



GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

newsletter

DECEMBER 2006

# 'Friendly' electricity generation at the Toll House, Guildford

by Fiona Booth

**WHY:** Global warming has increased because of human activities, especially the demand for power in homes and at work. We rely heavily on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, which release greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, causing changes to our climate. We must find ways of producing energy that do not harm the environment and the Toll House Hydro Project in Guildford is one good example. It is a renewable energy technology.

**WHERE:** The Toll House, where the hydro turbine is located, forms part of the Grade II Listed Town Mills complex owned by Guildford Borough Council.

In 1897, following the removal of the original water wheels, the Toll House was built and housed a pair of turbines to pump water to the town reservoir on Pewley Down. In 1930 the twin turbines were replaced with a single turbine, which ran until 1952. This turbine was removed in 1990 and donated to the National Trust, and it is now exhibited at Dapdune Wharf.

This year a new turbine has been installed in the Toll House. The turbine generates hydro-electricity by harnessing the energy of the water in an environmentally friendly way, reducing the impact on our environment.

**WHO:** John Bannister, Chair of the Guildford Environmental Forum, originally thought of the idea to use the Toll House. A partnership was then formed between Guildford Borough Council and the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. The mechanical and electrical components were supplied and installed by Derwent Hydro Developments of Derby, and the contractors, Geoffrey Osborne Ltd, undertook the civil and building works. The Guildford Environmental Forum, Jose Marques Ltd, and the Energy Centre for Sustainable Communities have also given their support.

**COST:** The completed scheme is estimated at £340,000. This has been offset by a grant from the Government's 'Clear Skies' programme of £60,000. The anticipated

annual income generated from the turbine is £25,000. The turbine will generate 260,000 kilowatt hours, enough to supply 50 houses with power per year.



Graham Foster, Guildford Borough Council

**The new turbine being lifted into the Toll House (on the end of the Town Mill, now the Mill Studio operated by the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre). It is an exciting thought that the power of the River Wey has been harnessed over centuries at this spot – for milling, for pumping water, and now for generating electricity.**

For additional information please contact the Climate Change team on 01483 444509 or [climatechange@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@guildford.gov.uk)

# New determination to address global warming

by John Bannister

A NUMBER OF positive initiatives appear to be converging, suggesting at last a real willingness to act on global warming, not just in Europe but in states and cities around the world. To date the action has not matched “the greatest threat facing mankind” to quote Mr Blair.

For a start, the three main UK political parties have joined the Green Party in accepting the risk of imminent and catastrophic global warming, with dire consequences for the environment, mankind, (particularly in developing countries) and the global economy. So much so, they are all talking up green taxes and a range of other measures to change our purchasing habits. The stated goal is to fast-track a low carbon economy.

## **The Stern report**

To bolster this we now have the report commissioned by the UK government on the financial implications of global warming, published on 30th October. This report by Sir Nicholas Stern, a former World Bank chief economist, states unequivocally that the social and financial impacts of global warming would rank alongside the Great Depression and the two World Wars and knock at least 10% off global GDP if we continue as we are. Hundreds of millions of people would die from famine and sea level rises. The solution, he says, is to act immediately at the cost of an affordable 1% per annum of GDP, which would avoid a much higher bill within the next 30 to 50 years of at least 10% per annum of GDP if we delay.

Still the media trots out the odd professor who gainsays any likelihood of global temperatures rising another 2 to 5°C if we continue as we are. This flies in the face of 99.5% of climate scientists. The essential message in the Stern report is that if runaway global warming occurs, the risks are so great and the cost of acting now so relatively low that any wise person would take the low-cost option. He says the science is irrefutable and global warming is already costing a lot globally and killing many people.

## **Climate Change Bill**

Another major achievement has been the Climate Change Bill forced on the government by the sustained lobbying of environmental NGOs. Grassroots members have been engaging with their MPs and getting them to support Early Day Motion 178 and put pressure on Blair and Miliband. Guildford & Godalming Friends of

the Earth (FoE) has worked with MPs in Guildford, Woking and Godalming, all of whom signed up. In total 410 MPs supported the EDM, only the fourth EDM to break the 400 barrier since 1939! This is highly significant. FoE wants an annual target to reduce our greenhouse gases by 3% a year, but the government has signalled a willingness to legislate for longer-term targets only, backed by policy measures to reach 60% reduction by 2050, with tighter monitoring and reporting to Parliament. It proposes an independent oversight body – the Carbon Committee – to advise on measures and to manage the monitoring. Annual targets would be so much better, but this is a great step forward nonetheless. The Queen’s Speech on 15th November will tell all.

