



GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

newsletter

www.gefweb.org.uk

DECEMBER 2013 – FEBRUARY 2014



Shops in Burden Road, Stoughton

OUR LOCAL SHOPPING CENTRES

by Richard Seymour, teacher of geography at the Royal Grammar School

FOR A NUMBER of years, sixth-form geographers at the Royal Grammar School in Guildford have been studying the functions and structures of the local shopping centres, in order to determine whether or not a hierarchy exists. Being involved with this local fieldwork it has been possible to identify significant changes that have occurred over the past 15 years.

Overall decline

There are 22 local shopping centres in Guildford, and the number of shops has been declining due to high business rates and competition with out-of-town supermarkets and retail parks. The increase in online shopping is also presenting further problems for local shops. Rationalisation by the Post Office has seen the closure of a number of sub-Post Offices and this may continue with the process of privatisation. There has been the closure of local public houses

which is part of a national trend, but in contrast to this the number of restaurants and take-aways has been increasing. Many shops are now multi-functional as they offer a wide range of services for local people – one shop in Jacobs Well has six different functions.

Accessibility

Throughout the 22 centres there are significant variations in the provision of parking facilities; for example, Kingpost Parade in Burpham has a purpose-built car park, unlike Woodbridge Hill in north Guildford where parking is difficult. Linear shopping developments attract passing trade due to their visibility, but this can be problematic for centres that are more isolated, such as in Boxgrove.

Many local shops can only remain viable if they have long opening hours and some authorities have



Local shops in Jacobs Well

suggested that the local petrol station is becoming the new corner shop, open 24/7.

A different mix

Whilst there has been a decline in the number of independent retailers the larger companies such as Sainburys and M&S have realised the advantages of providing shopping facilities in local centres.

A number of shops have ATM machines which attracts additional customers, and symbiotic relationships can be seen when a vet is attached to a pet shop. There has been an increase in shops that offer personal services such as barbers and ladies' hairdressers. There is some evidence of shops decentralising from the town centre although this is the exception rather than the rule. Several centres have seen the loss of telephone boxes as mobile phones become ubiquitous.

A relatively new development has been the emergence of charity shops in local shopping centres, and that might continue as this type of sustainable shopping becomes more popular. There are some highly specialist shops in the local centres such as the Horologist on the Worplesdon Road and the Tattoo Parlour on Manor Road.

The benefits

Local shops play an important role in that they provide local employment, and in some cases accommodation as their owners live over the shop. Older people who may lack mobility find local shops invaluable and the same could be said of mothers with young children who might find it easier to use local shops.

The environmental consequences should not be forgotten, as local shops can help to reduce the number of cross-town journeys by acting as neighbourhood centres similar to those planned by Sir Fred Gibberd with his new town designs.

Depending on how a hierarchy is determined, there is no doubt that one exists among the local shopping centres of Guildford. From year to year the nature of the retail hierarchy changes and will continue to do so in the future.

Planners in Freiburg (Guildford's twin town) stipulated that a wide range of everyday needs should be met by local shops a short walking distance from where people live.

Harlow New Town, planned by Sir Fred Gibberd (1908-1984), is regarded as the most successful of Britain's post-war new towns.

More and more apple juice

This has been a bumper year for apples so our apple press has been kept pretty busy.

Again this year we were a popular presence at Winkworth Arboretum's event "Live Local Love Winkworth" and also at the Surrey Hills Wood Fair, and we spent a whole day again at Witley Infants School, who raised money for their school from the sale of apple juice.

To our chagrin, after three years

using us at its "Taste of Autumn" event, RHS Wisley has bought its own press and at a late stage this year decided to dispense with our services. However, to show willing we sent volunteers to help them – just as well, since they're on a steep learning curve! Who knows, maybe next year we'll be back, which would be good as it has been a useful earner for us in past years.

John Bannister



Lisa Hews

Latest news about Surrey County Council's proposed Eco-Park

Lucy McSherry

SINCE THE ADOPTION in February 2010 of *World Class Waste Solutions*, Surrey County Council's Waste Management plan, the County has recognised the potential of gasification technology to treat non-recyclable waste. As part of this plan, SITA Surrey has proposed to develop an Eco-Park at Charlton Lane, Shepperton.

