



Newsletter September 2008

Our forthcoming events

Monday 29th September: World café: postponed

Monday 6th October: Rob Hopkins (writer of Transition handbook) in person 7.30 at Three Tuns

Friday October 17th : Wasteless Society AGM and social 7.30 at Church Barn, Bishops Castle. Please bring some food or drink

Wed 12th November: WS meeting and Food Forum

Wed 10th December: Ws and BC Bike Group joining for a meeting with the emphasis on Transport, led by Dave Thomlinson

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, 2007-2008

By Jim Gaffney

The Board has had another busy year. In the course of the year, Kaye chambers resigned, but not before she'd put in yet more dedication to the Wasteless Society cause, for which we thank her. Fortunately, Rosa James and Kate Evans have come forward to join the Board, and given us a much needed boost. The other directors are very appreciative of their enthusiasm and positive energy. The newsletter and our programme of events have already benefited enormously from their efforts.

In the course of the year, the 2 big projects, the Household Energy Service and the Climate Change Communication project, "Chance to Change", were completed and signed off. Both were pronounced to have hit their targets and so to have been a success by the respective grant giving bodies. Although Wasteless Society members, including Board members, felt that more could perhaps have been achieved in real energy saving through the H.E.S., there is no doubt that our ability at least to manage and properly account for grants on this scale has now been acknowledged. This has already proved helpful.

As resolved at the last A.G.M., a new company, Light Foot Enterprises Community Interest Company, has been launched. So far, things have gone very well, perhaps better than we could have hoped. Substantial funding has been obtained from The Waterloo Foundation, Environment Wales and The Shropshire Hills A.O.N.B. Equivalents of our Household energy service are being delivered in Presteigne, Knighton and Newtown, with several other communities about to start. Meanwhile, Lightfoot and the WS together are

pushing on with the H.E.S in the Bishop's Castle area. Lightfoot, of course, now has its own board set up and constituted to direct its operations. We in the Wasteless Society wish them well, especially as they present their case in the final of the Big Green Challenge. They've made it into the final of this National contest, one of 10 projects chosen from 350 entrants.

The Wasteless Society has benefited directly from Lightfoot's success in obtaining funding. They have taken on office and staff costs at Enterprise House, which we would otherwise have had to take on (or perhaps decide to do without).

The WS board has continued to support the volunteers recycling at Crowgate. We are at present negotiating with the Shropshire Waste Partnership, their new contractors Veolia and the soon to be defunct South Shropshire District Council. We want to maintain our income from the materials we recycle, increase the range of recycling we can do and improve the overall care and maintenance of the site.

The Board is ready to support any initiatives from our local communities consistent with the core aim of the Wasteless Society, (encouraging responsible use of the Earth's resources). Two such initiatives emerging at the moment are the possible involvement in the "Transition Towns" movement, and establishing a community-owned Anaerobic Digester. We hope to hear from members about help we could offer appropriate projects. 2

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for all the work they've done, entirely unpaid. In particular, without the dedication and professionalism of Dennis Twist, we could never have kept

things going. There have been different opinions as to how well we've functioned over the years, but without Dennis, I doubt if we would have achieved anything at all, and I thank him.

TRANSITION TALK with ROB HOPKINS
Mon October 6th at 3 Tuns, Bishops Castle
7.30pm

So by now, you might have read *The Transition Handbook*, or at least its review in the last WS newsletter. If not, you can buy one at **Art and Artisan Bookshop** in B.C. **At last we can meet the man who pioneered the notion of Transition Towns in Totnes.**

It is hoped to have a big turn out for this event, and from whatever enthusiasm is fired up, meetings, events and a grand "unleashing" will ensue when it's decided to make Bishops Castle a Transition Town.