## **It’s a moral issue**

Finally, George Monbiot, the tireless environmental campaigner, has argued eloquently that global warming is a moral issue. Can the behaviour of the developed nations since the industrial revolution hold the world to ransom and not take the major share of the responsibility for stopping global warming? In his latest book *Heat*, Monbiot covers all the issues. He throws new light on the denial industry and Exxon Mobil’s role in it.

Unlike “responsible” big business, our government and even Stern, he says that to be sure we prevent runaway global warming we must keep the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere below 400 ppm (parts per million) to ensure that global average temperatures do not exceed 2°C above pre-industrial levels. We are at 380 ppm now and rising by 2 ppm a year. Others talk about 500 or 550 ppm being the critical point. According to Monbiot and the scientists he has spoken to, including the UK’s renowned Hadley Centre, +2°C is the tipping point and we have only 10 years to act.

He says that globally we need to cut gas emissions by 60% by 2030 (not, as the government says, by 2050). This means the rich world must cut by 90% by 2030. He sets out his plan for how it can be done. Food supply is his biggest fear. If we don’t act, we can expect severe world-wide drying and a massive food deficit, with millions of people dying. Most people live on coastal plains and devastation and displacement from rising sea levels will also follow.

We have a huge and positive opportunity to move to a different kind of global economy, employing existing and proven technologies and creating new types of employment. But action has to begin now and bite deep.

The directors of the new trading company *thinkus*. James Wedlake, on the right, designed the eye-catching image to be used on recycling and shopping bags.



## Students set up *thinkus* – a green trading company

MEMBERS OF THE *thinkus* team recently visited the Guildford Ecohouse as part of their campaign to help Guildford *thinkgreen*. Conscious of the impact our lifestyle is having on the world, they want us to take easy steps to reduce that impact. To that end

they are marketing a range of jute products tailored to the Guildford market.

These include a smart recycling bag, enabling you to keep your waste paper in style until you're ready to send it for recycling, on sale at

£6.50. This will shortly be joined by jute shopping bags aiming to reduce the town's consumption of plastic carrier bags. All the bags will carry artwork, specially designed by team member James Wedlake, featuring notable landmarks of Guildford. *thinkus* hope that linking environmental concerns to the town's identity will encourage Guildford people to adopt more sustainable practices.

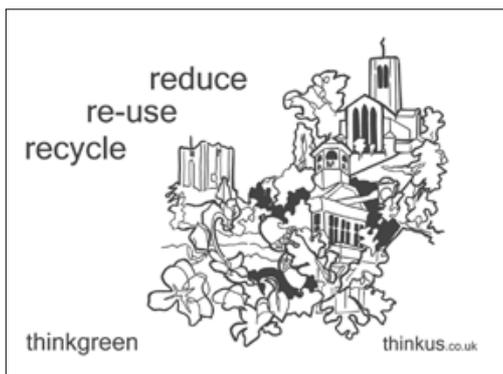
The team want to develop their

business to encourage Guildford to reduce, re-use and recycle, so lessening Guildford's environmental footprint.

*thinkus* is a Young Enterprise company set up by Lower Sixth pupils at Guildford's Royal Grammar School to provide them with first-hand experience of establishing and operating a business. To provide working capital to launch their product range, they have washed cars, run a disco (with all 140 drinks cans recycled!) and, thinking of others, sell a range of beautiful greetings cards designed and handmade by dwellers of the Kibera slums of Nairobi.

To find out more about *thinkus* products (with pictures) and how to order them, see [www.thinkus.co.uk](http://www.thinkus.co.uk) or contact us at [info@thinkus.co.uk](mailto:info@thinkus.co.uk)

*Tim Champion-Smith,*  
Marketing Director, *thinkus*



The bag design firmly links Guildford with a strong environmental message.