Surrey County Council states that the Eco-Park is a key part of its approach to managing household waste, and will provide a more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective means of treating the waste produced in northern Surrey. The aim of the Eco-Park is to divert as much waste as possible from landfill and to produce renewable energy from both food waste and rubbish that cannot be recycled. It will be the first site in the UK to co-locate gasification and anaerobic digestion facilities alongside the existing community recycling centre and will include an education centre.

On 30 October 2013, Surrey County Council's Cabinet agreed to amend its waste contract with SITA Surrey to incorporate the development of the Eco-Park as proposed.

Planning permission was initially given in March 2012, and since then work has been under way to fulfil the requirements of the conditions placed upon the permission. As part of the detailed design process the building contractor, M+W Group, has changed the type of gasification technology to be installed and made amendments to the anaerobic digester facility. This will require changes to the planning permission.

SITA Surrey has recently submitted the applications to amend both the planning permission and environmental permit. This application is accompanied by an updated Environmental Statement including transport, noise and air quality assessments demonstrating any changes to potential impacts from the new gasification process. The application can be viewed on Spelthorne Borough Council's website, spelthorne.gov.uk

The County Planning Authority has started statutory consultation on the application to vary the planning permission and is expected to consider it in early 2014. The Environment Agency has requested some further information from SITA and will begin statutory consultation on the application to vary the environmental permit once it is satisfied it has all the necessary information.

A second public inquiry is scheduled for January 2014 to consider objections to the realignment of the footpath that needs to be diverted around the Eco Park, and this process is expected to conclude next spring.

Works are also due to start in December, under a separate planning permission, for improvements to the existing Charlton Lane site entrance and access road into the community recycling centre. Works will include an acoustic fence around the house near to the site entrance, and access improvements. Once complete, the new arrangement will separate community recycling centre traffic from the HGVs using the site's transfer station, and alleviate queuing on the road at peak times.



SITA

Food self-sufficiency? No chance

Britain now produces only 62% of the food the country consumes. The NFU has calculated that if all the food we produce in a year were stored and eaten from 1st January, supplies would run out by 14th August.

(Source: Daily Telegraph, 14 Aug '13)

Pollination

According to Nottingham Trent University, the global value of pollination by insects such as honeybees is \$153 billion.

(Source: BBC Wildlife, May '13)

FACTS & FIGURES

Where do they go?

This summer the British Trust for Ornithology has been tracking the southward migration of house martins. Tiny 'geolocators' attached to the birds allow researchers to discover where in Africa they overwinter.

(Source: The Garden, Aug '13)

Sinister link to ivory

The attack on a Kenyan shopping centre this year by Islamic terrorists has a link to elephant conservation. A report published by the International Caucus Foundation said that al-Shabaab, the group responsible, relies on the illegal ivory trade to fund its activities.

(Source: BBC Wildlife, Nov '13)

Great happenings at Rosamund Community Garden

John Bannister



Enthusiastic helping hands at the Rosamund Garden Open Day. Behind them the polytunnel and vegetable area can be partially seen.

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER the fruit and vegetable garden has been buzzing with activity and the best news is that steadily more people are getting involved. The highlights during a busy September and October were a very successful Open Day when over 100 people visited us, the delivery of a lorry load of compost and the building of the wildlife pond.

But first, we can report that the late summer and autumn have been very good for crop production, including excellent tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, squash, rhubarb, beetroot and a wide range of salad leaves. A significant quantity of salad leaves has been sold this season to the nearby Percy Arms and they'd love to have more.

The installation of a sizeable shed at the end of July has meant that the polytunnel has been cleared of miscellaneous equipment, so that from next year it will be fully employed growing crops like cucumbers and tomatoes.

The Open Day

On a cloudy but dry day on 28 September we held our first Open Day. This exceeded all our expectations. More than 100 people visited us, mostly families with children, who spent the day learning about composting, growing and scything, and made apple juice from their own apples, going home laden with fresh vegetables and juice. Several newcomers to the area came and met neighbours for the first time. We had leafleted all houses in the surrounding area and advertised the event on

our improved website www.rosamundgarden.org. This had all clearly worked. Among the visitors was a home educators group, who are forming a strong attachment to the community garden.

