



FFBRA NEWSLETTER NUMBER THREE

FUTURE EVENTS

In Balcombe

Extraordinary Meeting of Balcombe Parish Council

Saturday 2 November at 10.00 a.m. in the WI Room, Victory Hall
Balcombe Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting has been called at short notice for this Saturday. For more details See

<http://balcombeparishcouncil.com/parish-council/agenda-21-october-2013/>

Despite the fact this link says 21 October, it will take you to the Agenda for the 2 November Meeting.

FFBRA Coffee Morning and Exhibition.

Saturday 2 November 11.00 a.m to 1.00 pm Bramble Hall.

Information and displays. Special topics: Onshore Oil and Gas Regulation (20 minute Powerpoint presentation by an experienced engineer will run continuously throughout), Cuadrilla's Planning Permission (if received in time). Tips and Tricks. Child friendly. Children's Play Area. Free. ALL welcome

Beyond Balcombe

Frack Free Fernhurst: Friday 1 November 8pm to 9.30 pm

Public Meeting at Fernhurst Village Hall, Fernhurst

- Update on latest developments
- Drilling in Fernhurst - A short Video by Chris Tedd
- Untangling the myths
- What happens next?
- Q&A

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

Extension of Lease at Lower Stumble

A lease has been signed on the 26.09.13 on Lower Stumble land (site) for 30 years, but we are unable to find out with whom so far. Lease is from 26.9.2013 to 25.9.2043.

Nomination of FFBRA Committee Members

Our constitution allows us to have nine committee members and our goal is to have a full committee as soon as possible.

In order to fairly represent the village, FFBRA need residents of all ages, beliefs, sexes on the committee – united by one common goal to prevent oil and gas drilling in Balcombe.

Many of you have busy family lives but this is your way of ensuring that your family can continue to enjoy Balcombe in the future. Some of you may feel you are already involved in social clubs and village committees and can't spare the time, but please still consider standing. This is so important. You may feel that you don't have the experience because you have not stood on a committee before. You don't need experience, all you need is to care about Balcombe and want to help stop oil / gas drilling in Balcombe.

Please, please volunteer to be a committee member. For us to have a successful election we need far more candidates than vacancies. This is because our aim is to have a proper election (and not co-opt candidates). Email members@frackfreebalcombe.co.uk or telephone 01444 819 329 for a nomination form. If you nominate someone to a candidate, please ask their permission first.

Elections for FFBRA Committee Members November 2013

FFBRA will hold a secret poll as follows:

- All residents who join FFBRA have been allocated a membership number.
- You will receive through your letter box a FFBRA voting letter with your membership number on it and a list of candidates. You now have 2 choices:

The secret vote:

- You take your FFBRA voting letter to the "polling office" (not sure where this will be yet). You hand over your FFBRA voting letter and this allows you to put your hand into a box and pull out an anonymous Voting Card with a list of candidates.
- You go somewhere private in the room.
- You select nine candidates on the Voting Card that you want to represent you on the committee, by marking a cross against their names, and post it into the letterbox provided
- The letterbox is opened, witnessed by as many members as would like to be present (minimum of two), who then collate the results.

Alternatively you can do a postal vote:

- You will have to have posted your voting letter back at least three days before the election date. This method of voting does not provide any secrecy like the one above, since your membership number is on the letter. You select nine candidates on the Voting letter that you want to

represent you on the committee, by marking a cross against their names.

- When we receive them we will place the postal voting papers into the count as above.

Inspiring Website

<http://www.keepshepherdsweilwell.org/>

FFBRA will be revamping its website and with this in mind, please have a look at this inspiring website. Let us know what you like (and dislike) about this website and we will follow your suggestions. You can post a note in the Suggestion Box on Saturday at the Coffee Morning, 2 November.

Report on the Coffee Morning and Exhibition October 26

Very well attended coffee morning. Great selection of home made cakes and tarts. Nice to see new faces. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Less children came than the previous one. This was probably because it was half term so some of our members with children were away. We made £46 from the cakes and teas – which cover our Hall hire charge of £40.

David Smythe presentation on local geology was a big hit. We are very grateful to him for sending us this material and for explaining the issue of faults and oil/ gas drilling in the High Weald. The 20 minute presentation ran on a flat screen display surrounded by 10 chairs continually throughout the 2 hour event. This worked well as people could arrive at any time and have a cup of coffee while waiting for the next showing to start.

We will follow this format for our next Coffee Morning on 2nd November when we have a presentation on UK Onshore Oil and Gas Regulation. This might sound a dry but in fact it is a fascinating (and highly relevant) subject.

We also had some extremely interesting material about the connection between the River Ouse and Ardingly Reservoir prepared by one of our members, Norman Hawkins. At the EA presentation to Balcombe, we were told that there was no connection between these. Norman who has lived in the village since before Ardingly reservoir was built (and is a keen local fisherman) was able to correct the EA's misunderstanding and explain to them how the river and the reservoir are connected. The EA have sent a letter of apology to Norman. However since many of you who attended the EA event in St Marys will still be under the impression that there is no connection, you should talk to Norman who can explain how this is not the case. There is no substitution for local knowledge in assessing environmental impacts.

Many people commented on how, because it was specifically focused on Balcombe's geology, they would like to be able to show the David Smythe presentation to their friends and neighbours. His presentation is being converted to DVD format and will be on sale for £1 at the 2 November FFBRA Coffee Morning.

One of the slides from the David Smythe presentation was an aerial photograph showing current road works at the B2115 Slough Green Lane and Junction to the A23. This combined with his slide showing the direction of estimated water movements along the B2115 led some members to discuss whether there is a connection between this and future requirement to have large numbers of trucks on our roads. This could just be a coincidence caused by the widening of the A23. Does anyone have any information that might be relevant?

Mike Noble's beautiful illustrations of Balcombe maps and geological faults were on display and many people found them fascinating. The village map showing the three main faults going across the village was of particular interest. Many comments were heard such as "the fault is going through my garden" or "my house is between two faults".

All the suggestions (12 in total) from the earlier meeting were typed up and posted on the wall. Feed back was that this is a good idea and we should continue doing this at the next meeting. In the interim, I provided answers to all of those questions and those answers represent my personal views. When the committee has been formed then perhaps we can provide a wider range of personal opinions or even a collective answer where appropriate.

On display was artwork by Tessa showing how she imagined Balcombe station would look if the Viaduct was damaged by Cuadrilla's activities. Balcombe is the first station after the Viaduct and so she depicted the increased number of commuters commuting from Haywards Heath and beyond queuing on Balcombe station for a train. Witty, but with a serious message.

We must emphasise that all the opinions at our coffee mornings are the opinions of the presenters – they do not represent any attempt at collective authority on behalf of FFBRA. We have some extremely good researchers who have unearthed many reports and dealt with correspondence from outside technical specialists. It is important that everyone contributes interesting items that they find. If we get anything wrong we will try to correct it!

Sue Taylor

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