### Guildford's Ecohouse

Following two successful open weekends in October, the Ecohouse is now tenanted and therefore closed to the public. However, a 'virtual' Ecohouse, with its energy-saving and environmentally-friendly advice for your home, can be viewed on the website [guildford.gov.uk/guildfordweb/environment](http://guildford.gov.uk/guildfordweb/environment)

Report by Raymond Smith

### CHANTRY WOOD AND PEASMARSH – THE FUTURE

Adam Owen, Guildford Borough Council

AS PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER, Adam works with two other officers and four operatives. They are responsible for 34 sites, totalling 650 hectares. One of these sites is Chantry Wood, which Guildford Borough became owners of in 1938.

Although Chantry Wood has not been included in English Nature's list of ancient woodland, it is known to have been wooded in 1400 and rectification of this omission is being sought. Ordnance Survey maps since the late 19th century show its evolution in more detail, including the varying extent of scrubland within and around the woods.

Archaeological features include two east-west tracks, possibly mediaeval field enclosures, and a Bronze Age burial mound.

The soil is free-draining greensand, which has suffered some erosion on bridleways, and new planting, as well as the existing conifers, has suffered from drought stress. The long-term plan is to remove trees selectively, and for different end uses. It can be difficult to find suitable outlets for some wood, although the Forestry Commission is assisting with this. Possible uses are for hazel hurdles and wood for furniture.

New planting is of native broadleaf species. There are good areas of established oak but much of the area has only limited ground flora as the conditions are acid and dark. Some western hemlock trees are being kept, however, as some species prefer the dark. The woods are currently dense and thinning methods include creating "scallop" both into the conifer and broadleaf areas. These provide sunny but sheltered sites and dormant seeds are already germinating within them.

There are no veteran trees, but there are some old trees (oak and sweet chestnut). These are to be retained and they are being progressively "released" from the surrounding conifers. Dead wood is being left to rot, whether from felled trees or those that have fallen naturally. The wood is

defined as "unfavourable but recovering".

Deer, squirrels and rabbits occur in high numbers and have become pests that it has been necessary to control.

The adjoining fields are also being managed. These have suffered overgrazing in the past but are now subject to scrub invasion. It is hoped that some grazing can be reintroduced.

The strategy for the future management of Chantry Wood could be summarized as including:

- increase biodiversity, following codes of practice
- where appropriate, return to broadleaf woodland but retain some Scots Pine
- manage pests
- acknowledge that amenity is important and treat recreation as equal to conservation – more signage will be necessary
- survey and monitor the impact of changes
- involve volunteers in the work

Many of the same basic principles could be used at the Peasmarsh site, but this has a very different history and prevailing conditions. The site was completely open in the late 19th century and was grazed. Some trees had appeared by the mid 20th century and now it is densely covered with trees. Most of the area is oak and bramble, but there are some young sycamores and some willow carr. There are also birch trees, but many of these are dying as they near the end of their natural life span of 60 to 70 years.

It is intended to retain the area as woodland but to manage it. The area is about 11 hectares, is flat and accessible, is close to residences and has a high recreational value.

Again, glades and scallops are being created, but attempts to fence two areas to protect from deer grazing had received an adverse public reaction. A pond created fairly recently is being managed to increase its ecological value.

#### Staying indoors

Wayne Hemingway, designer of social, affordable housing, believes that a lack of gardens is detrimental to people's health. The trend in property building is for apartments with no access to a garden or even to an open space. "Is it any wonder," he says, "that Britain has such high levels of obesity when we are designing environments that encourage a sedentary life?"

(Source: *The Garden*, Nov 05)

#### Fat tips the scales

Worldwide, overweight people (more than a billion) now outnumber those who are starving (around 800 million).

(Source: *BBC Focus*, Oct 06)

## FACTS & FIGURES

#### New nature reserve

The RSPB has bought 256 acres of saltmarsh and grassland on Canvey Island, Essex, and is to turn the area into a nature reserve.

It's hoped it will become a breeding site for redshanks and lapwings.