Entrance £4 (£2 concessions)

Organised by Art and Artisan Books and Wasteless Society

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*Then on Thursday October 16th, there will be a presentation and discussion on **The Spirit of Transition: Embracing a Life beyond Oil** as part of the Free the Spirit week at St John's Church 7-9pm, led by Michael Whithouse*

Llanidloes Green Fair

4th & 5th October 2008

Talks, exhibitions, workshops, tasty cookery demonstrations, fashion show, music, art, film, children's activities, renewable energy systems, outdoor Saturday market, local food, star-gazing and much more. A fun, family event

Programme of Talks

All at Minerva Arts Centre, High Street, Llanidloes

Saturday

SirJohnHoughton 11am 'The challenge of global climate change - two degrees and seven years'

Andy Klom 12 noon 'The European Union and Climate Change - What are we doing about it?'

Craig Sams 1pm 'Cool Farming – Agriculture and Climate Stabilisation'

Jane Davidson 2pm

Saving Trust in Wales), Penney Poyzer and Mark Lynas, and Tony Juniper (to confirm.

Tickets for talks

£12 / day, £10 concessions, or weekend ticket £20 / £17. Children 16 & under FREE.

Tel: 01686 412959 for tickets & payment by Credit Card or Tel: 01686 411131 / 411128 for tickets & payment 411131 / 411128 for tickets &

By road, Llanidloes sits just off the A470 about 30 miles from the English Border. By rail, we are 7 miles from Caersws train station.

'Speech by Jane Davidson, the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing'

George Monbiot 3pm 'Is there a conflict between local food and global justice?'

MarkEdwards 4pm 'Hard Rain'

www.lles.co.uk/greenfair

01686 411131

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Sunday Talks

PeterHarper 11am

'Life after 2012: Which future will it be?'

George Marshall 12noon 'Light Carbon Living—a guide to personal action on climate change'

Penney Poyzer 1pm 'Existing and Exciting - A green future for older housing'

Mark Lynas 2pm 'Six Degrees: our future on a hotter planet'

Environmental Any Questions 3pm

To round off the weekend, and not to be missed, the panel includes Lembit Opik MP, Helen Northmore (Head of Energy

payment by other means.
otherwise stated.

All other activities FREE unless

Further info on any of the events ring 01686 411131 or see www.lles.co.uk

Llanidloes, Powys....How to find us... Further info on any of the events ring 01686 411131 or see www.lles.co.uk

For travel and tourist information, including accommodation details, visit www.llanidloes.c

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LIGHT FOOT ENTERPRISES OFF TO A FINE START

Dave Thomlinson reports

LightFoot Enterprises, the spin-off company of the Wasteless Society formed earlier this year, as reported in our Winter 2007/ 2008 newsletter, has got off to a flying start.

Thanks to funding from various sources including the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) the Light Foot Household Energy Service now employs six staff (two full-time equivalent) covering Presteigne, Knighton, Newtown, Montgomery, the AONB area and the area within ten miles of Bishop's Castle. More details appear below. We would like to thank Rosa James very much for "holding the fort" in her work as local coordinator until June 2008.

More good news is that the Light Foot Household Energy Service (HES) has made it into the top ten finalists in the national Big Green Challenge. Some funding will come from this to develop the service further in the Bishop's Castle area over the next year with the good possibility of much larger funds in the future.

July and August were good months for Light Foot with 123 clients being recruited. If you would like to know more about HES, please visit our website. We produce our own newsletter. If you would like to see it or receive please get in touch.

BIG PUSH FOR BISHOP'S CASTLE AREA – MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

So far we have surveyed 20% of all households in the Bishop's Castle area. We are now looking to double this figure over the next 12 months and show that our approach really works. Can you help? We **need** volunteer energy surveyors, not only in the Bishop's Castle area but throughout the area we work in. Full training is given. We no longer use computers – so the work is not too daunting. It's interesting and fun meeting people in their own homes. You will be doing vital, very satisfying, work to reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. Your expenses are paid. Each survey takes typically one hour - allow 2.5 hours taking into account travel and follow up time. We are looking for a minimum commitment of one survey per month. Could this be you or anyone you know? Please get in touch with the HES office – details below.

