

Guildford, Woking and Waverley

Newsletter : May 2013

www.gwfoe.org.uk



At our next meeting on Monday, we'll discuss the proposal for a 7MW solar farm at Eashing, near Milford, the draft Surrey Rail survey, the bee world possibilities and other items below and raised by members on the night.

Come on Monday 20th May and take part in our discussion about the controversial proposal for a 7MW solar farm at Eashing, near Milford. Friends of the Earth supports renewable energy but this may involve the loss of 40 acres of good quality agricultural land which is being used for commercial vegetable growing. Some information about the proposal provided by the developer has been posted on our website.

We will also be considering the draft Surrey Rail Strategy produced on behalf of the Surrey Future partnership which is open for consultation until the end of June.

Well done to Wey Valley Solar Schools – very successful first year of trading!

Congratulations to all involved in the Wey Valley Solar Schools Energy Co-operative (WVSS) which held its second AGM on 15 May. In spite of mixed weather it has had an 'electric' first year! Total electricity production to the end of April across the six schools has now exceeded 250,000 kWh. The profits have enabled a dividend of more than 6% to be paid to members in the first year (three years ahead of expectations). The philosophy of a co-operative is that members should receive a fair but not excessive return and so the interest over 6% is divided between the co-op members and the schools. As a result all six schools will be receiving cheques in the near

future – plus free and reduced price electricity..



Rodborough School resplendent in the sunshine!
WVSS had been recognised as a pioneer and leader in the field – particularly the expertise of our local group members Mike Smyth and Rachael Hunter who are now helping with a number of other renewable energy projects across London and the South East.

Keep checking our website please - the latest post on our Website www.gwfoe.org.uk is :-

Green deal off to slow start.....

"The reputable environmental publication ENDS has reported that of almost 19,000 people that have had assessments, only about 100 people have signed up to Green Deal plans and are paying back loans and only three are actually paying back a loan through their electricity bill (which is how Green Deal loans are meant to be repaid). Others are paying back through other means such as monthly direct debits."

Please visit www.gwfoe.org.uk to read more and find out more and about us and our community involvements.

John Bannister would be grateful for any feedback that you would like to give him re traffic solutions to the centre of Guildford. "Surveys have shown that traffic congestion is one of the biggest issues in Guildford- recently rated the 40th most congested city/town in Europe. A solution to our congestion is

and the related issues of safe pedestrian and cycle access is a very high priority".

He also advises there is "an excellent programme of outdoor nature events organised by the Pewley Down Volunteers. More details at GEF's AGM on Wed 29th May at 19.00 at the GBC Council Chambers in Millmead.



For those of you that, like me, missed the small print in the Queen's speech, you'll be disappointed in this item that local groups were working on:- Air quality assessment changes outlined in Queen's

speech May 8, 2013 *Government to remove councils' obligation to carry out further air quality assessments*
<http://www.airqualitynews.com/2013/05/08/air-quality-assessment-changes-outlined-in-queens-speech/>

Local authorities will no longer need to produce air quality assessments after designating Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). (*Glad to see the Queen also looks upset about this*)

But let's celebrate for once- we owe the EU a lot for their part in saving bees from neonicotinoids!
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/29/bee-harming-pesticides-banned-europe>

Web Actions

350.org premiered their new film "Do the Math" on Thursday. It is a powerful 44 mins video and to my amazement it's inspiring, not depressing! The solution is so simple- just attack those with vested interests in fossil fuels.....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsIfokifwSo>

One to watch and forward to politicians! FoE US now has an impressive website and facebook page, targeting the Keystone XL pipeline. Petition on there too!

Lots on the Marinet website as usual eg:-

Electricity generating "tidal lagoon" proposed for Swansea Bay

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/electricity-generating-tidal-lagoon-proposed-for-swanea-bay.html>

Short film illustrates the value and urgent need to protect coral reefs

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/short-film-illustrates-the-value-and-urgent-need-to-protect-coral-reefs.html>

"Sustainable Seafood Coalition" wants to bring ethics to fish retailing

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/sustainable-seafood-coalition-wants-to-bring-ethics-to-fish-retailing.html>

David Levy blog - The "Call to Action" is addressed to You - Apr 2013

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/david-levy-blog.html>

David Levy - Thinking about what "accountability" means - May 2013

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/david-levy-blog.html>

Please sign this urgent petition

http://www.avaaz.org/en/the_plan_to_kill_orangutans_d_m?tta. This place holds the largest biodiversity in the whole of the Asia Pacific region - parts of it are classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. But this new mining company-backed plan would lay it to waste and threaten local communities with deadly landslides and flash floods!

Our next meeting will be on Monday 20th May on the top floor of Guildford Institute at 7.15. Our later meetings will be on June 24th (and Sunday July 12th after our Walkfest up the Mount!)

Hope to see you there.

Hilary

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