



Wasteless Society

Newsletter Issue 29 SPRING 2008

Dear WS members,

Well, after a few wintry months of uncertainty and finding our feet outside of Lightfoot, Wasteless Society seems to be forging ahead again. We have new blood on the board, ideas bubbling away for discussions with anyone who wants to talk, and we are planning a big day in July. As ever, we await your ideas and comments and participation as we move into a new awareness for living lightly.

Your editor
Rosa James

Big Open Meeting 9th June 7pm Bishops Castle Town Hall

For all Wasteless members (and any other interested parties)

Please come to air your views and get feedback from other members. We need to remind ourselves of our original purpose; 'To promote the sustainable use of the earth's resources'... Especially in the Marches area (as well as beyond of course).

We're promoting an **open conference** in late July or early August with visiting speakers, exhibitions, and events, attracting ideas and presentations from people - inside or outside WS - for energy-saving, energy-production, climate conservation, environmental initiatives and micro-projects that we can promote locally.

Wasteless Relaunch

by Jim Gaffney

The Wasteless Society board has handed on responsibility for the Household Energy Service and signed off the Community Carbon Footprinting / Chance to Change project. (Big sighs of relief can be heard emanating from the board members who have been managing all this-- a very big task for volunteers) Adam Kennerley and Dennis Twist seem to have worked incredibly hard on this.

Financial opportunities

The WS board, collectively, earned some management fees from the latter project. Also, thanks to the higher profile gained through the H.E.S. work, our overall financial position is reasonably healthy. The board, at our meeting in April, considered that we could keep on our share of the office at Enterprise House for another year, keep a reasonable contingency of about £2,000 AND make about £4,500 available for other projects.

Open meeting on June 9th

As there has been some criticism that WS members haven't been involved enough in decision making, wouldn't it be a good idea to hold an open meeting of members, inviting views on where we go from here?

The meeting at 7pm at BC Town Hall, could not only consider proposals for practical action, but might also want to look at some changes to the WS structure. But the main thing is for members and supporters to come air and share ideas, and help us redefine ourselves.

Wasteless: the early years

WS was, at first, primarily an association of like-minded people operating very informally, organising events and meetings on a fairly ad hoc basis. A company was eventually formed in order to legally own and insure the trailer used to collect green waste and deliver to Clive Pugh's digester, to sign contracts (and so be able to

qualify for a wider range of grants), to legally employ people and insure employees and so on. It was certainly never the intention that the board should "take over" the whole direction and scope of the WS.

2008

At the moment, however, the perception seems to be that the board is also the "committee" of the WS and the board members and employees have been left to organise all meetings, events, publicity and, crucially, new projects, especially since Comedi group disbanded.

Not surprisingly, considering the amount of work we've been covering on the big projects, the board may well have lost touch with the grass roots. Which is where you come in...

The Vision

So here's a chance. I know that all of you reading this are seriously concerned about the state of our world. We are all committed to the WS defined goal of "responsible use of the Earth's finite resources" Now we all get the chance to co-operate within our community to do practical things that might make a difference, and to debate freely and seriously how to set about it .Please come and be an active member!

Dear Members

There have been some recent changes to the Wasteless Society board of directors; Kaye Chambers has resigned, and Kate Evans and Rosa James have been appointed. I'm writing to introduce Rosa and myself, and to let you know what's happening.

Firstly, Rosa and I want to extend a heartfelt thankyou to Kaye for all her hard work over the last four years, much of it unsung and unseen, as is ever the lot of volunteers. She was instrumental in getting the biodiesel to the Union St garage. She helped with grant applications and acted as secretary and dogsbody for the initial HES project, not to mention giving up her spare bedroom as the WS/HES office before we had the 'shop' or the Enterprise House office. Her support and work for the Wasteless Society has been fantastic and we very much hope she will continue to support our ongoing projects, even if from a greater distance than hitherto.

A little about Rosa and me. I live in Mainstone, and until recently was the local co-ordinator for the Household Energy Survey project (HES). I stepped down at Christmas due to personal circumstances and Rosa, who lives in Priestweston and is a long-time stalwart of the WS, took over while the hand-over to the new Light Foot Enterprises group was being organised.

