

Guildford and Waverley

Newsletter : Jan. 2013

www.gwfoe.org.uk



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/uk/indepth/feeding-badgers.shtml>

As advertised last month, I am delighted to welcome you to attend the talk by Baroness Kate Parminter on Feb 7th. A member of the House of Lords EU sub-committee on agriculture, environment, energy, fisheries and food, she is very well informed and up to date on government matters relating to DEFRA. (It would help if you could email me if you are going to attend (free) to ensure we have sufficient seating accommodation.)

Before you attend the talk, perhaps you would like to have a go at the bees quiz on our GWFOE website. Send me your answers- I'll buy the best one a cup of tea on Feb 7th!

MPs who "erroneously" missed the Bee photo opportunity organised by FoE sadly include all our 3 local MPs...

Anyone up for writing to them to ask why?



There is a new report out on bees by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) at http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/pesticide_risks_to_bee_decline_identified_16012013.html) Scientists

Trees, bees & badgers - & other challenges for 2013.

- a talk by Baroness Kate Parminter, Liberal Democrat spokesperson on DEFRA matters in the House of Lords. Thursday 7 February 2013 at 7.30pm, The Old Billiard Room, Guildford Institute, Ward St.

have identified a number of risks posed to bees by three neonicotinoid insecticides, Friends of the Earth's Executive Director Andy Atkins said: "The clear link between neonicotinoid pesticides and declining bee health must sting the Government into action - we can't afford to dither when it comes to protecting these key pollinators."

From a different aspect, "Blinded by Science" by Matthew Silverstone was published in 2011. His hypothesis is that bees have faced a cocktail of pesticides for a long time. Bees and birds know where they are going using the Earth's magnetic field, which is about 10Hz. Silverstone's theory is that mobile phone masts use electromagnetic fields down to 10 Hz and this is what is disorientating bees. The timing is right - 2000 is roughly the year when CCD and mobile phones started. More research is needed here as well as it could be another important factor into bees decline.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

All you friendly people who want to join the local group can now sign up online via the website and people who have paid subscriptions in the past can now renew online, using paypal as well if it's more convenient. We have set individual membership at £10 and £15 for a household. We haven't asked for annual subscriptions for a while

but we now need to cover our very modest running costs which are mainly room hire as we get most of the campaign materials from national Friends of the Earth. Go to www.gwfoe.org.uk. We would recommend anybody who wants to make a larger donation, or a small regular monthly donation, to send it to National Friends of the Earth, who continue to do ever more important work as we face up to the Planetary Emergency.

N.B. You do not have to be a member to continue to receive the free monthly newsletter.

You may be aware of the much publicised SCC and Action Surrey switching scheme www.surreyswitchandsave.org "Surrey's Hassle free energy switching scheme to save £££ on your bill". We at GW FoE are concerned that it is extremely unlikely to involve a green tariff. We are all in favour of saving money, but if you are a supporter of 'Clean British Energy' (i.e. renewable energy) we think you should know that you won't be furthering that cause or encouraging people to conserve energy. We are at present trying to push for a green tariff to be included in this scheme –but the problem apparently is that the organisers will only offer a tariff that is fixed-price for a reasonable period and the bigger green energy suppliers won't commit to this.

More positively, Action Surrey has succeeded in their bid for money from DECC to cover two things:

1. subsidised or free Green Deal Assessments for Surrey residents
2. additional marketing effort on Green Deal - basically an extension of DECC's scheme from Sept - http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn12_107/pn12_107.aspx)

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>

Planning and Development

There will be more about the emerging planning policy for both Guildford and Waverley in the next newsletter but in the meantime one specific development in Waverley is causing some concern

This is an outline planning application for 100+ houses on the redundant land at **Milford Hospital**. Although the site is quite close to Godalming as the crow flies, the access into Godalming is up a backroad which has a single track section. However the main concern we have about this site is that the Homes and Communities Agency, which is the applicant, has including misleading information about access to bus services in the application and generally glossed over the transport and access difficulties. You can see the "10 minute walk" from the site to the bus stops on Portsmouth Road for yourselves in our very own short film about this now on the Guildford and Waverley Youtube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/GWFoE>

Web Actions

DR Congo: "Oil company threatens gorilla forest"
You may visit the page here:

<https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/mailalert/900/dr-congo-oil-company-threatens-gorilla-forest?ref=taf>

Amongst others on Marinet's updated website:- **EU recognises importance of total ban on shark fin trade**
<http://www.marinet.org.uk/eu-recognises-importance-of-total-ban-on-shark-fin-trade.html>

Marinet campaigns for protection of East Anglian coastal SSSI

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/marinet-campaigns-for-protection-of-east-anglian-coastal-sssi.html>

Global Warming – the chilling evidence

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/global-warming-the-chilling-evidence.html>

EVENTS

Don't forget the **Big Green Bike Ride on 27-28th April**.

How's about Embercombe in Devon - "inspiring committed action for a truly sustainable world" is running a series of talks and events this year. eg The Embercombe Experience, Natural Beekeeping, Breadmaking, Family Summer Camp and Wildcraft for 13-16yrs. Friends Working Weekends monthly throughout the year. Visit www.embercombe.co.uk

Our next meeting will be on Monday 28th Jan. on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15. Our later meetings will be on Feb 25th, March 25th and April 29th.

Hope to see you there.

Hilary

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