



DON'T DRILL THE HILL

A Voice for Leith Hill

June 2018

Supported by Lush Cosmetics



Welcome to our June Newsletter full of up-to-date information about local campaigns against oil-drilling. It's information that you rarely find in mainstream media.

Read on, find out more and join us by helping in any way you can.

Request your own e-mailed copy each month by contacting info@voiceforleithhill.co.uk

UKOG INJUNCTION HEARING SET FOR JULY



Four women from the Dorking area plus two from Sussex are fighting an injunction by UK Oil and Gas which aims to stifle peaceful protest. Please help them cover their legal costs. We've nearly hit the target so any small amount will be a big help:

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/oppressive-oil-injunction/>

STOP PRESS: the case will be heard from 2nd July at the High Court. Come and support these courageous women if you possibly can. Contact us via <https://www.facebook.com/events/455915264848261/> for full details.

POTS OF HELP FROM LUSH COSMETICS

Lush have offered us the amazing opportunity to advertise our campaign on their cosmetic pots. They chose the iconic Leith Hill Tower projection as the preferred design. See the pots in their shops around mid June.

Lush Cosmetics have generously supported our efforts for two years now so please visit their excellent shops and buy the pots!

Thank you, Lush. Your support means a great deal to us.

NEWS FROM THE PROTECTION CAMP



The camp are hosting a series of nature, community, and artistic events & workshops from Summer Solstice on June 21st to Sunday 24th - all are welcome. See www.leithhillprotectioncamp.co.uk/events.

The ongoing campaign to ask suppliers to pull out of the project, which begins with the camp monitoring new suppliers as they arrive at the site, had its eighth success in May. Since then a new supplier, County Clean, has begun servicing Europa's facilities. If you have five minutes to spare, there is a guide and template letter that you can use to contact them at: www.leithhillprotectioncamp.co.uk/suppliercampaign

TOUR DE FRACK COMES TO DORKING!

On 23 June 2018 Dorking is hosting a family-friendly cycle tour of areas affected by oil drilling in the South East of England.



There are routes for different abilities and all cyclists are very welcome. The race ends with refreshments and music at the Leith Hill Protection Camp. For details see: www.frackfreesurrey.com/tourdefrack

EUROPA GRANTED PERMISSION FOR ADDITIONAL FENCING

You might remember reading a few months ago about Leith Hill Action Group's victory regarding Europa's proposal for additional highly intrusive fencing and buildings for the site. Surrey County Council were forced to quash their original decision to permit the fencing and buildings on various grounds, including that it harmed the openness of the area. More limited fencing has been present on the site since June 2017, blocking a popular access track.

Europa presented the application to SCC again in May, and despite our best arguments it was narrowly approved by a single vote. This means the site area is effectively increased by around 30%. It has not yet been installed but will add significantly to the visual impact of the site.

PLANNING UPDATES AT LEITH HILL

Europa withdrew their Traffic Management Plan in April and have not yet submitted a new one. Council approval for this plan is required before the company can bring construction traffic up to the site.

We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the Environment Agency consultation on Europa's permit application for work at the site. As reported in the previous issue, two independent scientific reports were submitted showing serious flaws in Europa's application

RE-JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

If you've dropped off our list because of the recent GDPR requirements contact patvoice@yahoo.co.uk to receive regular updates & newsletters.

EVENTS

21st–24th June: Solstice Celebration at the Leith Hill Camp, including bonfire, tea, craft sessions, Box Hill Bedlam Morris, a bat walk, ceremony with Keiron Morgan, red room, harmony singing, drum sphere & candlelit vigil
See <https://leithhillprotectioncamp.co.uk/events>

Sat June 23rd: Tour de Frack cycle ride finishing with BBQ at the camp.
See www.frackfreesurrey.com/tourdefrack

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The International Monetary Fund estimated that in 2015 the fossil fuel industry worldwide received almost \$5.3 trillion in direct & indirect subsidies. That's \$10 million a MINUTE. In contrast the US wind-energy industry has received \$12 billion in direct subsidies since 2000. (P5, 'Drawdown' by Paul Hawken: a Penguin best-seller).

STORY OF THE FIGHT VS OIL

Back in 2008 Europa Oil & Gas applied to carry out an exploratory drill at Bury Hill Woods on Leith Hill. Local parish and district councils, the National Trust, the local water authority and thousands of individuals objected to the proposal. Despite this and the tireless work of local lobby group **Leith Hill Action Group**, permission was eventually granted by the Govt Planning Inspectorate in 2014.

A Voice for Leith Hill started with a picnic on the proposed wellsite in 2015. It's a community group that feels that this beautiful woodland area needs a voice.

