

# Guildford and Waverley

Newsletter : Sept. 2012

[www.gwfoe.org.uk](http://www.gwfoe.org.uk) & [www.foe.co.uk/guildford](http://www.foe.co.uk/guildford)



## "Group of the Year!"

We told you last month that we'd been shortlisted for "Group of the Year" in this year's Earthmovers awards, and I'm very pleased to say that we won!! Kathy and I gave our presentation on Friday evening at Conference and we were presented with a cheque, wine, a certificate and warm handshakes from Clive Anderson and Jon Cantor later the same evening. Our full presentation is on the website at <http://www.gwfoe.org.uk/?p=417> but the highlights were our successes with Wey Valley Solar, Waverley Council Housing PV, Selborne Anaerobic digester, the new website and Himalayan Balsam. So thanks to all of you for your support - come along on Monday to celebrate- and work on a new campaign!!

The Conference was very successful, topping 600 people as a sellout event and had some inspirational speakers and campaigners. My favourites were, of course, Andy Atkins and Craig Bennett of FoE, closely followed by Caroline Lucas, Green Party MP, Satish Kumar, editor of Resurgence and The Ecologist, Mel Evans of Platform and Polly Higgins, lawyer, striving for an international law on Ecocide (look at [www.eradicatingecocide.com](http://www.eradicatingecocide.com)).

I was honoured to be asked to thank Mike Smyth on behalf of staff and local groups for the many years of service he put



in as Chair of FoE Trust. Well done, Mike for your professionalism and ability to be such a good legal advisor, ideas generator and all round nice man!!

## Local News

Our local group member, Angi Long, whose company fits solar panels, sent a forceful letter to Action Surrey, as a result of which they had to recant : NEWSLETTER CORRECTION: Please note we wish to correct some details that were out of date in our last newsletter (September) regarding solar electricity. Well done Angi!

## Bee Cause

Disappointing article about Defra's views on pesticides at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/damian-carrington-blog/2012/sep/18/bees-pesticides-neonicotinoids>. We need to keep fighting.....

Nick Mole at Pesticide Action network has produced a comprehensive selection of bee fact sheets –ask him at [nickmole@pan-uk.org](mailto:nickmole@pan-uk.org)

## Future Events

The Guildford Vision Group is a very active group of professionals and local people with which GEF is associated putting forward proposals to make Guildford a much better place to live and work. They are organising a drop-in session on Saturday 29th September  
**GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE**  
Details from Yvonka Wilkinson 07767 251040  
Other GEF events Thursday 27 September  
GEF Waste and Recycling Group. Visit to Biffa's recycling facility at Edmonton. Contact John Bannister  
Sunday 30 September  
Commoner's Day at Effingham Common: Apple pressing and scything. See Effingham Parish Council website.  
Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 October  
Transition Guildford/GEF Food Group. Apple pressing at the Surrey Hills Wood Fair at Birtley House, Bramley

## Laugh or the Polar Bear Gets It 2012

"Laugh or the Polar Bear Gets It" challenges top-draw comedians plus a fantastic music act to perform their socks off in aid of Friends of the Earth.

Already lined up to lend their support are **Stewart Lee, Ed Byrne, Dan Antopolski, Francesca Martinez** and music from special guest **Beardyman**, with further great names to be released shortly. **Thursday 22nd November**, [Hammersmith Apollo](http://www.hammersmithapollo.com), London.  
[www.eventim.co.uk](http://www.eventim.co.uk)

## Web Actions

"Stop Monsanto Soy!" <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/mailalert/889/stop-monsanto-soy?ref=taf>

Good news for once :- *EU to limit use of crop-based biofuels - draft law* Posted by: "Sarah" sarah.clayton7  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/10/us-eu-biofuels-idUSBRE8890SJ20120910>

We want to start a new initiative on Monday, a waste initiative leading towards the FoE greener products campaign, "Make it Better" on the 24th so would be happy to discuss possibilities of local, creative thrifty projects, excellent designs you know of and other ideas?

.Our next meeting will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September so I hope to see you, on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15.

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