

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 6th November 2013, 7.30pm at The Environment Centre,
Wye River Studios, 17 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

Present: 16

Business (brief):

- December WFOE meeting will be a pizza evening.
- Saturday 9th November - Chinnor and Thame FOE are holding a Swap Shop 10am-12 noon
- Saturday 23rd November Chinnor and Thame FOE Green Fayre 10am-3pm. Helpers are needed
- Friday 29th November – WFOE 'More than Honey' film at WEC (90 minutes duration). Capacity: 50. Suggest £2 donation. Members please spread the word and take posters for a healthy attendance. A meeting was arranged for final organisation.
- 'A Sting in the Tail', a book by Dave Goulson, which is an easy read with interesting facts about bumblebees, was recommended.
- The BareGardens website fees have been paid.
- The BFP had several environment related letters last week.
- The FOE Partnership Agreement is due for renewal on 31st December.
- The Ecotip for November will be:

When buying your Christmas presents this year, think about buying local rather than supporting huge global companies that ship goods all round the world. Look out for local craft fairs – local artists and craft makers are having an open weekend on 7th and 8th December in the units in Leigh Street, High Wycombe. Also, support your local farmers by buying your Christmas food locally eg, turkeys from Collings Hanger Farm,

Prestwood: (<http://www.kellybronzefarmers.com/home.aspx?data=UqNZYTTjvMwc4op2nELDq7Ql1cyrB2KvJquuGv0zSgJsh5W39SIT3t6v0HAWw44A>) or local produce at Peterley Manor Farm, Peterley Lane, Prestwood, HP16 0HH or at Prestwood Farmer's Market at Hildreth's Garden Centre, HP16 OJH

There followed an informative presentation on nuclear power with a discussion.

The following are just some of the points made during the presentation - however no claim is made that these points are in any way comprehensive

- The UK uses less than the European average consumption of coal but more than average consumption of gas because of North Sea gas.
- The Koreans are successfully developing 90 MW Small nuclear reactors.
- 'Sustainable Energy', a book by David Mackay, was recommended. It is freely available on the web.

Facts from the book:

- In the UK 125 kwh of energy per person per day is consumed - 40kwh/d - car energy, 30 kwh/d – flight (1 jet flight pa), 37 kwh/d - Heating/cooling, 4 kwh/d - Light.
- It is very difficult to create large amounts of energy from green sources and there are objections to most forms of green energy from some quarters.

- We could all live with a lot less energy (80 kwh/p/day) and still continue our present standard of living.
- Can get 60 times the energy from 1 kg uranium by using a fast breeder reactor.
- Nuclear waste products from fast breeder reactors have a half life of 100 years.
- Waste is small by volume but still needs to be disposed of safely.
- Nuclear power has more predictable running costs than gas which fluctuates.
- Is nuclear safe? David Mackay says that considering deaths per gigawatt, nuclear is the safest form of energy production.
- Would we ever run out? Beyond nuclear, hydrogen fusion energy is likely to be developed before uranium is depleted.
- Government needs to secure some energy before we run out.

For further information on this subject, refer to above book or

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/jul/30/fast-breeder-reactors-nuclear-waste-nightmare> which seems to include relevant information.

A lively and interesting discussion followed. Many attendees seemed on balance to favour nuclear power being just one part of an energy mix in the future.

Next meeting will be **on Wednesday 4th December 2013** at 7.30pm at The Environment Centre, Wye River Studios, 17, West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG, when **pizzas** will potentially turn the meeting into a festive occasion!