We raised some money from the sale of vegetables and apple juice and furthermore a young schoolgirl managed to raise £70 for a project in Africa by selling her seedlings and cakes. We made a delicious soup from the garden produce, which was a great success. So an Open Day looks like becoming a permanent feature of our growing year.

Five tonnes of compost!

Opening up new land for growing vegetables at the garden requires compost to improve the soil, and our own compost heaps haven't had a chance yet to make much of a contribution. Our hopes for a local solution focussed on the kitchen and garden waste collected by the council in Guildford, which is composted. It seemed to us to be the most environmentally sustainable solution. However, "our" household green "waste" gets sent off for composting everywhere but in Surrey and disappears in the process. All our attempts to get some of "our" compost back failed miserably.

So we turned next to the well-established equivalent system in Hampshire that goes by the name of "Project Integra". They quickly and efficiently solved our needs with a 10 cubic metre (approximately 5 tonnes) lorry load delivered on 25 October, at a very reasonable price. This had to be dumped outside our narrow gate



Kate Millington

How not to suffer aching backs from heavy work: let youngsters enjoy doing it! We'll reap the benefits of this beautiful compost next year with potentially bumper crops.



Kate Millington

entrance on a public footpath! But a magnificent effort by 10 friends of the garden plus four young children from the home educators group shifted this in two hours! A fabulous achievement. The children brought their own small wheelbarrows and trailers and had a whale of a time. Following our "no-dig" philosophy, the worms are at this very moment working away diligently to draw the compost into the soil where it's been spread, enriching it for the next crops. We used this day to celebrate the harvest with a joyful ceremony and hot soup.



Kate Millington



Frances Halstead

The wildlife pond

Finally, for this roundup of events at the garden, nine people came on 29 October to complete the wildlife pond, a wonderful event run very skilfully by Frances Halstead of Surrey Wildlife Trust. A good start on the pond had been made a fortnight earlier with the help of three super young people from Primevigilance UK, a company based on the Research Park in Guildford. They escaped the office on what was a glorious day and we made what we thought was a finished job, leaving only the underlay, butyl liner and overlay to go down. How wrong we were. Frances knew better and what a grand job she made of it with our help. We learned such a lot.

Rain has started to fill the pond and we'll collect rainwater to top up in the summer. Plants have still to be sourced and planted but Frances left us with excellent information on what to plant. Frogs, newts and, we hope, a myriad of other creatures will arrive under their



Kate Millington

The joys of laying a butyl liner in a hole



Kate Millington

own steam. We ourselves will only introduce plants and we'll let you know what happens in a future newsletter.

Will there still be a traffic jam on the gyratory in 2050?

Alastair Atkinson

WHILST THE RESIDENTS of Guildford are focusing on making it through the Guildford rush-hour traffic to get to school and work, the Council is looking to plan ahead for the future with an innovative long-term movement and transport study.

The movement of people and goods is something that affects everybody every day of their lives and also impacts on the long-term economic success of the town. However, for many years the planning and provision of transport infrastructure has been undertaken in the same way. This current approach relies on the planning of transport being a responsive function of the overall planning system. This traditionally relies on the Council producing development plans for a 5 or 10 year timeframe, such as the emerging Guildford Local Plan stating the location and type of development. The Council then predicts the transport requirements for this amount of development and then investment plans are developed to allow the physical infrastructure required on the ground.

Owing to the 5-10 year timescales this approach normally leads to the focus being on the management of movement along historical routes and corridors. Over time as the town grows and evolves these historical routes may not be the most efficient movement routes to serve the needs of the current or indeed future population. This problem can be seen in many towns and

cities and Guildford is no exception. If the town were being planned now it would have different movement routes – for example the routing of the A3 and movement links between the science park and the town centre.

To help break this cycle Guildford is currently undertaking an innovative approach to the long-term planning and provision of movement requirements within the town. The study will look at the transport needs for the town in 2050 and then will consider a number of future scenarios for the transport provision to meet these needs in 2050.

These future scenarios might include, for example, the increased use of sustainable transport modes such as public transport, walking and cycling, or the use of technology to improve traffic management in the town and to reduce vehicle emissions through the uptake of electric cars. All of which will affect how the town is planned in the future.

