

# Guildford and Waverley

## Newsletter : June 2012

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



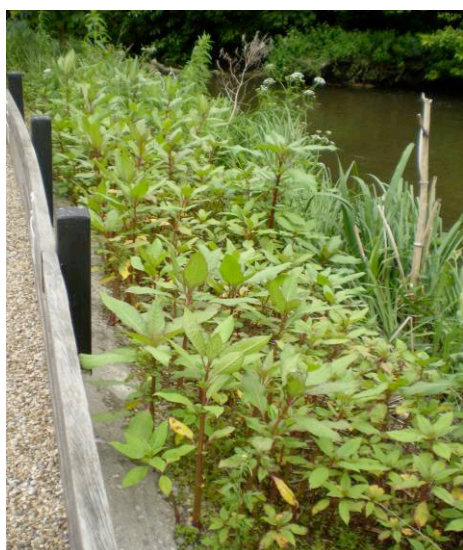
Our last meeting was on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May and before I forget, our next meeting will be delayed from its advertised date of 25<sup>th</sup> June, next Monday until the following week, commencing July 2<sup>nd</sup> details to be confirmed asap!

We have also successfully updated our website completely to a much better format. Please visit [www.gwfoe.org.uk](http://www.gwfoe.org.uk) and let's say thank you to Patrick Haveron!

### Local News

#### Successful treatment of Balsam!

These photos were taken along the River Wey next to Guardian House in Godalming. The 'flowery' one above is of the bank that we cleared of Balsam last year which seems to have recovered. The one alongside is of this year's untreated growth of Balsam. Thanks to Rachael et al!



### Food Waste update

#### Great news for Selborne Brickworks:-

We were delighted to hear that Selborne Brickworks planning application for a 20,000 ton Anaerobic Digester 8 miles south west of Farnham, to process food waste and slurry on part of the brickworks site, finally got planning consent from Hampshire County Council on 23 May. We like this proposal for a number of reasons - there is an onsite use for the biogas which will be used to fire the kilns in the adjoining brickworks which are currently lying idle because of the huge hike in the price of fossil fuels in the last few years. The surplus heat from the brickworks will be used to heat up the digester's feedstock. There is also a local farmer who wants to take all the digestate. However we think it has taken far too long to get to this stage for a scheme with such obvious benefits! It has required numerous planning applications and appeals over a number of years and for the last 18 months GWFoE's own planning expert Kathy Smyth has been providing an important supporting role.

#### And an interesting proposal for AD at Dunsfold Aerodrome:-

News just in is that BioGroup has lodged a planning application with SCC for a 25,000 ton AD facility to take commercial food waste. BioGroup has developed a number of AD facilities elsewhere in the country and perhaps the best known is the AD facility in Suffolk which takes the waste from the Adnam's brewery. Nationally Friends of the Earth supports anaerobic digestion as the preferred means of dealing with food waste and locally we certainly want Surrey County Council to maintain its anti-incineration policy so it is important that GWFoE supports alternative schemes like this, if they are generally acceptable. We believe Surrey generates about 150,000 tons of mainly household food waste and a very large but unknown quantity of commercial food waste. We understand that initially the BioGroup facility will focus primarily on commercial food waste - probably diverting food waste currently being land-filled at Redhill. Dunsfold Aerodrome has both gas and electricity grid connections and seems the most suitable place in the southern part of

the county to establish these facilities. For these and other reasons we are already giving this scheme very serious consideration and discussing the application directly with BioGroup.

## **The Bee Cause** [http://www.foe.co.uk/bee\\_cause](http://www.foe.co.uk/bee_cause).

**Fellow bee campaigners**, National Friends of the Earth have some great opportunities **to promote the bee campaign but we urgently need more helpers** to make the most of them: Locally there are :-

Wimbledon **27<sup>th</sup> June** and maybe beyond if it goes well Hampton Court Flower Show, **2-8 July**-(I hope to help at this one? H) FoE can pay fares and other expenses if you or anyone you know can help. **This is a great opportunity to dress up in the big bee outfits and have a fun time!**

E-mail [quentin.given@foe.co.uk](mailto:quentin.given@foe.co.uk) or ring 07946 535656

All the education resources for schools and youth clubs to go with the Bee Cause campaign are now complete. They are all available with explanation and also links to become a School Visitor is here:

<http://www.foeyouthandeducation.co.uk/bee-resources/>

There is a British ecosystem game, wildflower identification sheets, an assembly/talk and more. You could pass the education resources on to your local school, use them yourself if you are a teacher or youth club leader or sign up to become a School Visitor and go into a school yourself.

## **Web Actions**

Rio +20 is hopefully going to dominate the newspapers this week. FoE has received a great deal of media comment recently in the newspapers praising them for their research of sustainable economies, so hope the talks aren't hijacked by big businesses. Keep checking on [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk) and other internet sites for updates and actions. **"This damp squib of a draft negotiating text makes it clear the Rio talks lack the firepower needed to solve the global emergency we're facing"** Craig Bennett Director of policy and campaigns, Friends of the Earth said:-

"Developed countries have repeatedly failed to live safely within our planet's limits. Now they must wake up to the fact that until we fix our broken economic system we're just papering over the ever-widening cracks."

Live action on <http://webtv.un.org/>

At least Nick Clegg has been goaded into some action... **mandatory carbon reporting for UK-listed businesses**, something what we have been campaigning on for years! 'New emissions policy will force biggest UK firms to reveal CO<sub>2</sub> figures.

## **Future Events**

### **Meet the Experts at Energy Alton**

Tuesday **June 26th**. 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Our first ever 'evening' drop-in. Rob Chaplin will talk about windows and glazing. He will give general advice on energy-saving windows and doors, including new double glazing, maintenance, repair and retrofit of old windows. Mike Barnsley of Ecolyf will tell you everything about biomass boilers, using wood pellets or logs.

Saturday **July 7th** 10.00 to 1.00pm .

Paul Towers will host a drop in on Energy Saving Light Bulbs. You can save £100- just by changing one light bulb. Replacing a standard halogen spotlight with a standard low energy LED saves £100 over the lifetime of the bulb.

All events are free. Do come along and hear how we could help you save money. We are based at 51 High Street, Alton (opposite Caffe Nero)<http://energyalton.co.uk/>

Our next meeting will announced as soon as possible, week commencing July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The next will be on 23rd July so hope to see you at some of them, probably in Guildford Institute.

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

**Email:** [hilarygriffiths@hotmail.com](mailto:hilarygriffiths@hotmail.com)

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