

Reading Friends of the Earth

Newsletter Nov/Dec 2012

For more information: <http://www.foe.co.uk/reading> or www.readingfoe.org.uk
email info@readingfoe.org.uk or 'phone 0118 9868260.



**Friends of
the Earth**

Diary:

General Meetings: Reading FoE usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month upstairs in Room 1 at RISC, 35-39 London Street, at 8:00 p.m. Most meetings include discussion of general topics – some have a particular focus or guest speakers.

November 14th: – 8:00 p.m. at RISC – **General Meeting** – including discussion of Bee Cause and Clean British Energy campaigns.

December 12th: - 8:00 p.m. at RISC – **General Meeting** – topics later by e-mail to the list – likely to include response to consultation on revision of Reading Climate Change Strategy.

Other Activities and Meetings (not run by Reading FoE):

Wednesday 14th November – “Hot in the City” – Professor Janet Barlow is giving a public lecture on the Heat Island effect and its implications. Can we alter the design of our cities to beat the heat in the future? Palmer Building 8:00 p.m. <http://www.reading.ac.uk/news-and-events/Events/Event464122.aspx>

Thursday 22nd November – GREN AGM – 7:00 p.m. RISC Room 3 – followed by media training.
<http://www.gren.org.uk/grenagm2012.cfm>

Wednesday 28th November – ‘Population Matters: towards the next 100 years’ - a talk by Roger Lloyd to Earley Environmental Group. This talk will examine the resources needed to sustain our population, both on a world scale and national scale; project into the future and look at the best and worst outcomes. Suggest possible solutions. 7:30 p.m. in the Function Room, Maiden Place Community Centre, off Kilnsea Drive.

Green Drinks at RISC - is on the first Tuesday of every month. Come along to the Global Café from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. to meet like-minded people for a chat over a drink or two. <http://www.greendrinks.org/berkshire/reading>

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Green Jobs and Clean British Energy:

On 13th October in support of a national day of action we donned Green Safety Helmets and paraded in Broad Street to celebrate the welcome growth in green jobs over the last year and to counter the Chancellor's apparent opposition to expansion of green energy and his support for 'fracking'.

A Greenpeace Polar Bear turned up and had a few words with the Chancellor (*photo: Anne Booth*).

Doug's great video - with sound-track from Seize the Day - can be seen on this [link](#) and we had good coverage in both local papers.

National FoE photo-gallery including the national Stop Climate Chaos event on 17th October is at http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/green_is_working_photos_37540.html - Reading photos are shown at #11 and #29



The Bee Cause:

September was a ‘buzzy’ month for this campaign.

We twice borrowed Bee costumes from national FoE and used them to get publicity. In early September ‘Fuzzy Bee’ was pictured in the local paper and we have lots of photos of him touring Reading’s parks and gardens assessing the flowers for future use. One picture even made it to the latest FoE campaigners’ newsletter ‘Change Your World’ http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/newsletters/cyw_95_oct_nov_20120.pdf

On Saturday 8th we started out leafleting in Broad Street with Fuzzy Bee and friends and in the afternoon the Bees went to an open day at the RISC Roof Garden where lots of people signed our petition cards calling for David Cameron to create a National Bee Action Plan.



Three Bees went into a Bar ...



And found friends in RISC Roof Garden

On Saturday 29th we had a stall at ‘Tutti Fruity’ in Newtown – an event originated by Rob Wilson MP and run by Reading Voluntary Action and Transition Town Reading – where we collected more signatures on our postcards. Rob Wilson said he would talk to David Cameron about Bees if we sent him a briefing.

That evening Chris had created “**Sudden Colony Collapse**” - a great night of entertainment at RISC Global Café – which was very well-attended, informed people about the threats to bees, featured many local performers, and raised very useful funds for the group. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a success!



These two photos copyright miya



Contact miya at miyawassing@gmail.com

Friends of the Earth website and on-line petition http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/bee_cause_petition_35038.html

National FoE BeeCause photogallery celebrating activity over 2012 (including one of ours at #20) is at http://www.foe.co.uk/news/bee_cause_photo_gallery_37650.html

Flowers for Reading's Bees?

Reading Labour Party has started a 'Green Policy Forum' and its co-ordinator Roger Sym asked us to advise them on provision for Bees. In response Joanna and John took a walk around central Reading and created the document on this link http://www.readingfoe.org.uk/Documents/RFoE_Bees_for_Labour_Party.doc

Following this John accompanied Roger Sym when he met with Giles Sutton the Borough Ecologist to discuss actions for Bees. It was agreed that John would produce more detailed proposals for a local Bee Action Plan.

Water Resources:

Reading Borough Council is holding a review of Reading's water security and water management to examine the extent to which the local and regional infrastructure for the supply and storage of potable water is sufficient for current and projected future demand, the extent to which the local waste water infrastructure is also sufficient for current and projected future demand, and how the Council and partners can help reduce water demand and promote water efficiency.

The hearing is at the end of November but John (with initial help from Helena Wright) has sent a written response (available at http://www.readingfoe.org.uk/Documents/Water_Supplies_RFoE.pdf) to Councillor Jones calling for a focus on demand management.

Climate Change Strategy Revision.

The revision of the Reading Climate Change Strategy to run from 2013 to 2020 is progressing – public consultation was launched at the beginning of November and runs until 14th December.

Summary and links to full documents are on <https://www.snapsurveys.com/swh/surveylogin.asp?k=135003822252>

The consultation version is at quite a high 'strategic' level. Detailed actions have been removed from the draft chapters and work will continue on them in parallel with the consultation.

Useful Websites etc.:

www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk
www.foe.co.uk

GREN - Greater Reading Environmental Network <http://www.gren.org.uk/>.

Transition Reading - Reading's Transition Town movement <http://www.transitionreading.org.uk/>

Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability Group (PAWS) <http://www.pawsg.com/>

True Food Co-op: www.truefood.coop - Winner Best Retail Initiative BBC Food & Farming Awards 2011 - shop in Emmer Green and local markets!

Reading Borough Council Waste and Recycling:
<http://www.reading.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/wasteandrecycling/>

Citizens Committee on Oil Peak And Decline (COPAD) www.copad.org

<http://www.fishonline.org/> gives info on over-fishing, fish to avoid, etc.

www.ejfoundation.org (Environmental Justice Foundation)

Local Food Directory, with links: http://www.greenlink-berkshire.org.uk/Local_Economy.htm

RISC <http://www.risc.org.uk/readingfairtrade/>

Reading FoE Officers

At our AGM on April 11th 2012 Enrico Petrucco and John Booth were elected to the posts of Co-ordinator and Treasurer respectively.

Reading FoE e-mail communications

If you would like to be on our main mailing list and join in our day-to-day communications please email info@readingfoe.org.uk.

Alternatively we have a separate list for people who only want to receive our newsletter and information about important events and actions.

Reading FoE Subscriptions – Subscribe NOW for 2012/13

To join or renew, just fill in the slip below and send it off with your subscription. We aim to provide a regular newsletter to keep members up to date with the group's activities. Our subscriptions run from April to March and are set at £8.00 / £5.00 (waged / unwaged) to cover newsletter costs, meeting room hire and campaign expenses. Further contributions would be greatly appreciated. Even if you don't have time to take an active part, your support is welcome and allows us to demonstrate more local support.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please tick if you are able to take an active part in our campaigns. We may contact you by phone.

I heard about the group from: _____

Please make your cheque payable to Reading Friends of the Earth, and return to the Reading FoE Treasurer, c/o 27 Instow Road, Earley, Reading RG6 5QH.