For each scenario, the study will then work backwards (or “backcast”) to the present day to define a timetable of actions and interventions required to achieve the desired outcome. These interventions are likely to involve a combination of policy, environmental and suggested new physical infrastructure requirements. However, the study is ongoing and is expected to be completed at the end of February 2014. We look forward to engaging with the Council as the study progresses and we will bring you news in future editions.



Can we hope ever to see an image such as this in Guildford?

At sea – 1
Populations of large predatory marine fish such as Atlantic cod and bluefin tuna have plummeted by 90% since 1950.

At sea – 2
Of all fish caught, 30% are used to feed livestock and pets.

At sea – 3
In 2006, catching 1kg of fish took 1 litre of diesel; it now takes 2 litres.
(Source: BBC Wildlife, Apr '13)

Packaging
This country produces 9.3 million tonnes of wasted packaging each year. That's the equivalent weight of 245 jumbo jets every week.
(Source: Waitrose Weekend, 9 May '13)

FACTS & FIGURES

Methane
Methane, that is at least 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide, is being released into the atmosphere from melting Arctic ice. Researchers believe that the change to the global climate of a relatively sudden release of methane over a decade could have a catastrophic effect on crops, sea levels, coastal flooding and extreme weather.
(Source: Independent, 24 July '13)

Pheasants
Pound for pound, in Britain there are more pheasants than any other species of bird. In autumn, 35 million young pheasants are set free, to enable the lucrative business of game shooting.
(Source: BBC Wildlife, Sept '12)

Plastic, plastic everywhere
Research carried out for the UN suggests that there are, on average, 46,000 pieces of plastic floating on or near the surface of every square mile of ocean in the world.
(Source: the book 'Strands' by Jean Sprackland)

FACTS & FIGURES

Soil degradation
Writing about organic farming in *Country Life* magazine, Prince Charles quoted research by the University of Sheffield which suggests that there are only enough nutrients in the soil for another 100 seasons, at the current rate of intensive farming. He said that nutrients must be allowed to return to the soil naturally, through crop rotation.
(Source: Daily Telegraph, 13 Nov '13)

Little egrets
Little egrets nested in the UK for the first time in 1996, on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. They have spread steadily north to breed in the Midlands and northern England and Wales. About 1,000 pairs now breed in 60 main colonies.
(Source: BBC Wildlife, Dec '12)

In 37 years time
By 2050 the number of cars on the road (globally) is expected to triple, and there is expected to be demand for 7 billion passenger flights a year.
(Source: New Statesman, 21 Dec '12)

HS2 and rail fares

John Bannister

FIGURES SHOW THAT rail travel in the UK, measured as billion passenger kilometres, rose by 49% between 1998 and 2010 and appears to remain on a steep upward trend. Over the same period UK domestic air travel rose to a peak in 2006 and has fallen since by about 30%, again on a steep trajectory. Road travel has stayed on a fairly flat profile during this time. These trends all look desirable and understandable given our notorious road congestion and the stress involved in using airports and flying. We now need to see a dramatic fall in road passenger kilometres, which will require a big improvement in rail (and bus) services by providing plenty of capacity to meet demand.



bbc.co.uk

UK population is expected to rise from 62.3 million in 2010 to 73.2 million in 2035 (and no doubt government policy failings will mean much of this increase will be crammed into an already over-congested south-east). Will HS2 help provide the right mobility solution for the UK in 2035, which is two years after both HS2 phases are meant to be fully operational? A recent report strongly backed HS2 over spending the same money to upgrade existing north-south rail services. It argued that HS2 would significantly improve many lateral intercity journey times and vastly increase the number of fast commuter seats on existing trains leaving Euston at peak times (at the expense of slow commuter trains). In addition it would add an estimated 19,500 seats leaving Euston at peak times on HS2 itself, more than doubling the number of seats versus the route upgrade option (source *Financial Times*, 30 November 2013).



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Nothing has been said about future rail fares however. Already UK rail commuters are paying up to five times as much for a season ticket as commuters in some European countries. The last in-depth study comparing

train prices across Europe was in 2009, but Passenger Focus say the pattern of prices remains the same (source *The Guardian*, 2 November 2013). In 2009 a long distance UK commuter paid an average of £3,100. It would be much more today, for example Ashford to London £4,500, Brighton to London up to £3,800, Tunbridge Wells to London up to £4,750. Car parking and use of the Underground would add to these prices. In the Netherlands the equivalent in 2009 was an average of £2,000, in Germany an average of £1,600 and in Italy an average of £700.

