

Guildford, Woking and Waverley

Newsletter : Mar. 2013

www.gwfoe.org.uk



In our first foray for 2013 on local Biodiversity, John Bannister encouraged us to join him with SWT to plant trees in the Rosamund Orchard on Pewley Down. 4 of us were successful in doing just that on March 9th as the photos show!

John Bannister expands:- "This was a Transition Guildford project that took a year in planning and was part of a larger project that included Guildford's first community orchard in beautiful Racks Close very near the centre of Guildford. The £1300 funding for the two orchards came from the Community Foundation for Surrey Orchid Environmental Trust (£550), the Guildford Environmental Forum (£300), a private donor (£300) and Transition Guildford (£50). Tools purchased to the value of £260 to complete the project were donated to the Rosamund project. I am setting up Friends of Racks Close to care for that orchard and to provide further benefits for wildlife."

Our next Biodiversity forays will be discussed on Monday. We will follow up Rachael Hunter's plans to tackle Himalayan Balsam locally (10th - 16th June is the invasive species recording week, 15th - 21st July is a week focused on tackling the balsam), and finalise our bee walk on Monday- planned to be on The Mount in Walkfest on July 21st. We are also planning further letter writing to encourage more supermarkets and golf courses to remove neonicotinoids for their premises- and possibly a toad-crossing patrol if the weather ever warms up to 8 degrees overnight!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to those of you who have signed up on www.gwfoe.org.uk as paid up members. Another plea- can you join our yahoo groups too? Visit http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=42879/*http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/gwfoe for details.

The Marine Conservation Zones Event, March to Houses of Parliament on Feb 25th was to protest at the Coalition Government's failure to designate all 127 proposed Marine Conservation Zones within UK waters.

Our member, Cher Higgins took part in this and we're hoping to hear her report of an enjoyable, successful event at Monday's meeting.

FUTURE EVENTS

WORK PARTY JOBS, START OF SEASON 2013 Please help on SATURDAY, 23 MARCH-10.30am at Puttenham Eco Camping Barn -for as little or long as you like by contacting hilary.mills@mypostoffice.co.uk

Note from John Bannister:- Would you like to join John and GEF on **Saturday 20 April** for a guided tour of a brand new visitors centre built to very high environmental standards? It is about to be opened at 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. It has some very novel features such as oak piles, waste water treatment on-site, interesting renewables and all the more standard features. The reconstructed stone age village is right there and well worth a visit if you haven't been before. A walk up Butzer Hill is something we could do together 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

Big Green Bike Ride 2013

I've finally signed up to the [Big Green Bike Ride](#) in the New Forest on **28th April**. It's a **40 mile** day-ride from Lyndhurst, setting off for a tailored tour through the Forest. Our local group will take a share in the profits! Help us raise some money - or sponsor us if you can't ride yourself! John Bannister and I are committed so far- but the more the merrier! So for more info, call Tim on 02075661692 or visit www.biggreenbikeride.com or ask me!

Web Actions

Under new draft guidelines, climate change is set to be removed from the geography curriculum for under 14s teaching about climate change is absolutely crucial to ensuring that young people understand and are able to be leaders on climate change SO please sign our petition at www.peopleandplanet.org/teach-climate Or look at Campaign Hubs and discuss with Rachel Gibbons what local groups can do about it with the Youth & Education network. <http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/topic,1626.msg3295/topicseen.html#new> Also on Campaign Hubs, Jennifer Rosenberg has news on a troubling Budget announcements of fracking sweeteners for local communities. <http://forum.foe.co.uk/campaignhubs/index.php/topic,1627.msg3296/topicseen.html#new> Why do our politicians fight for the wrong things?? A very sad and shameful day for Britain is outlined here: <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-living/britain-opposes-eu-pesticide-ban-on-neonicotinoid-pesticides-blamed-for-bee-deaths-around-the-world-8539870.html>

We lobbied our MPs to support Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk South during the Ecobuild conference in his amendment to the energy bill that would help to reduce the cost of capital for green energy projects. But so far we have had no support from Anne Milton or Jonathan Lord -Jeremy Hunt will be visited this Friday-have you heard anything positive from your "greenest government ever" representative??

**Our next meeting will be on Monday 25th March. on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15. Our later meetings will be on April 29th and June 3rd.
Hope to see you there.**

Hilary

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