

Guildford and Waverley

Newsletter : May 2012



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

Local News

Hope you liked the new logo - I received positive feedback to new branding by none other than Woking **MP Jonathan Lord**, who approved of my choice of blue for the logo in last month's newsletter! **It's green this month – so what next?**

Our last meeting was on Monday 23rd April and we were able to start planning for the 2 new campaigns. John Bannister has already used the Bee Cause to engage with passers-by at the Farmer's market in Guildford and sent 20+ messages of support to David Cameron. Heather Hullah aired them in Godalming too, and I've been able to give out the posters, information and bee friendly seeds to several primary schools with gardening clubs. If you know anyone who'd like to receive the same, let me know.

http://www.foe.co.uk/bee_cause.



I personally was successful last weekend and completed the first day London to Cambridge, 62 miles of the Big Green Bike Ride for

FoE, despite my age and chipped ankle bone! **Tracey Pritchard, Head of Fundraising and Supporter Development**, wrote this to all of us at the end of her 500 mile cycle:- *"Each day of the ride had something very special about it. How exciting to see so many people riding for Friends of the Earth out of London and on and on all the way to Cambridge. And then push further north, across flatlands and hills, through wind, rain and sunshine, until we rode triumphantly into beautiful Edinburgh 6 days later. You have done an amazing thing for Friends of the Earth – taken part in the first ever Big Green Bike Ride and raised big sums for our campaigning work. I'll be keeping an eye that we make every single penny work hard for us"*
Fantastic commitment, Tracey, well done!

It's not too late to put **my** sponsorship over £400 though, at <http://www.justgiving.com/Hilary-Griffiths>

Waste update

Since the launch of the new co-mingled recyclables and food waste collection service last month, Waverley Borough Council says recycling rates have doubled to reach over 70 per cent. This is encouraging, although we expect this figure to drop back a bit as we believe many households were storing recyclables (particularly cardboard) in the weeks leading up to the introduction of the new system and that probably pushed the figure over the **70%** mark! The long term success of the co-mingled scheme will see what percentage of the recyclables collected are re-used and not rejected at the recycling facilities because they have been cross-contaminated - but this will take some time to establish. Well done, Waverley - come on Guildford?

Clean British Energy

The new campaign from Friends of the Earth, Clean British Energy aims to help transform the way Britain produces and uses energy. Clean British energy is our best hope for a clean, secure and affordable fuel energy future. A recent poll from Friends of the Earth shows that 85% of Brits want to see the Government increasing the use of clean British energy - and decreasing our dependence on imported gas, which is driving up fuel bills. Two thirds of people want more of their electricity to come from our wind, sun and sea - which the UK has huge supplies of - and just 2% of people back more gas. (photo supplied by Dunsfold Park Limited).



Clean British Energy cont.....

Over the last couple of years the Waverley district has seen a significant increase in the production of solar energy with the scheme which put nearly 500 arrays on council houses, up to 50KW arrays on 4 of the schools in Waverley through the Wey Valley Solar Co-operative and a large array on the Council offices in Godalming – and members of Guildford and Waverley played a key role in all of these projects. By far the biggest array in Waverley is the solar scheme at Dunsfold Park adjacent to the aerodrome. Guildford and Waverley Friends of the Earth supported this project at the planning stage. The 2MW solar array situated on 6.8 hectares of land supplies renewable energy directly to the adjacent Business Park with any surplus exported to the grid. Dunsfold Park believes this makes their business park the first in the UK to be entirely supplied by renewable energy! However, we still need to do much more to secure a **Clean British Energy** future.

What can you do? Switching to renewable energy and cutting energy waste is our best hope of affordable fuel bills for the future. It will boost our economy by creating thousands of new jobs. So have you switched yet to a green electricity supply? If not, why not take a few minutes to check this out on the internet by using one of the comparative sites such as <http://www.greenenergy.uk.com/>. Switching is a positive action which you can take as one of the 85% who believes in **Clean British Energy**. If you are already on a green tariff, think who you know who you might be able to persuade to switch as well – friends, relatives, work colleagues or perhaps clubs or organisations you belong to – and let us know how you get on. And see <http://www.cleanbritishenergy.co.uk/>

Jess Gold, one of the Friends of the Earth Board members, is an accomplished singer and guitarist who performs her environmental songs as part of a new fun show. Please take a look at her website and lets see if we can find a venue to put her show on, and possibly raise some money too?
<http://www.myspace.com/projectearthrock1>

Future Events

Rights and Resistance: Friends of the Earth would like to invite you to A FREE evening of discussion and inspiration with a very inspirational woman, water rights activist Zayneb Al Shalalfeh. She is a Palestine activist working with communities on water and agriculture and will be sharing stories from her work with the organisation Lifeforce, which advocates for rights to access water for Palestinians through research, popular education and resistance with a special focus on women's empowerment. Please email charlotte.chan@foe.co.uk to book your place.

Wednesday 23 May, 18.00-20.00, 24-27 White Lion Street, Islington, London, N1 9PD. <http://claremont-project.org/>

Web Actions

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 21st May 7.30, back at our usual venue- Guildford Institute

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

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