What is it about rail travel in the UK that we are fleeced like this? The answer appears to be in two parts. Firstly, we are less efficient at running rail services and, secondly, the privatised

rail companies reward their shareholders very highly indeed. Companies judge their profitability using ROCE – percentage return on capital employed. Many companies might hope for 10% or maybe 20%, in some sectors it would be much less. In 2012, UK train companies achieved a ROCE of 147% and have not returned less than 100% since 2004. This means relatively little of the income our train companies derive from fares is being ploughed back into better rolling stock and services but mainly goes to reward shareholders and company bosses.

I would argue that rail transport is so vital for the internal running of a country and the wellbeing of its citizens that rail services should remain in the public sector, and this includes the track. The privatised rail companies couldn't be giving a worse deal

than now for UK travellers. Their high fares are not only divisive but contribute to our air quality and congestion problems by keeping more cars on the road than there would be otherwise. This is perhaps why the more holistic, joined-up thinking in mainland Europe wins hands down over UK government dogma.

Forming a CSA Network in our Region – with links to Goethe and Steiner

John Bannister

ROB SIMPSON of Farnham Local Food (FLF) is the driver behind an initiative to help support and expand community food groups in the south-east. Just as the Rosamund Community Garden has strong links to Transition Guildford, so FLF has strong links to Transition Farnham. There are clear differences between the ways our two groups operate, but with small-scale food production this is always going to be about taking full advantage of what's possible in your immediate locality. Hence there is a wide spectrum of approaches and great diversity out there. For example, FLF is cultivating more land than we are at present and is able to support a paid grower with the income from sales of vegetables to its 30 or so paying members.

Community Supported Agriculture

What we do have in common is that we both fall under the broad definition of CSA, or community supported agriculture. In essence this means growing food for local people where the links between grower and consumer are very close in spirit and close in distance, and the consumer is often a volunteer on the farm or in the vegetable garden. Avoiding chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides is also a common theme.

Another well-known example of CSA near Guildford is Grace and Flavour in East Horsley.

For many years the Soil Association (SA), that promotes and certifies organic food in this country, has helped encourage CSA groups and in November 2011 published a report *The impact of community supported agriculture* in England. Over 100 CSAs were identified at the time, a few large and many small. Although today a tiny niche in the food market, the SA sees accelerated CSA growth in the future. To help realise this growth Rob, together with Rachel Harries from the Soil Association, organised a conference and workshops in October and two members of the Rosamund Community Garden went along. Thirty people attended representing 13 CSAs in total, including Sutton, Brighton, Farnham, Grace and Flavour, Worthing, Crowhurst, Leatherhead, Lambourne End and St Albans. In the workshops we discussed setting up a South-east CSA Hub and identified what we would want from such a Hub, what we could contribute to it and the principles that we felt should govern it.

At Tablehurst Farm

The meeting took place on an inspiring biodynamic farm, Tablehurst Farm, in Forest Row, East Sussex. This farm was originally owned by Emerson College, a Rudolf Steiner college. Now, together with Plaw Hatch Farm (also run biodynamically) it is a co-operatively owned business on rented land employing 25 people, relying almost totally on what they earn, with an annual turnover of £1m. Some useful income comes from a care home owned by the co-op.

Tablehurst Farm has a beautiful farm shop and a small café and 90% of the meat and vegetables produced by the co-op is sold through the farm shop. Only if there are surpluses will they consider selling produce further afield. Milk surpluses sometimes mean an excess of yogurt and I'm just delighted when I can get Plaw Hatch yogurt in Guildford. We were given a delicious, wholesome lunch and

knowing its provenance made it so much more pleasurable and nutritious. On a tour of the farm we were told that one vital essence of biodynamic farming is that all the needs of the farm, such as animal feed, are grown on the farm. It's an enclosed, self-sufficient, sustainable system of agriculture, the most sustainable form of agriculture that exists. If there's a need to bring anything in from outside then it will have to come from another biodynamic farm.