Chief Executive	Adam Kennerley
HES Manager/ Energy Officer	Dave Green
Admin Assistant	Sue Salmon
Local Coordinator, Presteigne and Knighton	Rachel Francis
Local Coordinator, Newtown	Terry Heggarty
Local Coordinator, Bishop's Castle area/ Montgomery	Dave Thomlinson

Light Foot Enterprises HES office is at Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ. Open Wednesdays and Fridays 10.00 to 3.00. Tel. 01588 638738. Email info@light-foot.org. Website: www.light-foot.org

"Light Foot are looking for a second energy officer, 3 days a week based in the Bishop's Castle office, applications to be in by Sept 21st so if you're interested contact them NOW."

LOCAL COUPLE ACHIEVE 38% REDUCTION IN CARBON EMISSIONS

Local Couple, Evelyn Bowles and Richard, who run Decorative Antiques in Bishop's Castle High Street, have made many improvements to improve energy efficiency.

They replaced their old inefficient oil-fired Rayburn central heating system (which had to be set at 350 degrees Fahrenheit to work!) with an Economy 7 storage heater system and a wood burning stove, also an electric cooker with magnetic induction hob, which is more efficient than gas. They also applied Sempatap insulation to the inside of external walls in the bedrooms and kitchen.

Following a second energy survey in May this year, Evelyn and Richard have learned that their CO2 emissions picture has changed substantially. Whilst emissions from electricity have risen from 2447kg/ year to 5945kg/ year those from oil have gone down from 8174kg/ year to nothing, with a further saving in LPG which is no longer used for cooking. Meanwhile a more efficient car means that emissions have gone down from 2558kg/ year to 2225kg/ year.

Costs of achieving these results included £2000 for re-wiring and storage heaters, £2000 for wood burner and flue, £700 for Sempatap and £400 for the cooker.

Richard commented, "We are exceedingly pleased with the results - much lower CO2 emissions, much lower fuel bills and no more smelly oil and gas!"

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OIL CHECK.....(JOKE)

A lot of people cannot understand how we can have an oil shortage here in the UK

Well, there's a very simple answer.

Nobody bothered to check the oil.

We just did not know we were getting low

The reason for that is purely geographical.

Our OIL is located in the The North Sea.

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Our DIPSTICKS are located in Westminster!

*Thanks to Rob Underhill for this joke:*

## WHY I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND ON NUCLEAR POWER

Dennis Twist

I used to be against nuclear power, mainly on the grounds that there wasn't, and never could be, a satisfactory solution to the problem of how to dispose of radioactive waste and that it wasn't fair to bequeath this burden to our descendants. The waste disposal issue hasn't changed, of course, but to my mind it is now less important than the problems we (and, even more, our descendants) will face regarding the availability and security of supplies of oil and natural gas and the consequences of climate change.

*Availability*

The combination of the increasing world demand for oil and gas and the limited supply of a finite resource means that there is going to be pressure to use oil and gas for transport, heating and as a chemical feedstock in preference to using them for power generation. Nuclear power will help to meet the power demand - a demand which is likely to increase because electricity consumption tends to go up even if people reduce their usage of other forms of energy.

#### *Security*

Most of the world's supplies of oil and gas are in areas which are, or could be, unstable and/or politically hostile to the UK and a nuclear plant located here would provide us with a much more secure source of electricity generation. Unlike oil and, particularly, gas - which are difficult and expensive to store in large quantities - it is commercially and physically practicable to keep buffer stocks of nuclear fuel (either in the enriched form or, in larger quantities, unenriched).

#### *Climate change*

Unlike fossil-fuelled power stations, operating nuclear power plants have very low carbon footprints. Certainly, there are substantial carbon emissions during the construction phase but over the complete plant life cycle the carbon output per kWh is low.

#### *And nuclear waste disposal?*

This remains a serious issue, but it is just an incremental problem, not a new one and the waste liability from a new build would be only a small fraction of the liability that already exists. Arguing against a new nuclear plant on the grounds that it increases the problem is like arguing that one shouldn't consume any finite resource - a valid point, but not one that weighs heavily against the factors in favour.

