

# Guildford and Waverley

Newsletter : Nov. 2012

[www.gwfoe.org.uk](http://www.gwfoe.org.uk)



Our drop in drink and chat evening on Weds 17<sup>th</sup> October at The Star pub in Godalming was very successful and attracted 8 people, a mixture of old, current and new members and will be repeated in due course. **Our next celebration is the long awaited meal for our “Group of the Year” award. It will take place on Mon. Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at La Casita, the Tapas Bar in Guildford, 7.15.**

Before we celebrate though, can I make a plea for you to support Friends of the Earth financially? I rarely ask for money but National FoE, like all charities, (but more concerned about saving us reaching the fateful tipping point) is suffering a contraction in funding because of the recession. Go to [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk) for details and we'll throw in your local group membership free! If you can't afford to join, save yourself some money and send e-cards for Christmas. There is a beautiful gallery of environment-friendly, humorous, campaign, nature and landscape cards there- and if you save lots, you can donate some of it back to them! Look at [www.foe.co.uk/living/cards.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/living/cards.html) Thanks.

## Local News

We had a useful discussion with new members at the last meeting and did some important local campaigning!! We will continue this on Monday and see some of new member Cher's ecological holiday photos as well.

Waverley Council recently organised a Solar PV Tenant Satisfaction Survey to those 460 council houses where pv panels were installed.

153 returned the survey—(response rate of 33%)

When asked “would you recommend them to a friend?”, 83% of those who responded said ‘yes’

68% said ‘yes’ when asked if a reduction in electricity bills was noticed. Some were finding their standing charges were being reduced e.g. in one case, from £24 per month to £16. Another had a Direct Debit of £25 per month which was previously just enough but was now £65 in credit. The comment “Brilliant” sums up their views well! Well done to those who persuaded Waverley Council to support this clean energy supply!

## Dunsfold Aerodrome – new report published



*Russian plane at Dunsfold 18.10.2012 photo courtesy Dunsfold Park Ltd.*  
As reported last month, the owners of Dunsfold Aerodrome have commissioned their own report from Lib Dem peer Lord Taylor on the possible options open to them for the development of the Aerodrome. His report ‘The Future for Dunsfold Aerodrome’ is now up on our website at [www.gwfoe.org.uk](http://www.gwfoe.org.uk). Kathy Smyth, planning spokesman for GWFoE has explained on the website the current ostrich like attitude of Waverley Council to Dunsfold - we want people to be aware of the situation because at the moment it seems Waverley Council appears to us to be putting at risk the environment and quality of life of a wide area of Surrey. The Russian plane in the photo that landed there in October should be sufficient reminder of what could come about!

## Future Events

### Laugh or the Polar Bear Gets It 2012

**TOMORROW** "Laugh or the Polar Bear Gets It" challenges top-draw comedians plus a fantastic music act to perform their socks

**Thursday 22nd November**, [Hammersmith Apollo](#), London. [www.eventim.co.uk](#) £25 I've bought 2 tickets already. Anyone else want to join us?

SPECIAL WINTER CONFERENCE on Sustainable Woodland Management. at the **Field Centre, Rowhill Nature Reserve, Cranmore Lane, Aldershot** on Sat. December 1<sup>st</sup> 10 am till 16.30 pm. Contact [frances.halstead@surreywt.org.uk](mailto:frances.halstead@surreywt.org.uk): 07891 514574 and please make cheques for £10 payable to Surrey Wildlife Trust.



Discuss our plan for this and up date yourself on where we're up to on The

Bee Cause and Clean British Energy at Monday's meeting.

### Big Green Bike Ride – up for the challenge?

In April 2013 FoE are putting on something amazing – a cycle from the bustle of London to the beauty and tranquillity of the New Forest National Park. "We'll cycle along the Thames, through pretty lanes, across open countryside, and past working farmland – and that's before we even get to the New Forest!"

**Day 1: Saturday 27 April 2013 London to the New Forest, 85 miles** Cycle the beautiful lanes of Surrey and Hampshire, as we wind our way to the New Forest.

**Day 2: Sunday 28 April 2013 Explore the New Forest, 40 miles.** Explore the ancient woodland, heather-covered heath, and mudflats of this charming corner of the British countryside.

I fancy doing the Sunday from Brockenhurst- can we make up a party?

## Web Actions

Sometimes we need to remind people just how lucky we are in this country that we are not in danger of our lives for our environmental beliefs. Look at this on the main Friends of the Earth website to see what we mean?  
<http://tinyurl.com/miguelpabon>

### Coastal protection tree planting scheme in Norfolk gets the green light

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/coastal-protection-tree-planting-scheme-in-norfolk-gets-the-green-light.html>

Experts desperately need to build a better picture of where ash die back disease has spread. Please view <http://ashtag.org> for details.

Campaign Hubs has new items on Clean British Energy and The Bee Cause to check out. So why not go and have a look?

<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/board,24.0.html>  
<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/board,32.0.html>

### New Chairman for Energy 4 All

**One of our star members, Mike Smyth**, who has served on the Energy4All board for the past 4 years, takes over as their Chair from 1st January 2013. Mike brings a wealth of experience both from his professional (legal) life and from his extensive involvement with environmental charities and projects. Something else to celebrate! Well done, Mike!

**Our next meeting will be on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November and I hope to see you, on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15.**

**Then our December meeting will be at La Casita Guildford - please confirm if you'd like to come so we reserve the right size table!**

**Hope to see you there.**

**Hilary**

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

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