Rudolf Steiner

Rudolf Steiner, who lived from 1861 to 1925, wrote and lectured on a great many subjects affecting humanity and our world, including education, children's development, architecture, health and nutrition, the natural world and agriculture. Apart from practical advice on how to make compost and till the land, Steiner also spoke about vitality in plants and food. This combination of science with spiritual and poetic visions was something that Goethe had investigated well before Steiner.

So it was fortuitous that after graduating in science and mathematics at the Technical University in Vienna, Steiner was invited to edit the scientific writings of Goethe. Better known as a poet, author and philosopher, it's now largely forgotten that Goethe made detailed studies of plants, animals, clouds, colours and other natural phenomena leading to a perception of the creative principles that lay behind them. Steiner said in one of his lectures, *"It is important to comprehend that manuring and similar practices must consist in providing the soil with a certain degree of vitality"*. He also said that mineral and herbal preparations, planting and husbandry were best timed according to the moon and the planets. *"We usually imagine that the moon simply takes up the rays of the sun and reflects them onto the earth, but this is not the only thing that comes towards the earth. Along with the moonbeams, the entire reflected cosmos comes towards earth"*, he wrote. If you are interested in this theory, the Biodynamic Agricultural Association in the UK produces an annual calendar showing when certain tasks should be carried out.



The co-operatively owned Tablehurst Farm in East Sussex

When you think today how our soils and the food most people eat have been so denuded of vitality by chemical, profit-at-all-cost farming, are so lacking in trace minerals, that our food is shipped and flown unripe from all over the world and, crime of crimes, Monsanto and Syngenta get nominated for a Nobel prize, poor Steiner would be glad he lived and died when he did. But his legacy lives on and fortunately we have some biodynamic food grown in this country. But it is Germany that is the real stronghold with 45% of global biodynamic production – the young farm managers who showed us around Tablehurst Farm were both from Germany.

THE YEAR GONE BY:

extracts from *A Country Diary* by Forum member Michael Tanner

2012

Sun. NOV. 11th

South-west of Seale

First real frost last Tuesday; beech trees everywhere blaze orange; old coppiced chestnut woods thick with fallen leaves though few edible chestnuts this year; no bird song, not even clay-pigeon banging disturbs the sullen air.

Sun. DEC.30th

Seale area

Full moon last night. This year the wettest on record; plenty of mallard on pond by Chaucer Cottage; footpaths made almost impassable by horses; moss in conifer woods like something from a Disney fairy-tale film.

2013

Tues. JAN. 15th

South of Pewley Down

Hungry sparrowhawk winging over new sprung barley, then up and over the hedge to catch the unwary; very small fox skitters across the path; all paths still sodden; cars a problem on the steep, narrow road winding up hill past St. Martha's.

Mon. FEB 18th

Puttenham, Shackleford, Eashing area

Shining day after frost; alder catkins about 4" long; first celandines; jackdaws busy near small-holding; tall limes full of joyous starlings. Don't horses just chew up footpaths!

Sat. MARCH 16th

Thursley Common

Keep up the good work English Nature! New boarded walks over perilous stretches of peat-darkened water scored by an east wind; patches of crinkled, etiolated lichen amongst surviving pines. Where are the reindeer? Feel sorry for the poor souls who once scratched a living here. Smart 4 WDs in car park.



www.rspb.org.uk

Sun. APRIL 14th

Great Bookham area

Lovely spring day! Nuff said? Brimstones, Commas, bumblebees, goldfinches, great tits, a 6-spot ladybird; rooks noisily industrious; crows mob a buzzard; nothing is still; must keep going!

Tues. MAY 21st

Tregardock Cliffs, N. Cornwall

Shattered cliff sides above the beach, beautiful with thrift, bird's foot trefoil, ox-eye daisies, white campion, pink campion, discrete patches of bluebells, (all short-stemmed forms); nature's own rock garden held in this cupped hand of broken slate and quartz. Tide withdraws with a heavy swell. Climb slowly away from sea's constant sound along a trickling brook; thrush singing, joined by shy toad somewhere below the thick thorns.

Mon. JUNE 24th Midsummer Day

Chalk ridge above Guildford

Pleasant, sunny ending of the day. Grasses thick, various and high. Rattle and red clover but no skylarks. Wheat on south side, blue-green, full headed, short-stemmed.

Sun. JULY 7th

Crooksbury Common area

Hot, dry summer is taking over. Fear of fire begins to lurk. Thrushes call only early morning, late evening. Dry grasses stand in uncut pastures.