(Source: *BBC Wildlife*, Sept 06)

#### Gleaming Earth

The world uses some 320 billion kilowatt-hours of energy a day. This is equal to about 22 light bulbs burning non-stop for every person on the planet.

No wonder the sparkle is seen from space.

(Source: *National Geographic*, Aug 05)

### GREAT NEWS FOR HINDHEAD COMMONS AND THE PUNCH BOWL

HINDHEAD'S rare and precious landscape has been blighted for decades by one of the country's worst traffic blackspots, as the A3 snakes around the Devil's Punch Bowl. Now the Government has finally approved funding for a



tunnel to be constructed to take the road beneath the commons. The existing A3 will be removed and former heathland restored, to the benefit of wildlife.

Initial work will begin in 2007, with completion in 2011.

# CONGESTED ROADS? LYON HAS THE ANSWER

by Alwyn Marriage



**THERE ARE various ways in which more people might be persuaded to leave their cars at home and make local journeys by bicycle. One incentive is for towns to invest in bike banks, which allow people to move around the area on two wheels, without having to own a bicycle.**

Some of the early experiments with bike banks were not altogether successful, but in recent years the systems have been greatly improved and there are now quite a few successful bicycle banks in operation, particularly on the continent. I witnessed one such scheme in Lyon this last summer, and was impressed both with the infrastructure and with the way in which it was working.

On almost every street corner of the city centre there are serried ranks of bright red bicycles, available for general use. The bicycles can be picked up at any one of these bike stations and left at another, and the cost is so low as to be affordable by absolutely anyone. Roads have been adapted to be extremely cycle-friendly, and many of the wide flat boulevards are now for the exclusive use of pedestrians and cyclists. The centre of Lyon has been transformed by this initiative, and is now far cleaner and more pleasant than it has been for years.

Over the last year, 3,000 bicycles have been installed, along with an automatic pay machine at each station. The cost of a whole year's subscription to the scheme is a mere five euros. The first half-hour of any day is then free, following which hire of the bicycles costs one euro per hour. This means that hundreds of people can, and do, use the bicycles for regular commuting journeys; and it is evident when visiting the city that people of all ages are taking advantage of the scheme.

The aim in setting up the scheme was for there to be a bicycle station every 300 metres on average, with less than a five minute's walk between one station and another. With 250 bike stations now installed, it would seem that this ambition has been realised.



**Above: the payment machine for bicycle hire. The first half-hour is free, then the cost per hour is one euro.**

**Below: instructions are clearly displayed on every bicycle.**



# Sustainable fishing and ethical eating

by Rosa Pawsey

**Do you like fish and chips? Do you feed your kids fish fingers? Do you prefer cod or haddock? Is your choice wild or farmed salmon? Or is tuna steak your favourite? If so, read on because this concerns you.**

THE FISH in our seas are disappearing fast. Overfishing just about everywhere continues to severely damage stocks. As you probably know, the cod around Newfoundland – once in abundance – is fished out, and the stock is not returning. Anchovy off Chile are fished out. In the 1970s herring became almost fished out in the North Sea. The whales are threatened. This is not surprising when the global quantity of fish removed from the sea is currently 95 million tonnes per annum, an industry worth 100 billion US dollars per year. It is also not surprising when 25% of that fish is thrown away, back into the sea dead or dying<sup>1</sup>.

Sea fish, unlike almost any other food commodity, is largely harvested on the hunter gatherer approach. Beyond the national 200 mile fishing limits which countries around the world have imposed, the oceans, unmanaged and unpoliced, are fair game for anyone. Now the world is beginning to pay the price. Not only are the seemingly limitless stocks diminishing, industrialised fishing is impacting in other ways. Invisible fishing lines, sometimes eighty miles long, drift in the seas, not only catching fish but catching albatrosses and ensnaring turtles, and where they do not catch fish of intent they entangle others and kill them too.

Globally the demand for fish is increasing, a demand which will further increase when China enters the world fish market. However, in Britain research commissioned by Unilever, owner of Birds Eye, showed that overall consumer demand for fish in Britain is gradually declining. The same survey also showed that for British consumers sustainability is a lot less

important than price and quality. This means that the British are still demanding cod when cod itself is in shorter supply. To sustain the valuable contribution to our diets that fish makes, tastes must change.

