



# Newsletter July 2013

## Nuclear compensation deal "a paltry bribe"

Stop Hinkley press release 17 July 2013

A £128 million deal to "compensate" Somerset for hosting the proposed new Hinkley C power station is "a drop in the ocean" according to local campaigners.

Stop Hinkley spokesperson Theo Simon said, "This deal, which breaks down to only £3 million a year going to local councils for the next 40 years, is no compensation at all. If EDF get their way in the current price negotiations with the government, we will all be paying a massive extra nuclear tariff on our electricity bills over the same period, and our taxes will be underwriting the whole project by literally billions.

"No one can criticise our councillors for squeezing more money out of central government, but the amounts need to be put in the wider context. Somerset County council has seen budget cuts of £20 million this year under the Tories "austerity" programme and this is hitting the vulnerable and low paid across the whole of the county. 3 million is really not very much in the overall budget - the County's capital investment programme alone is £38 million for 2013/2014."

"The truth is, this is another example of the kind of paltry social bribes we are being offered to make the nuclear project more palatable. Even then, I see that much of the money will be spent on creating EDF's future workforce through nuclear training programmes. At the end of the day, EDF will walk away with billions in profits and our descendants in Somerset will be left to pick up the bill for managing the toxic waste they leave behind. "

"There are now clear indications from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority that West Somerset is being earmarked for a 'second Sellafield', and the government hope that so-called 'compensation' announcements like this will soften local

resistance. But what possible compensation could there be for a nuclear accident which would destroy our rural economy, or a toxic waste legacy lasting for many thousands of years. No amount of money can compensate for a broken environment or broken lives - and £3 million a year doesn't even come close."

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## International anti nuclear conference

Report by Wanda

Stop Hinkley members Nikki and myself went to Vienna at the end of May to attend an International anti nuclear conference organised by the World Information Service on Energy (WISE) Amsterdam, and Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) Washington DC. The event was held at the offices of Global 2000 (aka Friends of the Earth, Austria) in comfortable and impressive surroundings.

With approximately 50 delegates, it felt like a real treat to be in the presence of so many anti nuclear campaigners, from grass root activists to NGO representatives. Various presentations and expert facilitation soon had us getting to know each other, the campaigns we're involved in and the opportunity to share our associated activities and struggles. We learnt more about opposition to uranium mining in Finland and met folk from Olkiluoto (also Finland), where the reactor is similar to that of the proposed Hinkley Point C (HPC) new build and where the costs are now running 75% above that contracted for. It was shocking to hear about the violent repression of anti nuclear dissent in Belarus for the kinds of activities we take for granted in the UK, and that despite the crumbling sarcophagus of Chernobyl the authorities still want to build new nuclear power stations there.

It was interesting to discover the parallels between Ukraine, Turkey and the UK, where the large anti nuclear movements of the 70's and 80's have dissolved into small, but motivated groups. There were many ways in which the 'nuclear protest chain' was linked up – Jim from Australia poignantly pointed out that every nuclear power station closed down or prevented, reduced the production of uranium and helped ease the lot of anti uranium mining protestors.

One workshop I attended concerned the future of campaigning and capacity building – a subject of much interest to me. In this context I also learnt more about a heartening movement from an inspiring French woman called Christine, who initiated and has helped build the 'Reaction en chaine humaine'. Many like minded and small groups have been linked up and a movement is growing that has seen actions where thousands of people, families included, have joined hands over kilometres in the anti nuclear cause.

After the conference everyone was bussed to Global 2000's Tomorrow Festival which was held at Zwentendorf, the only nuclear power station in Austria ever built. Following protests before and after its completion, a referendum was held and by a narrow majority the people voted to never switch it on. It counts as one of my more surreal experiences to be able to say I have danced inside a nuclear power station! Guided tours were held around the station and I attended a workshop on 'Measuring Radiation', very relevant given current developments surrounding existing and future rad waste, and with resurgent interest in the issue of waste both locally and nationally in the UK.

The following day, some of us returned to Vienna to attend a WISE gathering to which we had been invited. Amongst many subjects, we heard more about the organisation and its function in an international context, discussed our expectations of being a member of the WISE network and decided campaigns that WISE would take forward on an International level. In the due course of time, WISE will be submitting a report and Stop Hinkley has an option to be a member of this network.

### **New nuclear plant could be running by 2020, Ed Davey insists**

The Telegraph, 2 July 2013

Britain could have a new nuclear reactor generating by 2020, the energy secretary has said, dismissing fears the timescale for the planned Hinkley Point plant had slipped further into the next decade.