Mon. AUGUST 26th

Between Watts Gallery and Puttenham



www.classicnatureprints.com

Roe deer nibbling at Choisya shrub in cottage garden. Another only a few metres distant bounds away startled. Rain after drought has produced

succulent blackberries. Wild bees still busy at nest in oak, wings catching the last of day's sun at 8 p.m.

Sun. SEPTEMBER 8th
Compton side of Hog's Back



Much cooler; very violent hail mid-afternoon; masses of blackberries asking to be picked; most trees and shrubs heavy with their own fruit. Mozzarella Buffalo grazing on Loseley pasture; about 100 Canada geese doing likewise on barley stubble which slopes south to the valley. They regard me as an intruder but do not take flight. Should I be flattered or insulted?

Sat. OCTOBER 5th
Frensham Great Pond

Sailing dinghy event on pond, like so many aquatic butterflies; megaphone strident against lapping of water and querulous coots. Are there really large tench lurking deep beneath those glistening wavelets; so say the spaced out, watchful anglers.

Good example this, of how people may enjoy a place with some intelligent regard to its nature. Raises the spirit.

Tues. NOVEMBER 5th
South side of Stoke Park and approaches

8.27 p.m. Three minutes to blast off. People of all sizes surge through the dark along roads, like lemmings towards an irresistible destination. Surely, they will miss something the Pied Piper has promised. Young hasten past and through the old; mood of intense expectancy: lemmings, bison scenting water, pink-footed geese sighting their feeding grounds. Even a natural historian feels the frenzy, is caught up in it. But already clock hand has triggered the electronics – Boom! Boom! Boom! felt in the stomach's pit. The heavy artillery are engaged; sky full of instant constellations; huge adrenalin surge! We are one with you all – sky, trees, grass, creepers, crawlers, gallopers, swimmers, fliers – not one jot more sophisticated!

DECEMBER
D.I.Y.



Surrey Wildlife Trust announces a new Group Membership Scheme

ON SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER, Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) celebrated five years of the Surrey Greenspace Project. This Project, funded by Woking Borough Council, Guildford Borough Council, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, is now in its final year. Fifty people from environmental groups across Surrey came along to celebrate the achievements of the Project and to find out what happens next.

Nigel Davenport, Chief Executive of SWT, spoke about recent achievements of the Trust (such as the highly successful grazing project) and future plans.

Frances Halstead, Environmental Group Support Officer for the Trust, outlined the achievements of the Surrey Greenspace Project over the last five years. Frances has worked with 150 environmental groups in Surrey, 18 of them new churchyard groups. She has worked with local communities to create seven new community orchards, five new wildflower meadows and four new ponds. In this year alone she has worked with local groups to plant 1,300 new trees donated by The Woodland Trust under their Jubilee Woods scheme.

During the event, recognition was given to some of the top volunteers with an award and a Green Champions mug.



As one of Surrey Greenspace Project's top volunteers, Kate Millington of Transition Guildford receives her award from Ron Pritchard, Chairman of SWT's Trustees

After tea Frances talked about her future work with environmental groups in Surrey. With the Greenspace Project coming to an end, funding is needed to continue its valuable work, and to this end Frances launched the new Environmental Group Membership Scheme.

This scheme has two types of membership: Group Membership and Public Sector Membership (detailed below).

Group Membership is for not-for-profit organisations such as Residents Associations, Conservation Groups, groups working on a specific site and any other group interested in wildlife conservation.

Public Sector Membership is tailored for organisations such as Parish Councils and Local Authorities.

The meeting was closed by Aimee Clarke, Director of Education and People and Wildlife, who thanked all the helpers, all the attendees for coming and all the volunteers for their hard work over the past five years.

Group Membership costs £85 annually and for this groups will receive:

- SWT publications three times a year
- One free talk a year or a free practical task/session
- Priority advice and support
- Priority booking for the annual Groups Conference
- Group Membership E-newsletter

Public Sector Membership costs £150 annually and for this members will receive:

- SWT publications three times a year
- One free talk a year or a free practical task/ session
- One free "walk and talk" advice session on land management
- Priority advice and support
- Priority booking for the annual Groups Conference
- Group Membership E-newsletter

In addition to the above, all Group Members will have access to a wide range of training courses, advice on publicity, the opportunity to carry out joint press releases, advice on funding and grant sources, and much more!

