

Guildford, Woking and Waverley

Newsletter : April. 2013

www.gwfoe.org.uk



Group of the Year

At our next meeting on Monday, we'll follow up our ideas on bee walks and worlds, look at how to benefit from the interest shown by the Surrey Ad. on local waste issues, discuss local planning matters of concern and make sure that our bookings are in for Basecamp!

A number of members of the group have recently visited the huge Veolia recycling facility at Southwark. Thanks to our friends in Greening Godalming for organising these visits. It has given much food for thought and we will also be discussing this at the meeting and reporting back further in the next newsletter."



Penny Haynes from Farnham Food Initiative is coming to talk to us too about what they are doing and how we can help and expand the good ideas. Join us on the top floor of the Guildford Institute at 7.15, Mon 22nd April!

Blackwater Valley and GWW Friends of the Earth groups have both objected to the planning application for the 3,600 unit Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE) made by Grainger plc. This was a huge application so GWW FoE concentrated on the renewable energy and sustainable build aspects. Our analysis revealed that the

detailed application for the 228 residential units in Phase 1 does not comply with Rushmoor's own policy in certain important respects. For instance, the policy for the AUE adopted by Rushmoor Borough Council in 2009 stated "The Council will expect all housing in the first phase of development to achieve a level of performance rating equivalent to BREEAM 'Very Good' or Code Level 4, with at least 10% of units achieving a level of performance equivalent to BREEAM 'Excellent', or Code Level 5 (100% improvement on 2006 Building Regulations) as per the Code for Sustainable Homes. This will need to be supported by a commitment to achieve certification under an appropriate scheme at the detailed design stage." In fact Grainger has offered Code Level 4 for only 22 houses (10%) out of the first 228 and the rest are to be Code Level 3 (which is now regarded as equivalent to the recently improved building regulations). - So not the "exemplary development" in terms of climate change and sustainability which Grainger promised Rushmoor Council! Let's hope that the Council insists on compliance with its own policy.

The film **Chasing Ice** was shown successfully on April 10th in Woking Borough Council Chamber to an enthralled 40+ audience. GEF showed it in Guildford last week and I hope they found it as stunning photographically as we did. Catch if you can- it has a powerful message too!

Surrey County Council has published a **draft Rail Strategy** report for consultation. It can be viewed online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyrailstrategy. **Reinstatement of the Guildford-Cranleigh railway line**, which we as a group support, was considered by the consultants appointed by Surrey but has been rejected "because of the lack of a viable business case". The report says that "Previous detailed feasibility studies into the scheme carried out for Surrey County Council have concluded that patronage would be insufficient to justify the significant cost of line re-opening. There is no evidence to suggest that the fundamental drivers of demand have changed substantially since these studies were carried out in the 1990s."

This is very different conclusion from the findings of the Association of Train Operating Companies in 2009 which put a re-opened Guildford to Cranleigh line as a good commercial prospect. We think that re-opening this line would also help to alleviate some of the serious traffic problems experienced in the centre of Guildford by reducing the volume of traffic approaching Guildford along the A281. GWWFoE will be considering this consultation at a future meeting of the local group.

FUTURE EVENTS

Rather late for these but you may just catch them? **Saturday 20 April** for a guided tour of Butzer Ancient Farm just south of Petersfield. Richard Weavis, GEF member and Project Manager for the new centre, is offering us a tour of the project. A walk up Butzer Hill afterwards? Ring Richard on 01730 821562. **OR**, out of our area, but still our concern- join Nikki Packham (email nikki.packham@foe.co.uk Tel: 020 7566 1676) at **Fight Fracking and support Clean British Energy, a FREE training event, Saturday 20 April, 10.30-5pm** at Clair Hall, Perrymount Road Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3DN

Greening Godalming cordially invites you to attend the launch of its Woodlands and Wood Fuel initiative at 7.30 p.m. on **Monday 29th April at Godalming Museum**. Greening Godalming believes that increasing the use of local wood fuel in Godalming, replacing fossil fuel, has a role to play in combating climate change and can be beneficial to both local employment and wildlife.

As part of the initiative, Greening Godalming is launching a section on its website listing local services available to help improve woodland management and sources of locally produced firewood. A research report "Combating climate change in Godalming: the case for using local wood fuel" can be downloaded from www.greeninggodalming.org. We hope you will join us for the presentation and discussion about this initiative. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP your reply to Greening Godalming at greening.godalming@gmail.com. This is the first of various events Greening Godalming will be organising - Later this summer we plan to have a talk on Woodlands and Wildlife Around Godalming. Also Dr Alan Hamilton will be leading 4 walks around Godalming to look at local geology and flora. This is during Godalming's Staycation, 5th August onwards.

Big Green Bike Ride 2013

I'd finally signed up to the **Big Green Bike Ride** in the New Forest on 28th April, but annoyingly, I've had to drop out- I went to give blood and they told me I needed all I'd got and sent me to the doctors! You can still donate at www.biggreenbikeride.com or on www.foe.co.uk- I still have the massive bruise to prove I did some training!!

We'd love to hear your plans for the Bee Day of Action on Saturday May 18?

Web Actions

<https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/mailalert/914/orangutans-victims-of-sustainable-palm-oil?mt=1573&v=1&ref=nl> tells a sad tale of orangutans starving because their forest has been clear felled by a "sustainable" palm oil farmer. Please sign. Please go to www.EUvsCO2.org and sign the petition to encourage European politicians to vote for strong car fuel efficiency regulations.

The proposed new curriculum removes the vast majority of references to sustainability, protection of nature, social justice and active engagement from all curriculum areas that once included it. Send your own response to add to the official FoE's to:

NationalCurriculum.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

Tell the FDA: No genetically engineered salmon on our plates without a full Environmental Investigation. Go to

https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/455/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=12896



And my favourite company to hate.... Monsanto owns 36% of all tomato, 32% of sweet pepper and 49% of cauliflower varieties registered in the EU! With a simple regulatory change, we could protect our food, our farmers and our planet from corporate control -- and it's up to us to make it happen: Please sign and forward to all your friends!! http://www.avaaz.org/en/monsanto_vs_mother_earth_loc/?taTebab

Have a look- a long overdue bit of resource saving at the University of Surrey!
<http://universityofsurrey.newsweaver.co.uk/Internal/fuj5ixn493t1tnewnloa27?a=3&p=34411745&t=19733055>

Good news that at least Waitrose is acting while the other supermarkets and DEFRA sit on the fence...
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/12/waitrose-suppliers-bee-pesticides>

Our next meeting will be on Monday 22nd April on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15. Our later meetings will be on June 3rd, June 24th (and Sunday July 12th after our Walkfest up the Mount!) Hope to see you there.

Hilary

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