Following approval in 2014, Europa have had to submit detailed plans for development and every word and drawing has been scrutinised by LHAG, A Voice for Leith Hill and other groups. Inconsistencies and inaccuracies have been exposed and this fight has continued for the last 3 years.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Please step forward and volunteer however you can

- **Tell people**, write letters, display leaflets, posters and car stickers and **come to events**.
- **Join our food rota** to cook for the Protection Camp.
- **Volunteer** for our street-by-street surveys leaflet distribution and information stalls.
- **Save annual leave** to show your support for any peaceful protest if and when work starts on the site.
- **Train** to find out more about your rights as a volunteer or peaceful protestor / train as a Legal Observer.
- **Find out more.** Drill or Drop, Leith Hill Action Group, A Voice for Leith Hill, Leith Hill Protection Camp, Brockham Oil Watch & Weald Action Group have excellent and informative websites and/ or Facebook pages.
- **Share your special skills.** Social media / organising events / PR / woodworking/ design etc.

CONTACT patvoice@yahoo.co.uk

BROCKHAM BLUES

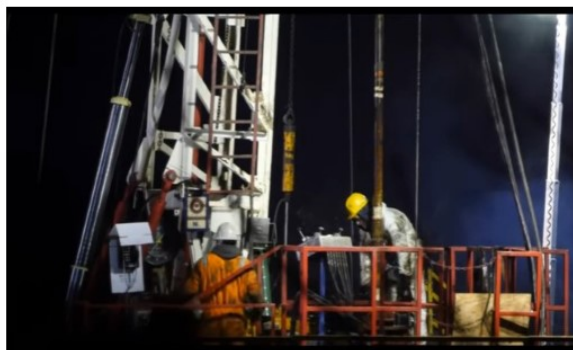
EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAVID SMYTHE'S EXPERT OPINION on Angus Energy's retrospective application to drill a sidetrack well at Brockham gives much cause for alarm. This sidetrack has been the subject of dispute since Jan 2017 when Angus Energy (AE) drilled it despite explicit advice from Surrey County Council that any such drilling would require planning permission.

Professor Smythe reports that the sidetrack was drilled close to a major fault which carries risk to the environment if any stimulation is applied via acidisation or fracking. He also states that given the nature of the geology some form of stimulation would have to take place.

The Environment Agency is in the process of updating Brockham's existing permit but they have not yet received enough information from Angus Energy so regulation continues unchanged under out-dated provisions. This is particularly worrying as under present rules AE are not required to inform the EA of their extraction process and would therefore be allowed to proceed with acidisation and monitored only by site visits. Given Angus Energy's record on site visits this does not fill us with delight.

For more details and links to Professor Smythe's report consult the Brockham Oil Watch website. brockhamoilwatch.org

It's not too late to object to AE's planning app - see the website for details. It's due to be heard at Surrey County Council Kingston on July 11th.



Night drilling at Brockham Jan 2017

WEALD WIDE WATCH

Billingshurst (Broadford Bridge): At their 2018 AGM UKOG stated they had abandoned the site, saying it was a 'valuable learning experience' and admitting they had made mistakes. However in mid-June they applied to extend their planning permissions for 18 months. They are negotiating to acquire 2 more sites nearby.

Horse Hill (Horley): UKOG are preparing for more flow testing in summer 2018. The site was occupied by activists in December for 3 days before being evicted by specialist bailiffs. We expect imminent developments.

Markwells Wood (South Downs): UKOG have been ordered to plug the well and implement their site restoration scheme.

Balcombe (Sussex): Cuadrilla, who are also working on a fracking site in Lancashire, have been granted a licence to flow test in Balcombe. Site operators Angus Energy plan to start this July–September.

Lidsey (nr Bognor): Angus Energy installed a workover rig mid-May and used explosives to perforate the well casing and pressure test. West Sussex County Council wrote that the Oil and Gas Authority informed them that it is routine for these works to involve the piercing of the well casing to create a pathway for hydrocarbons to flow into the borehole, hence the need for small perforation charges. There are now two 'nodding donkeys' in place.

Don't forget Albury, Godstone, Godley Bridge, Baxter's Copse (W. Sussex) & Isle of Wight. See website 'Drill or Drop' for further details.

STOP PRESS: WE'VE JUST HEARD THAT THE WONDERFUL BLUESY SONG 'GRUFFALO BLUES (SAVE LEITH HILL)' BY THE LEITH HILL COMMUNITY BLUES BAND IS NOW RELEASED.

Buy from iTunes, Spotify and Amazon. Find out more from <http://www.leithhillblues.co.uk/> Video on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvcXug5bP54> Share on FB & encourage your friends to buy!

Website: www.voiceforleithhill.co.uk / **Email:** info@voiceforleithhill.co.uk / **Facebook** A Voice for Leith Hill