As most of you will know, the successful HES project - begun and run by the Wasteless Society for the last two years - has now been handed over to an independent company called Light Foot Enterprises to develop and expand the service both here and in other communities. It is still based in Enterprise House and Dave Green will still be the main officer, with support from a co-ordinator and administrative assistant, both to be appointed shortly. Please note that the Wasteless Society will also still be at Enterprise House, so do keep dropping in!

While the WS will continue to deliver and support HES in our area, we no longer have the wider responsibility for running it and we can therefore begin promoting other worthwhile projects in our immediate community.

We have been acutely aware of the recent criticism in the local papers and though we absolutely refute the accusation of 'complacency', we do agree that there has been a lack of communication between the board and the wider group and we're keen to rectify this and get things flowing again.

We're promoting an open conference in late July or early August. We intend to have visiting speakers, exhibitions, and events, but most of all, we want ideas and presentations from anyone -inside or outside WS- for energy-saving, energy-production, climate conservation, environmental initiatives and micro-projects that we can promote locally. Do come to an open meeting:

**Bishops Castle Town Hall
on Monday 9th June at 7pm.**

We'll discuss what's needed, recruit helpers and take ideas. Please do come to air your views and get feedback from other members. We need to remind ourselves of our original purpose;

'To promote the sustainable use of the earth's resources'... Especially in the Marches area (as well as beyond of course).

There will be more about all of this in the newsletter which is due out shortly. We just wanted to say hallo to you all first!

Yours sincerely
Kate Evans and Rosa James

If you want to contact Kate, Rosa, Jim or Dennis about this, either go to the website, ring **01588 638738** and leave a message, or drop a note in to **Enterprise House** and one of us will get back to you.

Members Letters

Copy of letter written in response to an article that appeared in the South Shropshire Journal recently ...

I write as company secretary and treasurer of the Wasteless Society in response to the piece you published last week about Kaye Chambers' resignation as a director of the Society.

Kaye expressed her concern over recent [board] decisions, but the only one she voted against was the transfer of a particular fund of about £2500 to Light Foot Enterprises, the new company formed to take over the Society's HES (Household Energy Services) activities. However, this transfer had already been unanimously agreed in principle by the board (including Kaye) at previous meetings and does not weaken the the Society as the fund (almost entirely comprising donations made specifically to support HES activities) had never been counted as part of the Society's basic reserves.

Kaye also commented on the [apparent] weakening of the Society by her resignation and the additional load on two of the Society's directors by their becoming directors of Light Foot. Kaye's resignation is certainly a loss, but is more than offset by the subsequent appointment of two new directors (Kate Evans and Rosa James). As for the "additional" load on the two directors (Adam Kennerley and myself), it won't affect Adam at all because he was already spending much of his time on Light Foot and the establishment of Light Foot will actually reduce my workload as I will no longer have to deal with administration of the HES activities.

It is true that the very substantial, and very worthwhile, effort devoted to HES activities has rather dominated the board's affairs for the last two years with the result that the Society has rather neglected other things. However, the transfer of HES to Light Foot has corrected this defect and the Wasteless Society is now stronger, not weaker, than it was previously.

Dennis Twist

Campaign to keep local buses

I have written out a BC bus time-table in a more readable form than the one produced by Shire Hall. Several people have asked for copies but I do not think I ought to have to pay for the copies! I have put one up in The Methodist Church Hall.

We can only keep the buses if people use them. Can The Wasteless Soc write to the S Shrops Journal, perhaps sending the enclosed bus times, to keep the matter in the public eye? (*Who'd like to take this on?*)

The 3 Horrocks routes are under threat and are to be considered for removal again at the end of July. **There has been an increase in their use but more people need to use them.**

The daily M&J 9.15am bus to Ludlow is very much underused because people do not know about it.

The 2 middle of the day Shrewsbury buses are also little used.

It probably costs at least £3.50 to drive to Shrewsbury and back. (*This was written before petrol prices rose even more- Ed*) We are already paying for the buses in local and national taxes.

Please encourage all your neighbours to use the buses so we can become less dependent on oil, and reduce local traffic.

Thanks for considering this.

Margaret Wilson

A reply from Minsterley Motors I thought might interest you.

Dear Mrs Wilson,

In reply to your e-mail. You may travel on the 9.28am with your pass. As to the 8.40am from bishops castle this is coming up to six years since this was altered and you are the first to complain I would want a lot more people to support this before I would consider this, as a lot of the service from bishops castle is my own commercial service which I have to rely on what money I take on the bus for revenue only and at this day and age when fuel etc are so very expensive I would be looking for a reasonable return from a service run.