For more information on this new membership scheme please contact Frances Halstead on 07891 514574 or email frances.halstead@surreywt.org.uk

The latest evidence from the IPCC

In September the physical science basis for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report was approved. Here are some of its conclusions:

Global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) have risen by 54% since 1990. Of the four future scenarios modelled for the IPCC, we are on the uppermost trajectory with the likelihood of an additional global average warming of our atmosphere of 2.6 to 4.8°C by 2100 on top of the 0.85°C rise seen to date, i.e. + 3.5 to 5.7°C total compared to pre-industrial levels. This would be utterly catastrophic. However, the IPCC has modelled a scenario which keeps us below a total rise of 2°C.

To get on this safe track requires a global agreement to ensure our GHG emissions peak within a few years and then decrease rapidly. Not much sign of this happening. Japan, for example, has recently drastically reduced its commitment to reduce its GHG emissions. The IPCC has introduced the concept of a safe carbon budget for Earth. The total amount of GHG we can emit to give us more than a 66% chance of keeping below + 2°C is 800 GtC (giga tonnes carbon). We have already emitted 531 GtC, which leaves 269 GtC, only 30 years at current rates.

Ocean warming dominates the energy stored in our climate system. Over the period 1901 to 2010 global mean sea level rose by 0.19 metres and is increasing steadily but unevenly, more in some places than

others. Human influence on the climate system is clear according to IPCC and evidence is building that catastrophic weather events are becoming more destructive due to manmade GHG emissions.

John Bannister

God's Will

And God said,
"Let the rainbow be a symbol
Of my mercy."

But the rainbow,
Though beautiful,
Needed a frame.

So God chose the outskirts
Of my village
Just where the hopfield is,
On a day in late autumn
When only the bleached stems
Cling to their poles,
The sky is a washed blue
And there is laughter
From the village pub.

And he hung the rainbow above.

Michael Tanner



Guildford Environmental Forum aims to improve the environment in and around Guildford for wildlife and for people and to build a sustainable future.

Join us in our work for the town and have this newsletter posted to your door four times a year. Forum membership costs only £10 per year or £15 for a couple, and new members are warmly welcomed.

Please contact Adrian Thompson on 01483 222687 or e-mail adrianthompson46@talktalk.net



CALENDAR



All the Forum's Group meetings are open to the public

Monday 13 January

GEF Biodiversity and Community Projects Groups.
Paul Wickham, past Chairman of Surrey Wildlife Trust and now Chairman of the Surrey Nature Partnership:
"Your Local Nature Partnership and Economic Growth". Can our natural and social capital grow alongside our economy?
1900. Committee Room 1, GBC Millmead Offices.

Monday 20 January

Geographical Association of Guildford.
Dr Nicholas Klingaman, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, Climate and Walker Institute for Climate System Research, University of Reading: **"Extreme Weather and Climate Change"**.
1730. Guildford High School, London Road.

Wednesday 29 January

GEF Community Projects Group in conjunction with Guildford, Woking and Waverley FOE.
An award-winning film: **"More Than Honey"**, exploring the use and abuse of bees and the extraordinary services they provide for us. Narrated by John Hurt.
1900. Committee Room 1, GBC Millmead Offices.

Monday 10 February

Geographical Association of Guildford.
Dr Alex Whittaker, Lecturer in Tectonics, Department of Earth Sciences and Engineering, Imperial College, London: **"Earthquakes"**.
1730. Auditorium, Royal Grammar School.

Monday 3 March

Geographical Association of Guildford.
Dr Eloise Briggs, University of Southampton: **"Water in a Changing World"**.
1730. Auditorium, Royal Grammar School.

Wednesday 26 March

GEF Biodiversity Group.
Jane Hamilton-Cross, Bumble Bee Conservation Trust:
"Bumble Bees and How to Help Make our Environment Better for Them".
1900. Council Chamber, GBC Millmead Offices.

GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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Guildford Environmental Forum's newsletter is published in March, June, September and December.

Please send contributions for the next issue to Clare Windsor by Monday 10 February.

The views expressed in this newsletter are strictly those of its contributors and Guildford Environmental Forum.