plant hunts and more. Contact daniel.ferro@foe.co.uk if you are interested.

Other bee cause events:-

21 April, London, Multi-region event at Roots and Shoots nature reserve, Lambeth, Tim.Gee@foe.co.uk

21 April, High Wycombe, Single region afternoon training event in Quaker Meeting House, Nikki.Packham@foe.co.uk

Conference 2012-3

One important event at Conference is the Motions process - the annual chance for Group members to debate and vote on motions to the Board that aim to influence Friends of the Earth's work.

However there's a widely held view that the motions process is ineffective and clunky and, although motions are adopted, they rarely lead to a solid outcome. For that reason, a Board "working group" was set up to develop a new approach to motions that is more fulfilling, effective and empowering. The Board's new proposal is the 3D Process and it will be implemented at Conference this year as a one year trial. Roger Clarke, the new Chair of Friends of the Earth has published a letter about this and other new refreshing Conference ideas. Join the Discussion groups in April and May - Click on the link below to get involved.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Conference2013>

After a much publicised letter from 4 former directors after the future of nuclear energy, National Friends of the Earth stress that their focus is campaigning **FOR renewables and energy saving**, rather than get drawn into the endless political posturing- see the many examples of follow up comments on

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2012/mar/16/nuclear-power-fail-george-monbiot>

Budget 2012- a briefing note by FoE reacting to the headlines of George Osborne's 2012 Budget.

- A Budget that was yet again driven by an obsession with growth at all costs, and on ramping up extraction and production of polluting, increasingly expensive fossil fuels.

Egs below- for full comments go to www.foe.co.uk

OIL AND GAS: £3 billion in tax breaks for oil and gas production in the UK to introduce a new "field allowance for particularly deep fields

The Chancellor stressed his determination to "extract the greatest possible amount of oil and gas from our reserves in the North Sea".

PLANNING: "Unashamedly pro-growth" new planning system to be unveiled next week

Zac Goldsmith suggests that the net impact will be simply to make developers rich, rather than delivering the growth the Chancellor implies.

INFRASTRUCTURE: £56 million for Bexhill to Hastings road – and U-turns in favour of airport expansion

Web Actions

Renewable energy on

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/06_03_12_vince_cable_letter.pdf

FoE-Is views on Shell:-

<http://action.foei.org/page/speakout/norway-out-of-shell?js=false>

Keep an eye on www.rainforest-rescue.org. Some valuable petitions and campaigning on there.

Love music? Fairsharemusic is a download store with a difference - for every purchase you make they will donate money to charities like Friends of the Earth. Go to <http://foe.fairsharemusic.com/>

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 23rd April 7.30, back at our usual venue- Guildford Institute

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

Contact us:- Hilary Griffiths 01483 831179 and Kathy & Mike Smyth 01483 424012

Email: hilarygriffiths@hotmail.com

Website: www.gwfoe.org.uk