



# Green Centre News

## Latest News

- The IoM Government's Biodiversity Strategy is published for public consultation (July 2013).
- Phil Corlett has been away at Friends of the Earth's Basecamp gathering for campaigners
- At the end of this month, Muriel (ZWM), George (MEAC) and Cat (IoMFoE) are heading down to the Isle of Wight with the Dept of Economic Development to investigate Eco-Island. Wish us luck!

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Volume 6, Issue 3

July 2013

## Recycling at Tynwald Fair *by ZWM's Muriel Garland*

Frustrated by the usual lack of recycling at Tynwald Fair, we decided to organise it ourselves this year.

We bought several bin tops from Network Recycling UK Ltd and fixed them on to normal kerbside collection bins. We placed the bins on our stall and under a nearby tree. As we'd hoped, people used the bins to put their cans and plastic bottles in - proving our theory that if you provide the facilities people will use them because they are keen to recycle their waste.

By the end of Tynwald Fair Day we had collected several hundred aluminium cans and plastic bottles, which we took to Douglas Corporation depot for recycling. As you can see from the picture here, the various 'bin tops' fit easily onto a standard wheelie bin—making it easy to adapt then for the purpose.

Zero Waste Mann would like to see recycling at every event that takes place on the island. If you are running an event please think about providing facilities to help people recycle. It's not difficult and helps to get over the message that we should be conserving resources and not burning them.



## More Morsbags! *by Muriel Garland, Chair of ZWM*

Our morsbag project goes from strength to strength. In fact, I have just been to the prison at Jurby to collect 240 bags made there. The most novel are made from the old curtains at Noble's Hospital, and people are amused to see the bags with Manx cats and Laxey Wheel on them. We are most grateful to the prisoners for keeping us supplied with bags. We gave away about 50 on Tynwald Day, especially targeting people who were carrying plastic bags. I think Elaine Burton of IOMFOE has found her calling, because she was happy accosting people on the field and kept coming back to the Green Centre stall for more.



Thanks also to Hilary Cairns who brought along her hand sewing machine. Our only problem was that we had no material to sew! We need old duvets and curtains so we can make more bags. If you can bring them to the Green Centre on Saturday that would be great—if not, call me on 664796 and I'll collect.

## Friends of the Earth's "Basecamp" by Phil Corlett,

Travelling to this 'new' style of Conference for FoE UK on Friday 12th July, I wondered what it would be like, as in the past there has been a Northern Gathering at this time of the year 'in the country', but this time the organisation's annual BIG Conference is slap bang in some of the UK's prettiest countryside— **the Peak District** - at an old and very grand Victorian residence called Hartington Hall. Arriving there in splendid weather was a bonus as the UK was going through a heatwave; it was, 32 degrees on the Saturday, and we sat outside the yurts trying to find shade during the various workshops.

The timetable is so packed (if you want to attend all the interesting stuff) that there's little time to hang around. I arrived just in time for the **Welcome to Basecamp**, which seamlessly carried on into **Raising Our Ambitions** with international representatives speaking. One from Paraguay pointed out the inequalities for indigenous natives who had been thrown off land 'grabbed' by a French corporation for growing soya. They now live alongside it on the road. A Nigerian radio show presenter spoke to me about how the Prince's Rainforest Trust money will help his country treasure and save trees, by better use and education on their value (e more efficient cooking ovens).

After a vegetarian dinner, the **Bee Cause** gave us an update on this hugely successful campaign around the UK (including the IoM). The team had been to the UK Houses of Parliament and held an oversubscribed bee summit where civil servants were so impressed that they asked FoE for action points! There were fun actions by local groups (bee teas, bee gardens and walks, and the like). The good news is that there is a temporary neo-nic'otinoid insecticide ban starting in December. Oh, and yes I DID present to the bee team an excellent adaptation done by Cat's Lizzie & Catherine of FoE UK's Regional Iconic Bees poster where they missed off the IoM!! The girls had drawn in a bee for the Island saying 'We Bee Here'!!