EDF Energy has refused to give an up-to-date timetable for building reactors at the site in Somerset, which it originally planned to be producing power before the end of 2017.

Ed Davey told MPs that he did not recognise a claim that Hinkley wouldn't be running until 2023. He said: "We are still hopeful we could see new nuclear generating in maybe 2020, 2021. I'm not going to say it will definitely be there because we haven't signed a deal yet."

The project, the costs of which are estimated to have risen to £14bn, will only proceed if the French-owned company can agree with the government over a decades-long contract to provide billions of pounds in subsidies.

Mr Davey said the two sides were yet to agree on the crucial 'strike price' - a guaranteed price for the power Hinkley will produce, paid for through levies on consumer energy bills.

But he insisted the negotiations with EDF had been "going incredibly well" and were "very constructive", despite the fact the French company had hoped to take an investment decision before the end of last year. Last week ministers offered EDF £10bn in financing guarantees as a sweetener for the project.

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**Please write to Ed Davey, Sect of State for Energy & Climate Change, suggesting he makes the heroic choice. There is a sample letter below. Feel free to add any other points you think relevant.**

Rt. Hon. Edward Davey MP  
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
London SW1A 2AW

Dear Mr Davey

### **Go on Ed....be a hero!**

You recently told a Stop Hinkley anti-nuclear activist that, "We probably could go down the road of no new nuclear power, as is being done in Germany and other EU countries, but it would be heroic."

Now, more than any other time in our history, we need heroes. The battle against climate change is being lost because our government is feebly clinging on to outdated ideas and technologies.

Nuclear energy will never be an ethical, environmental or economic solution to climate change – because the risks associated with it are too great. We urgently need a new energy mindset.

Germany is showing us that there is a safe, affordable, energy future without nuclear power. The burning question is: if Germany can do it, why can't we?

**Be a hero Mr Davey and give us a future, not a disaster.**

Sincerely [*Don't forget to add your name and address as well as the date.*]

- Alternatively, you can email him on [daveye@parliament.uk](mailto:daveye@parliament.uk) [though a letter is more effective].

## Nuclear Talks Between UK and EDF to Last Until End of 2013

4Traders, 10 July 2013

<http://www.4-traders.com/EDF-4998/news/EDF-Nuclear-Talks-Between-UK-and-EDF-to-Last-Until-End-of-2013-Sources-17080390/>

Talks between the British government and power giant Electricite de France SA (EDF.FR) over the potential building of new nuclear reactors in the U.K. are expected to last until the end of the year, well past the initial deadline of the end of 2012, several people close to the discussions said.

Both parties are deadlocked over the guaranteed price EDF would get for the power produced from at least one new reactor, projected to be built at the Hinkley Point in Somerset.

EDF wants a price of between £95 and £100 a megawatt hour of electricity while the government would rather settle at £80 to £85/MWh. The current wholesale electricity price is about £48/MWh. This price will determine the rate of return for plant operators.

In an interview with the Guardian Monday, Energy Secretary Ed Davey said both parties have "made a hell of a lot of progress in our negotiations but we are not there yet. We are down to one or two issues, including the actual price."

"Negotiations are ongoing. Government is working closely together on these negotiations with EDF," a spokesman for DECC said Wednesday.

EDF's chairman and chief executive Henri Proglio said he had expected the final investment decision at the end of 2012.

Whether EDF and the U.K. can reach an agreement is seen as a litmus test for the economic viability of nuclear energy in Europe'

Mr. Davey said this week 15 nuclear reactors in the U.K. are to close by 2023, representing eight gigawatts of power.

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### Witch Watch: Jo Smoldon's reaction.

Since my involvement with Stop Hinkley, following the Fukushima disaster, I have been amazed at the diversity of people and actions that the group encompasses. The broad wealth of knowledge and experience combined with a group passion that seems to never end, the common goal of stopping nuclear power from perpetuating even more problems for current and future life in this area of Somerset and on the whole planet, moves us collectively on.

I have met the most sincere individuals who are dedicated to the cause and leave me feeling very humble and honoured that I have been able to know and work with them. It is only by giving time and energy for ultimate 'good' that you can receive such riches from life. This seems to be the antipathy of what nuclear companies like EDF are striving to do. The attempt to create power and gain money seems, by comparison, so cold and empty. As a result I believe EDF will ultimately fail because of that very poor 'nature' that drives it.