So what can the ethical Guildford consumer do? First, people must be prepared to try other species to eat; second, they should only buy sustainably produced fish.

Some farmed fish is organically reared, and this may be labelled as such in the supermarket. But there is also a scheme in place – the “Marine Stewardship Council” (MSC) – by whose logo a consumer can identify retail wild fish produced from sustainable fisheries in the seas and oceans. The MSC, dedicated “*exclusively to saving the world’s fish stocks*” and now an independent charity, was originally set up jointly by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Unilever in 1995. Unilever/Birds Eye, who sell to 4.2 million fish consumers per day<sup>2</sup>, is trying to source all its fish from sustainable sources.

The MSC logo on retail fish implies the wild fish have been caught under three principles relating to the size of the fish stock, the impact of the fishing activity on the wider ecosystem, and the management of the fishery.

Some supermarkets stock this fish **so look for the blue fish MSC label.**



Facts and figures for this article from *Fishing for Good* by Jonathon Porritt with James Goodman, Published by Forum for the Future, July 2005.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Rupert Howes, chief executive of the MSC, at “Fishing for Good”, Royal Geographical Society, 5 September 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Helen Lo, head of UK Social and Environmental Affairs, Unilever, at “Fishing for Good”, Royal Geographical Society, 5 September 2005.

## INFORMATION

Forum for the Future: [www.forumforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk)  
Marine Stewardship Council: [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)



**Russian factory trawler fishing for cod in the Barents Sea. Similar factory trawlers systematically emptied the Canadian Grand Banks of cod.**

**Melting ice – 1**

Since the 1970s, the number of krill (favourite food of whales and other Antarctic species) around the Antarctic Peninsula has fallen by 80%. Krill feed on algae found under the surface of sea-ice. (Source: BBC Wildlife, Jan 05)

**Melting ice – 2**

Date by which the Arctic could be entirely ice-free in summer, according to the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre: 2086. (The Indypedia, Apr 06)

## FACTS & FIGURES

**No biomass here please**

Experts say there is insufficient land in Europe, and especially in the UK, to cultivate biomass crops without destroying hedgerows, using huge amounts of fertiliser and growing single crops over a wide area – all anti-wildlife practices. One scientist has said, "You can either feed humans or cars, but not both."

(Source: BBC Wildlife, Nov 05)

**Fish**

By 2005, 52% of the world's fish stocks were already fully exploited, while another quarter were on the way to being destroyed. Of the world's stock of large predatory fish, 90%, including tuna, swordfish, cod, halibut and flounder, has disappeared in the last 50 years.

(Source: The Indypedia, Apr 06)

**OUR RECYCLING is improving, but we can do a lot better.**

Figures for 2005/6 show that kerbside recycling and garden waste collections in Guildford Borough reached 32.5% of total waste collected. This was an improvement of 5.6% on the 26.9% recycling and composting achieved in 2004/5. However, most of this increase, 4.2% in fact, resulted from extra garden waste tonnage put out by households. Garden waste accounted for 7.5% of kerbside collections in 2005/6 so our underlying recycling rate is only 25.0%. By comparison, Mole Valley achieved 29.2% and Waverley 24.1%.

Approximately 45% of household waste is accounted for by paper, cans and glass

**Dry recyclables**

Returning to our efforts to recycle dry recyclables – glass, paper/card and cans – this is what really matters in a world of diminishing and ever more costly resources, a world rapidly heating up due to global warming. Recycling these materials saves a huge amount of energy and helps reduce global warming. We must do a lot better at recycling every last item that we possibly can. I think we need financial incentives to spur people on to do this as other countries do.

It helps that the Council is now rolling out kerbside collection of plastic bottles and textiles to all areas of the Borough. This is positive but we regret that yogurt pots,

**Recycling in Guildford**

by John Bannister

(most of this being paper) so this is what the underlying recycling rate, before garden waste is included, should be approaching. The best councils in the country have reached a kerbside combined recycling rate of 45 to 50%, so they must be doing a much better job of recycling paper/card, cans and glass. These include St Edmundsbury in Suffolk, South Cambridgeshire, Lichfield, and Daventry.

