



## Email Update – 19 February 2014

Dear 10:10 and Greening Campaign Supporters

It was great to see so many of you at the Green Drinks event in January, and the Steyning Showcase a few weeks ago. Welcome everyone who's signed up to the email list for the first time – it's the best way of staying in touch with what's going on locally with matters green!

### **Community Orchard idea gets thumbs up**

The idea of setting up a community orchard in Steyning got strong backing at January's Green Drinks. Sue Saunders, from Brinsbury College, and local arborist Simon Zec, described how community orchards can bring environmental, health, and social benefits to the community - not to mention fruit and cider! The Parish Council seem sympathetic, too, and members of the Playing Fields Committee will be talking to the organising group about the possibility of starting the project by pruning and regenerating some of the existing fruit trees at the top end of the Memorial Playing Field. Phase 2 would involve finding a suitable patch of land and planting a new orchard. If you're interested in learning more, and maybe volunteering to join an organising group, check out the [Facebook Page](#) that's been set up.

### **Water water everywhere - Steyning Water Fair on 1 March**

We can't ignore it any more. So what can we do to make our community more flood resilient? And how can we be more efficient in how we use water and manage waste?

These are just some of the ideas being covered at the [Water Fair](#), which is being organised by the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust, in collaboration with the Environment Agency, Southern Water, the South Downs National Park, Sussex Wildlife Trust, and other interested parties. It's at the Steyning Centre from 10.00am - 4.00pm on Saturday 1 March. There will be a whole series of information stands, plus a programme of short talks. Refreshments will be free!

As part of the initiative, a survey is also being distributed within the Parish and the information from this will be used to inform future projects and work within the area. It is important that as many people as possible complete the survey. If it doesn't drop through your letterbox you can fill it online at [www.oart.org.uk/steyningevent](http://www.oart.org.uk/steyningevent)

### **Update on Huddlestone Solar Farm**

We've been continuing to engage with Inazin, the developers of this big new solar scheme, which if built will generate an impressive 15MW of power (enough to power half of Steyning). The Parish Council's Planning Committee gave it their backing but recommended to the District Council (where planning is ultimately decided) that the scheme should include some meaningful community engagement. Steyning 10:10 is lobbying to make sure this happens. We hope to find a way of building in some local ownership of the panels, possibly through a solar coop arrangement, plus some direct support in putting panels on community buildings

in Steyning. It should also provide great scope for school trips and other educational activities. Fingers crossed – the planning decision is on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

### Mark your diary

We have an interesting Green Drinks programme this Spring, plus a bonus event in Brighton that may be of interest to you:

- **26 February:** Peter King from Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust will be talking about floods and water management, and previewing the Water Fair event. 8.00pm at the Norfolk Arms, Steyning.
- **18 March 2014: Steve Halsey**, from UK Power Networks, will be speaking on: **"Keeping the Lights On: opportunities and challenges in a more renewable world"**. It's the first of a series called 'Power to the People', organised by Community Energy South. 7.00 pm at the Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton. Tickets on the door cost £5 (£3 concessions) and include nibbles. Let me know if you're interested in sharing a lift.
- **26 March 2014: Green Drinks: how realistic is wave and tidal power? Sam Figgins** will be sharing his research findings looking into the practical and economic realities of wave and tidal power. 8.00 pm at the Norfolk Arms

Check out the Events page of the website for all the details, plus information on events in April and May.

Best wishes

Geoff

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