The diversity of the Stop Hinkley family finds us travelling across the country, and in fact internationally, taking an active part in TV and radio, engaging with politicians, writing reports, letters, sitting in meetings and meeting with the public at an infinite number of events and locations. The actions taken tap into all types of energy from the reactor core to the individual spirits of the individuals and the energy of the land itself.

It was this observation of the land presence and energy that I first became aware of following my visits to the Barn occupation at Hinkley and have subsequently been drawn to visit the site and just see what the land itself is doing. Part of these observations have led me to participate in the last two Witch Watch vigils and I know from these visits how the power of the land and its endless history is so important to everything.

Attempting to understand today the wisdom that our ancestors took for granted is all part of what the monthly full moon vigil is all about. Tapping into that wisdom can be the most powerful thing that happens at Hinkley and I am sure is being channeled to help our campaign.

Wanda wishes to bear witness to what is happening, and to hold a different kind of connection to the site. With the full moon vigils she is able to observe and tap into the energy of what is going on there. In a six minute video 'Why Witch Watch' on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18yFIP65iD4> you get a feel for what her motivations are, (this was recorded almost a year ago and I am sure she would agree that with subsequent vigils there is more she could add) but for the greatest insight I recommend visiting Hinkley Point site or taking part with the full moon vigil at Witch Watch. With an open heart and mind you will witness some of those important earthly and celestial energetic connections.

For more information about Witch Watch email [wanda@stophinkley.org](mailto:wanda@stophinkley.org) or phone 07874 819608

## STRONG CHILDREN JAPAN

An exhibition of drawings by Geoff Read & the children of Fukushima is in Bridgwater on August 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. See Events [right] for more info.

This exhibition has, in a round about way, been arranged after Jo Smoldon saw the Fukushima Children's pictures in the House of Commons in March. She was so moved by the images and what lies behind them that she wanted to see them again and allow others locally to have the opportunity to view them too.

When she was approached about arranging the exhibition for Bridgwater we jumped at the chance and hope you will enjoy the artwork. It is an incredible insight into the lives of those who are striving against all odds to live still with the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

## Green Scythe Fair 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013

[report by Jo Smoldon]

Perfect hay making weather for this year's Green Scythe fair at Muchelney. The photo was taken before the rush!



Stop Hinkley had a very busy stall with lots to talk about. Updates about what is happening with EDF and Hinkley C, worries about the waste storage and lots of discussion about renewable projects that everyone is interested in, including picking up on the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project.

Intense, heart felt discussions about energy and the future were well balanced with the children playing happily all day long in the cut grass, making camps and working it to make skipping ropes and sculptures. It was very heartening to see how life still can be very simple. Thanks once again [www.greenfair.org.uk](http://www.greenfair.org.uk) for a great day well organised.

## Events

**Next Stop Hinkley business meeting**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August & 9<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm**  
**West Bow House, Milton Place off West Street,**  
**Bridgwater [behind the Squibb Pub]**

**Strong Children Japan**  
An exhibition of drawings  
by Geoff Read &  
the children of  
Fukushima

Kasumi is 14.  
This is her drawing:  
**How are my family?**  
She drew the house where  
her great grandmother, father  
and brother are still living in  
Nishi Aizu, NW Fukushima.  
She is looking down on them  
and wondering how they are,  
as she misses them and her  
home. Kasumi evacuated to  
Hiroshima with her sister Narumi  
and her mother. Kasumi is a good  
volleyball player.

Her mother writes:  
My family began living  
separately in September 2011.  
Time is passing, but my children  
are still not accustomed  
to living in Hiroshima. They  
constantly miss Fukushima.  
I work night-shifts. I have so many  
difficulties. However I am going to be  
positive. I believe that we, all six of us,  
can live together again one day.

**AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
10am - 4pm THURS - SAT  
10am - 9pm MON

**COME & HEAR**  
**GEOFF & HIS WIFE**  
**MITSUKO SONODA TELL**  
**THE STORY BEHIND THE**  
**PICTURES**  
**7.30pm Mon 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**FREE ENTRY &**  
**REFRESHMENTS**  
**AVAILABLE**

The people of Japan continue to live with the  
ongoing consequences of the Fukushima Daichi  
nuclear disaster, following the earthquake and  
tsunami of March 11<sup>th</sup> 2011.  
Japan has closed down it's Nuclear programme

**The Meeting House**  
10 Friar Street,  
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TA6 3LH

## Contacts

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### Street Stalls: Jo Smoldon:

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### Membership/Treasurer/Website:

Val Davey: [val@stophinkley.org](mailto:val@stophinkley.org)

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