**Biodegradable waste**

Whilst kerbside collection of garden waste is moderately beneficial if it reduces bonfires, it is doubtful if much of this material has been diverted from landfill. It is really important to remind ourselves of the need to divert biodegradable materials from landfill because these materials are responsible for the methane released from our landfill sites, and methane is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

The biggest component of biodegradable waste in household waste is food waste, which accounts for nearly 30% of our total waste. Implementing collection of foodwaste at the kerbside is an urgent priority for the Council. Unfortunately, Guildford has decided to rely on Surrey County Council and their contractors Surrey Waste Management who don't expect to have the necessary in-vessel composting facilities built before 2008/9. So there will be another two to three years of foodwaste filling up our scarce landfill capacity.

margarine tubs and other plastic containers are not being collected as some other Councils are doing. The argument is that the markets for these other plastics are not totally viable. Well, sometimes someone has to make the move to help create the markets in the first place.

One consequence of collecting plastic bottles in Guildford is that our glass will no longer be separated and then recycled to new glass bottles. Instead our glass will be mixed in the kerbsider trucks and sold on for aggregate substitute or insulation. On the positive side, this should mean less extraction of virgin aggregates with some environmental benefits, but on the downside probably not the same level of energy savings. Also, one tonne of our recycled glass will make one tonne of new glass containers whereas it takes 1.2 tonnes of virgin materials to make one tonne of new glass, so maybe there will be more extraction not less.

**Batteries**

Kerbside collection of household batteries is on the cards sometime soon – we hope – as it is vitally important that we keep toxic materials like batteries out of landfill. Meanwhile, keep taking small batteries to Currys or PC World. The Forum will keep lobbying for this and other improvements.

*Please tell us any thoughts you have on how we can get more people to participate in kerbside recycling.*

## Officers change

IN THE SUMMER, Richard Stephens handed over the reins of membership to Trudy Thompson. Richard has done sterling work for many years, undertaking all the tasks relating to membership with the utmost diligence. We are most grateful to him.

Julie Roxburgh has now also stepped down from the post of Schools Liaison. This is a particularly difficult remit when teachers are having to cope with many changes, and Julie is to be congratulated on her success in getting schools 'on board'. Taking her place is Fiona Booth, who is the lead person for schools on Guildford Borough Council's Climate Change team. Good luck, Fiona!

The thought manifests as the word;  
The word manifests as the deed;  
The deed develops into habit;  
And habit hardens into character;  
So watch the thought and its ways with care,  
And let it spring from love  
Born out of concern for all beings . . .  
As the shadow follows the body,  
As we think, so we become.

– The Buddha

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## the guildford Greenlife

### is giving money away for the asking!

FOR THE LAST two years, the Forum has been a partner in the Guildford Greenlife project promoting energy saving in the home with £50 grants. The project has had some success but has not met its targets. However, the take-up of the grants on offer started to improve in the last few months. We are pleased, therefore, that the Energy Savings Trust, who sponsored the scheme, has agreed to an extension to 10th March next year.

A total of £25,000 in grant funding is available to Guildford Borough Council residents who want to install loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, a condensing boiler, solar panels or draught proofing. Greenlife is increasing the grant to £100 on every improvement that householders install. So if you do four of these improvements, for example, you can get £400. The grants are not means-tested. At this level of grant, loft insulation and cavity wall insulation will cost the homeowner little more than £50, so a complete no-brainer.

It is a case of "use it or lose it". The improvements have to be installed by 10th March, so if you live in Guildford Borough ring this number – 0800 358 8007 – NOW and ask for Greenlife if you want to proceed with one or more energy improvements to your home.

If you can recruit a new member to Guildford Environmental Forum by introducing them to the Greenlife grants scheme, then you will help the Forum as well as help the environment.

*John Bannister*

### GREEN BULBS ARE HERE

We have an extensive range of **LOW ENERGY** light bulbs that won't break the bank but will save the planet. They are not just sticks but 'normal' 60w / 40w equivalents, globes, reflectors, spirals and many more. There is also a new range of LED bulbs that will be the ultimate in low energy lighting.