Surprisingly after a 6.30am start....by 10pm I was beginning to fade but like a true activist I still managed to squeeze in a couple of pints.

On Saturday Craig Bennett gave 'The Big Picture' with his now famous 'loo roll' presentation- a very entertaining talk where he used one roll to represent a percentage of ordinary people and then stacked them precariously to show how we needed to get them aligned to the 'green' way of thinking....needless to say they didn't always 'stack up' ...or stay up! Craig also committed to a visit to the island later this year, to speak to the public and MHKs. Hurrah!

**The Economy Stupid**, about the benefits of green jobs, renewables and the 'political cycle' followed, then **Climate Emergency** on burnable carbon in the ground, and why it should stay there! Did you know the top 10 fossil fuel countries (in order) are; Russia, China, Australia, Venezuela, Iran, Germany, US, India, Saudi Arabia, and Canada...now just imagine what type of fossil reserves they have. Humongous....

**Stopping Dirty Energy** was a lively discussion about 'fracking', an issue for the Island if we lease our waters for cash, as has been suggested. See <http://frack-off.org.uk/>. Dirty Energy Month is mid October-mid November: IoM FoE should demo a Shell station over their destruction of the planet to get fossil fuels, including leading the way in oil exploration into the Arctic. **I Impenetrable**, a film about the Paraguay 'chaco' wilderness, was a real eye opener.

The **Marinet AGM** proved to be controversial, and next came the **End of Session** where we took part in a group photo action to stop illegal land occupation in Paraguay. To round off the Saturday the talk by **George Monbiot** (environmentalist, Guardian columnist and author) was a real education in thinking out of the box as he told us about 'rewilding'. He also explained his hatred of sheep farming, which has decimated the countryside but could so easily be reversed by treeplanting of the uplands - which would create far more biodiversity ...as long as we don't let them back up there! I highly recommend reading his new book **Feral**.

Sunday was another beautiful sunny day packed with events, too numerous to list here or there won't be room for any other news! However, you can hear about them all at our next IoMFoE meeting on August 14th at 7.30 at the Green Centre, if you're able to come along..... All in all it was a superb and well organised weekend of inspiring 'activism' and networking.

For your diaries, **next years Basecamp starts 14<sup>th</sup> June** in the Peak District again, and based on what I saw this year more of us should go. Funds and time permitting, let's do it!

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*Craig Bennett doing his 'Loo Roll' presentation*

## Visit from Amigos de la Tierra *by Cat Turner, IoM Friends of the Earth*

We were really pleased, at the July meeting of IoM friends of the Earth, to welcome Lawrence Sudlow as a visitor. Lawrence is General Secretary of Friends of the Earth in Spain (locally rendered as “Amigos de la Tierra”), and also for Friends of the Earth Europe.

It proved to be a lively and informative meeting—Lawrence was fresh from the FoE Europe conference, and was able to update us on the work of the organisation both at national level in Spain, and on a wider European basis. In particular, we had a helpful discussion on the issue of genetically-modified agriculture (something which his group has been active in campaigning against). Whilst GM agriculture is not presently permitted on the Isle of Man, GM material does unfortunately find its way into our food chain. It does this firstly by way of foods sold through retailers in the island, and secondly because it’s allowed to be included in livestock feed—so it affects such things as eggs, dairy and meat from Isle of Man farms. Very generously, considering he was here on a family holiday, Lawrence also took time out on the Sunday to meet with Phil Gawne (also being generous with his time!), Phil Corlett and me—which gave us a great opportunity to talk about what hurdles there are in the farming and business communities to making needed changes. It also gave us some good ideas for how we might take forward the debate on (eg) GM farming and the integrity and sustainability of the Island’s food supplies.

All in all, it proved a fantastic opportunity to build bridges with some of our colleagues farther afield, which is never a bad thing—and provided an insight into what’s working, and what’s not, at international level. In some senses it was comforting to hear that the same challenges are being faced the world over—and that we’re not alone in fighting the good fight.

We’ll be aiming to keep this very positive contact going (and no, that doesn’t mean a field trip to Spain just to check out how their meetings are being run, tempting as it may sound!). We’ll certainly be investigating further the potential of the island gaining recognised GM-free status—we’ll keep you updated!