Regards

John



Light Foot has just appointed the following people to work in HES - so a warm welcome goes out to them they are:

Dave Thomlinson for the Bishop's Castle and Clun area

Rachel Francis for Knighton & Presteigne

Terry Hegarty for the Newtown area

Sue Salmon is the new Administrator for Light Foot and will be based in the Bishop's Castle office along with Dave Green the Energy Officer and HES Manager

Members news

Abattoir Reopens

Michael Whithouse reports that Bishops Castle Abattoir, which closed a few months ago, is likely to reopen, as a 3-species slaughterhouse, dealing with sheep, cattle and pigs. There was an open meeting in mid-May with local farmers and others who are keen to maintain this important part of providing local food in the area.

A local abattoir would presumably reduce the transportation of stock and revive local meat industry. It is also proposed to provide for organic meat production.

"The abattoir at Bishops Castle is an ideal facility to deliver traceable, high quality beef, lamb and pork that has been reared in Shropshire and Powys and would meet the growing demand for local produce," explains Malcolm Corfield.

For more information, contact Peter Geddes of the BC Abattoir Steering Group tel: 07710 442001 e: ongeddes@aol.com

Green Burial

We who try to lead an environmentally-friendly life should also give thought to disposing of our body sustainably after death: our "final act of recycling"?

In a rural area, cremation is unnecessary and wastes fuel (as well as all the guests needing to drive to a possibly distant town for the funeral).

There are local green burial sites at Westhope, Upper Stanway and Ludlow. A complete list can be obtained from The Natural Death Centre, 6, Blackstock Mews, Blackstock Road, London N4 2BT. Or you could refer to The New Death Natural Handbook (pub Rider) and The Dead Good Funerals Book by Sue Gill and John Fox.

Leaving one's body for medical research might seem an easy answer, but is actually very complicated and difficult for those dealing with arrangements.

It is possible to be buried at home if one owns a suitable garden, a small wood or paddock.... for more information, ring the District Council.

For someone to carry out such a burial, we need look no further than John and Philip Morris who have done two such funerals.

You might feel a long way from that stage yourself, but have parents or friends who might welcome such advice.

John and Diana Beddoes 19, Colebatch SY9 5JX

Green Wheels 2008

As soon as Tour de Presteigne 2008 was over, people started asking "when's the next one". Last year nobody would have dreamt of asking me anything except "Hadn't you better change into some dry clothes?"

We have definitely made progress. The weather held out on the Saturday and positively beamed down on the Sunday. There was a great turn out of bikes from the dealers and suppliers, a constant stream of interested visitors, a good selection of recumbent bikes, electric cars and other weird vehicles and on the Sunday the middle of town had a real party air.

I must thank Alison Parry, Andrew Grayland, Dave Thomlinson and Phil Key for all the work and encouragement that made it possible and of course all the volunteers in town who marshalled the event so gracefully, counted the laps, scrutineered, put up signs and allowed me to close the roads.

Thanks also to Ian Marchant, the compere, who did his usual hilarious commentary, plus a special thanks to the entrants and exhibitors who came from far and wide and really joined in the spirit of the event.

If by any chance you weren't there you missed a good one, but just look at the pictures of the event in the [www .tourdepresteigne.co.uk](http://www.tourdepresteigne.co.uk) and you'll see what I mean. As soon as we have any information about next year, we will let you know!

Thanks Pete Mustill

Members tips

Dear Friend,

Here's an easy way to go green with National Geographic's new Green Guide. The Green Guide makes living in an environmentally-aware way easy, understandable and practical. Check it out by going to: www.thegreenguide.com

Don't worry, it's not political or activist. But it is chock-full of simple, useful ideas, broken down into achievable steps, that make going green a gradual and affordable process rather than an all-or-nothing plunge.

Volunteer opportunities

Big Open Meeting 9th June

Wasteless Society are organising a public eco-conference/exhibition/ideas day in Bishops Castle at the end of July to explore and promote environmental ideas and projects and raise awareness and enthusiasm.

Volunteers are wanted to help and support in organising it. Telephone 01588 638738 and leave a message for Rosa or Kate and we will get back to you.

Crowgate Recycling Centre

Volunteers are always welcome to help at Crowgate with the recycling... if you could put in a few hours a week on this, please contact Neil Hird 01588 638379 .