**Please contact me for a catalogue by e-mail or post. It will also show how these bulbs are actually **CHEAPER** than conventional bulbs.**

David Harnett, 3 Poplar Avenue,  
Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8SH

01372 386026

[davidnkaren@ntlworld.com](mailto:davidnkaren@ntlworld.com)

### Green scooter

The Delft University of Technology has unveiled a new hydrogen-powered scooter. It can reach a top speed of 65km/h and travel for 200 km on a full tank of hydrogen. Its regenerative braking system, charging the electric battery by storing up energy when it brakes, can cut fuel consumption by 20%.

(Source: BBC Focus, Autumn 06)

## FACTS & FIGURES

### Smart crows – 1

Japanese carrion crows perch at road junctions waiting for traffic lights to turn red. When vehicles come to a halt, the crows fly down and place whole walnuts under the tyres, which then crush the hard nutshells. The birds return later to eat the kernels.

### Smart crows – 2

In the Arctic, Inuit hunters have seen crows reeling in fishing lines from ice holes, using their beaks to pull the lines and their feet to stop them falling back into the water.

(Source: BBC Wildlife, Sept 05)

### Cute pussycats

It is estimated that Britain's cats kill 300 million wild birds and mammals every year.

(Source: The Indypedia, Apr 06)

### Packaging

The UK disposes of 4.6 million tons of packaging each year, a weight equivalent to 312,000 London buses.

(Source: New Statesman, 3 July 06)



## GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

# ARE YOU A MEMBER?

If so it would benefit the Forum and be helpful to members if as many people as possible set up a standing order with their bank for the membership fee. That way they would ensure their membership did not lapse and they would continue to get the newsletter and notice of our meetings.

**If you have recently paid or renewed your membership subscription and would like in future to pay by standing order,** please complete the appropriate section of the form overleaf and send it to the Treasurer. You could record the date of the first standing order payment as the anniversary of your last payment. Alternatively, if you wanted to make immediate payment you could do so, thereby making a small donation to the Forum.

**If you are not a member and would like to join,** please complete the appropriate section of the form overleaf and send it to the Treasurer.

As for current members, you may pay your subscription either by cheque or by standing order.



Please return the whole form below to  
Howard Allison, Guildford Environmental Forum's Treasurer

**Howard Allison  
2 Merrow Chase  
Guildford  
GU1 2RY**

**REMITTANCE ADVICE**

I/We enclose a **cheque** for £ ..... this being my/our annual membership subscription

Signed ..... Date .....

Receipt required? [     ]

**(OR)** Renewal subscription will be by **Bankers Order** (*necessary details are supplied below*)

I/We agree that Guildford Environmental Forum may hold personal details relating to membership in a computer record maintained for communication purposes within the Forum. The renewal date will be each year on the anniversary date of first joining.

Name..... Address.....

Tel. incl. area code.....

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Your bank's full address: .....

Please pay the sum of £ ..... [ ..... pounds ..... pence], on ..... (\* date)  
and debit my/our account on that date annually thereafter, until further notice in writing.

\* Please allow for the time it normally takes for the instruction to take effect – approx 2 weeks

For the credit of: **GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

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(Reference: ..... GEF's treasurer will insert this)

Name of bank account to be debited : .....

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Signature: ..... Date: .....

# SURREY BUSINESSES PROVE THEY ARE SUSTAINABLE – YET AGAIN!

Guildford Environmental Forum takes every opportunity to support small ecological companies such as those in the 'Micro Business' section, and is proud to have worked with the ones pictured here. (Photos: [www.billypix.net](http://www.billypix.net))

THE PRESENTATION EVENING in October of the sixth Annual Surrey Sustainable Business Awards was hosted by Allianz Cornhill, Guildford, the overall winners in 2005, and the certificates were presented by David Shepherd, internationally known wild life painter and conservationist.

The winners of the **Micro Business** Section, for companies under 50 employees were the **Yvonne Arnaud Theatre**, Guildford, for their Green Energy Hydro scheme adjacent to the theatre, their support for local suppliers, their recycling scheme, and their energy-saving policy which has a potential to save 117 tonnes of carbon emissions in 12 months.

