

Guildford and Waverley

Newsletter : Feb. 2013

www.gwfoe.org.uk



After last month's successful talk by Baroness Kate Parmenter on Feb 7th, we are concentrating this month on local Biodiversity and starting our plans for this year's progression of the Bee Cause. We will be discussing possible sites for bee walks or bee worlds and further letter writing to encourage more retailers and open spaces to remove neonicotinoids from their premises. Anyone involved with any of the 41 golf courses in Surrey to lobby them to be bee friendly??

There is an [upcoming training event for The Bee Cause campaign](http://thebeecause.eventbrite.co.uk) - **The Bee Cause 2013 - Building the buzz:** Join us in London on Saturday 23 March to find out how to make your neighbourhood bee-friendly, organise your own bee walk and involve your MP. Book your place <http://thebeecause.eventbrite.co.uk> <http://0.tqn.com/d/insects/1/0/W/1/-/honeybeeforaging.jpg>



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to those of you who have signed up on www.gwfoe.org.uk as paid up members. If you haven't joined then please sign up. We are trying to raise some money for a new banner to use at outside events.

Green Deal

You may be interested in this recent article in ENDS

"Microgeneration incentives are compatible with the Green Deal The energy and climate department (DECC) has confirmed that households and small and medium companies are permitted to use Green Deal finance "to contribute towards the cost of installing micro-CHP, micro-wind or solar PV on their property". However, only expected savings on energy bills from customers generating their own power can be used to calculate the financial support available under the Green Deal. Subsidies from the feed-in tariffs (FITs) regime cannot be counted, DECC says. "But the customer can benefit from the Green Deal while also separately receiving FITs payments."

The announcement was made on behalf of DECC following clarification from the European Commission. DECC also confirmed that in future heat-generating microrenewables eligible for support under Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will also be able to benefit from the Green Deal. As with FITs, support will be limited to the energy bill saving and will not include RHI payments."

Still on the energy theme, we know Friends of the Earth are urgently seeking activists to lead and support on Energy Bill activities targeted at MPs. As, If you have any time to spare, you could become a 'CBE Champion'! Please email simon.tiller@foe.co.uk or call 020 7566 1624. For more information visit the CBE Campaign Hubs discussion forum: http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/board_24.0.html

Energy related web actions

Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk South during Ecobuild conference at Earl's Court in London pledged to table an amendment to the energy bill that would help to reduce the cost of capital for green energy projects. Lobby your MP to support this policy! See www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/dec/18/tim-yeo-gas-strategy and envirolib.org/press-releases/tim-yeo-mp-tables-green-jobs-amendment-to-energy-bill

EVENTS

Marine Conservation Zones Event

March to Houses of Parliament Monday February 25th 2013. Assemble from 11am-12noon at plaza in front of London Eye.

You are encouraged to attend this event, jointly with the Marine Conservation Society, in association with Sealife, and supported by the British Sub-Aqua Club to protest at the Coalition Government's failure to designate **all** 127 proposed Marine Conservation Zones within English, Welsh and Northern Irish waters.

Big Green Bike Ride 2013

Don't forget the [Big Green Bike Ride](#) in April. Friends of the Earth's **BGBR** comes to the beauty and tranquillity of the New Forest on **28th April**. Riders from Hampshire, Wiltshire and Surrey will start their **40 mile** day-ride in Lyndhurst, setting off for a tailored tour through the Forest. They will refuel on organic, locally sourced meals at beauty spots and historic sites along the route and cross the line at Brockenhurst late afternoon. By taking part, our local group will take a share in the profits! Help us raise some money - or sponsor us if you can't ride yourself! You can sign up to do a single day or the whole weekend and 20% of your fundraising will go to our Friends of the Earth local group. For more information call Tim on 020 7566 1692 or visit www.biggreenbikeride.com or ask me!



Sign up to Campaign Hubs and learn or pass on your ideas? e.g.

1. Oliver Hayes has the latest news from the Energy Bill Committee earlier this week.
<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/topic,1500.msg3039/topicseen.html#new>
2. Julian Jones from the Bristol group debates proposals for a sugary drinks tax with Clare Oxborrow
<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/topic,1468.msg2982/topicseen.html#new>
3. The Guardian are running an essay-writing competition for activists - Jon Nichols says why not apply?
<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/topic,1503.0.html>
4. Find out about upcoming Bee Cause training events in Birmingham, Derby, London, Newcastle & Wales, courtesy of Tom Wright
<http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/topic,1463.msg3016/topicseen.html#new>

Our next meeting will be on Monday 25th Feb. on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15. Our later meetings will be on March 25th and April 29th. Hope to see you there.

Hilary

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