## News regarding Freecycle *by Muriel Garland*

For those of you who make use of Freecycle, please note the following changes.

We’re no longer hosting a Yahoo Groups Freecycle page for the Isle of Man (previously this had been moderated by Muriel). Instead, please go to [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) and select ‘Isle of Man’ to go to a dedicated page where you can look for items you need and offer things you’ve no longer any use for.

There’s also, for Facebook users, a Freecycle Isle of Man page which seems to get quite well used—and for growers and gardeners, Isle of Man Produce to Give Away and Swap is doing nicely (it’s a Facebook page for people who don’t want their surplus fruit, vegetables and flowers to go to waste).

So don’t consign useable items to the bin—help them find a new owner who’ll prolong their life and at the same time prevent demand for the manufacture of more unnecessary stuff. It makes great sense, and it can also lead to new friends and contacts along the way!

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Opening Hours (Sat Only)  
10.00am - 2.00pm  
(generally open until 4.00pm  
and sometimes even later)

We're on the Web  
[www.zerowastemann.org](http://www.zerowastemann.org)  
[www.meac.iofm.net](http://www.meac.iofm.net)  
[www.foe.org.im](http://www.foe.org.im)

Next Newsletter  
due October 2014—  
please let us know if  
you've any feedback  
on this one at  
greencentre@manx.  
net!

## Campaigning for the Island's environment

### Part Share in Wind Turbine for sale *by George Fincher, MEAC*

The position where you site your wind turbine is absolutely critical to the electrical output that you can expect from it. No, or low, wind equals no or low output. A wind turbine mounted on your house roof, or in the back yard of a house in a built up area won't produce any significant output. The corollary of this is most people live in built up areas - so there is no point in them installing a wind turbine.

So for most people, the only way to invest in a wind turbine is to invest in a jointly owned wind turbine sited somewhere sensible (from the point of view of being exposed to a reasonable wind resource).

Well—it just so happens that now is the perfect time to buy into a part share of a wind farm, in the form of a community wind farm at Nutberry and West Browncastle in Lanarkshire.

The community wind farm is being offered for sale by 'The Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Co-operative Limited', an Industrial and Provident Society established in 2013 for the specific purpose of owning stakes in two wind farms, Nutberry and West Browncastle, being constructed by Falck Renewables Wind Ltd in South Lanarkshire. For the co-operative to go ahead they need to raise at least a million pounds and at present they have raised three quarters of their target so it is very likely to go ahead.

Some of the headline details regarding the wind farm cooperative investment are:

- Minimum investment is £250, maximum investment is £20000.
- No matter how many shares you own you get a single vote on co-op resolutions.
- You receive annual interest in proportion to the number of shares you own.
- The returns are guaranteed (by Falck) to be at least 6.5% and projected to be much better.
- Similar wind farm co-op's operated by Falck have provided returns in line with projections.

A note of caution is also in order. This type of investment is really for the long term. It is best to think of the capital invested in this type of investment as not being capable of being returned to you before the end of the wind farm in 25 years time. There are exceptions to this, but you should read the offer document for details. This is the type of investment that aims to give an annual income and will never provide a capital gain. It is a good method of getting an income, for example as part of a pension plan, and in that sense potentially gives a far greater return than a bank account. You are also funding a renewable energy generation scheme and therefore can view it as a direct offset of some of your personal carbon emissions (see Jan 2012 newsletter for more details on this aspect).

For more information and to get the share offer details, including a share application form, go to the website [www.spiritoflanarkshire.coop](http://www.spiritoflanarkshire.coop) and fill out the share offer request form. Closing date for the first part of the offer is 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

### **NB—the 'obligatory caveat'!**

**Please bear in mind the Green Centre Newsletter and its authors are not financial advisers, nor are we licensed to give any sort of financial guidance. If you want to find out more, go to the website detailed above and seek further information— and if needs be, make sure you take appropriate financial planning and tax advice from someone properly authorised to give you it.**