Winners of the **Small & Medium Business Category** were **Gavin Jones**, Addlestone,

who have a Green Travel policy for staff as well as a vehicle tracking scheme (enabling them to minimise travelling by company vehicles), their recycling and waste elimination schemes and their novel rainwater collections.

The overall winner from the **Large Business Category** was **Lilly Research** of Windlesham, who increased their gas and electricity savings by 11% last year, as well as cutting waste by 57%. They have an in-house bottling plant which provides drinking water, thus minimising glass waste, and their redundant scientific equipment is given to local schools.

The evening ended with a buffet of locally grown food and drink provided by last year's Micro Business winner, Fanny's Farm Shop.

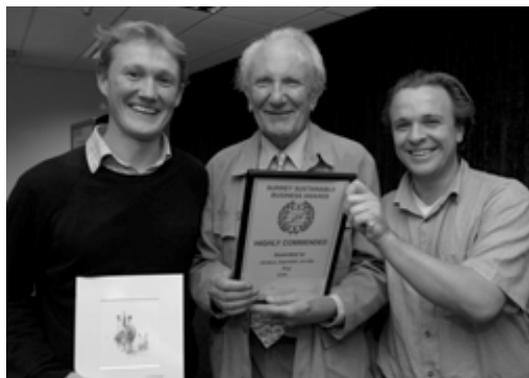
Research conducted by Kingston University in 2003 showed that over 80% of local businesses have increased profit as a direct result of winning a Sustainable Business Award and 100% have reported an improvement in their community image, staff morale, communication and training.

The awards were sponsored by Allianz Cornhill, BusinessLink Surrey, Surrey Chambers of Commerce and Surrey County Council, Sustainable Business Programme, Surrey Economic Partnership.

*Juliette Shears, Business Link Surrey*



Micro Business award winners, the Yvonne Arnaud team – Tracey Layzell and Claire Fox – with David Shepherd.



Runner-up: Natural Discovery's James Little and James Brittain.



Runner-up: Naturally Amazing's Trudy Thompson.

## Compliments of the Season

Mild and grey  
 this English Autumn day  
 more still than contemplation  
 a setting apt  
 for jewels:  
 notes floating  
 from the redbreast's throat  
 the glowing  
 solitary bloom  
 skeins of conversing geese  
 trees  
 glorious in their speech  
 of resignation –  
 hymns without words.

*Michael Tanner*



# CALENDAR



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

## Monday 8 January

GEF Transport Group. Peter Lockley of AirportWatch:  
**"Air Transport in the UK: Options for the Future"**.  
1900. Lecture Room, Guildford Institute. (Liquid refreshments from 1830.)

## Monday 15 January

GEF Executive Committee. 1830. Committee Room 2, Millmead Offices. (Liquid refreshments from 1800.)

## Wednesday 17 January

GEF Sustainable Energy Group. Richard Lilleystone, MD of .....:  
**"Carbon Neutral Bio-methane from Albury Landfill"**.  
1900. Committee Room 1, Millmead Offices. (Liquid refreshments from 1830.)

## Monday 22 January

Joint meeting of GEF and FoE. Dr Graham Miller, School of Management, UniS: **"Eco-tourism"**,  
and James Little, MD of Natural Discovery: **"Sustainable Tourism"**.  
1900. Committee Room 1, Millmead Offices. (Liquid refreshments from 1830.)

## Wednesday 24 January

GEF Biodiversity Group. Adrian Bird, River Wey Trust:  
**"Wildlife and the Work of the River Wey Trust"**.  
1900. Committee Room 1, Millmead Offices. (Liquid refreshments from 1845.)

## Monday 26 February

Joint meeting of GEF and FoE. Showing of Al Gore's film **"An Inconvenient Truth"**,  
followed by a brief discussion.  
1900. Council Chamber, Millmead Offices. (Liquid refreshments from 1830.)

## March (date to be confirmed)

GEF Biodiversity Group. Paul Redsell, National Trust:  
**"Heathland Restoration on Leith Hill"** (provisional title),  
1900. Millmead Offices. (Liquid refreshments from 1830.)

# GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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