HES

Volunteers in Bishops Castle area are needed for HES surveys. Full training given, so if that appeals, please contact the HES office: 01588 638738

Transition Marches (on !)

With an oil price that has just hit \$130 a barrel and a government showing unbelievable complacency in not planning for our future, the need to build local resilience and embrace the 'Transition Initiative' is becoming increasingly urgent .I recommend keeping up to date with Rob Hopkins excellent web site 'transitionculture.org'

Since returning from a very powerful conference ' Positive Energy ' (creative community responses to peak oil and climate change) at Findhorn , I am starting to 'Transition' my village of Knucklas. I also realised how important it was to link our small rural communities, to enable an already stretched band of volunteers to keep in touch, share experiences and resources , not feel isolated in our increasingly divided society and KEEP POSITIVE .

I have talked to lots of environment /Transition groups up and down the borders and they are all doing great things.

They welcomed the chance to talk about their experiences and their different approaches, whether it be local growing schemes , cooperative shops , influencing Parish plans , joining Community Councils and contributing to future local authority plans .

Please contact me with any news from your area and we can start to build a web of support to help us all in these 'interesting times' Will O'Leary . P; 01547 528 792 E ; info@stonecarving.co.uk

Subscription renewal date

The date for membership renewal has come and gone.....if you want to renew and have not yet got round to it please do so NOW, get in touch with Dennis

Renewal subscriptions, unchanged at £12 minimum (£9 concessionary) WERE due on 1st December. Thank you for your continued support

The Transition Handbook by Rob Hopkins

Revued by Rosa James

If there's only one book you read this summer, may this be it! Actually, the sub-heading says it all:" from oil dependency to local resilience", which is strikingly illustrated on the front cover with a typical 2001 street with cars, superstore and pylons, then this "post-oil" street of gardens with water-butts, turbines, a cyclist, and a local food stall. (Just like Bishops Castle, maybe!)

And if you want your family to survive and thrive beyond the next decade, this is the message to guide you there. The chapter on peak oil and climate change is indeed scary, showing how we, as the human race, must realistically move towards "energy descent". Most of the book addresses more positively how we can and must adapt to a post-oil culture and become more resilient. This transition is presented as an adventure, or "more like a party than a protest march", as the Totnes model seems to show.

This upbeat book is utterly readable and motivating, being packed with decipherable graphs, up-to-date data, delightful illustrations and pithy quotes in the margin. I liked the one from George Monbiot, advocating "the single technology which will save us from runaway climate change: leaving fossil fuels in the ground." (The Guardian Dec '07)

Ben Brangwen wrote the chapter on "How to become a Transition Initiative", of which there are over 35 in UK. "We are building a thriving co-operative network where people are sharing best practice,, helping each other and creating a way of life that is far better"

Mark Lynas claims that transition culture "could prove to be the most important social force humanity has ever seen." And most of us are already up to the knees in it, aren't we?

The Transition Handbook pub: Green books 2008 £RRP: £12.95 240 pages. On sale at Castle Books, Bishops Castle, or from Will O'Leary in Knucklas www.transitionculture.org

Local Group contacts

Find Out whats happening in your area and what you can take part in:

MEG is 'Montgomery Energy Group' the contact: Mike Membrey, 01686 668643 mikemem@tiscali.co.uk

SCC is 'Stretton Climate Care' the contact: Geoff Hamby, 01694 723424 qesr@btinternet.com

TVEG of Knighton: Alice Goldstone 01547 520374 Will O' Leary 01547 528792 (Transition Towns) Anne Mary (Fair Trade & Community Allotments) 01547 528833

Green Presteigne: Nigel Griffin 01544 267437 Richard Pitts 01544 260048 (Transition Town)

LLES: Llanidloes area: Diana Berriman 01686 411128

Brilley Environment Group: Ruth Morgan 01497 831702



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Rosa James (Local Coordinator for Bishop's Castle) - 01938 561404

Crowgate Recycling

Neil Hird - 01588 638379

Dates for your Diary

JUNE

9th June 7pm

'Meeting to promote the sustainable use of the earth's resources'
Bishop's Castle Town Hall

14th-22nd June
National Bike Week

Can you swop to pedal power instead of motor power for the week?

JULY

Saturday 26th July
Wasteless Eco-Day
Bishop's Castle Town Hall
More details soon