Footnote: I'm not alone in this volte-face - James Lovelock switched some years ago, George Monbiot recently.

*We'll print Adam's response to this and any others in Dec. issue: Ed*

### **BC Energy Objectives**

Over the recent months our community has watched with interest the efforts to commence operations of a biomass CHP plant in Bishop's Castle.

The main issue that surfaced was transparency, and what is in the whole community's best interests?

Something like this needs to happen locally and globally for reasons of economy and preservation.

With oil and energy prices soaring, we need to look hard at local energy use and production. Prices may have stabilised for now, but in importing oil and gas from countries like Russia, we are more and more vulnerable to world instability and political forces.

Even with new oil discoveries, these are far away, difficult and expensive to access and short-term: best estimates of new oil production are only for another 30 years.

BC is extremely dependent on oil and electricity for our domestic, industrial and agricultural needs. **We need to look at our own solutions to this problem** (Read Paul Mobbs book 'Energy after Oil')

Then there is the imminent demise of the SSDC and implementation of the Unitary Council for Shropshire which means that ownership and management of our resources will be under ever more centralised local government

organisations, along with giant companies like Veolia for our waste management.

All of which means less say for us, and more imposition from above by bodies that have little understanding or interest in our specific needs and concerns.

*Our vision*

Our idea is to form a BC energy group/company representing local business, tourism, environmental and agricultural interests to set up a community energy production company that would initially include;-

1. A community anaerobic digester on the outskirts of the town, to process sewage, domestic and commercial town food waste, farm slurry and garden waste and to produce;
  - a. Methane gas (Electricity – domestic heating fuel – vehicle fuel),
  - b. Liquid fertiliser
  - c. Solid soil conditioner for use as fertiliser/compost (this is nitrate free, which could be important for farmers, with the new slurry regulations coming in.)
2. A project for installing subsidised and affordable domestic and small-scale commercial solar water heaters and photovoltaic panels for suitable BC buildings.
3. A small community wind farm consisting of two or three turbines, (strategically placed!).

This would run concurrently with a town energy conservation campaign along the lines of the existing HES project. (See also Rob Hopkins' 'Transition Handbook' and note that he is coming to BC on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct for a talk at 3Tuns)

There is support (and hopefully financial aid) for an AD project available from AWM (Advantage West Midlands) and from DEFRA through ETF (Environmental Transformation Fund) and probably from other bodies too.

We feel this could be a real opportunity for us to take matters into our own hands and build a genuine community enterprise, which could go a long way to creating at least a proportion of our own energy in a sustainable and commercially viable fashion.

It will require effort, entrepreneurship and innovation. There will be bureaucratic obstacles, nimbies and nay-sayers to contend with too, but there is also help and support out there, and the right group with enough determination and imagination could do great things.

**We need an initial group of people to get this project off the ground and start the ball rolling  
– are you interested?**

We suggest that BC Energy be a community-based project run by the. No business plan has yet been formed or discussed, only the objectives, the first of which is to receive the support and agreement of the Town Council to proceed.

We would structure an initial steering group to look at all aspects of a project of this sort, from technical to practical to community and of course political issues, reporting to the Town Council in order to achieve complete transparency for the benefit of the community.

Contact Kate Evans [katetheplate@googlemail.com](mailto:katetheplate@googlemail.com)  
Or Geoff Grimes [geoffgrimes@yahoo.com](mailto:geoffgrimes@yahoo.com)  
To register your interest or get more information, ring Kate on 01588 638762

For general information on the anaerobic digestion process, look up  
<http://www.anaerobic-digestion.com> gives downloadable versions of  
information on digestion itself and how to set up feasibility studies. And  
<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/anaerobic.html>

### **Solar Power for children**

**Montgomery Primary School** now have a photovoltaic system thanks to the sterling work of Mike Membery. He managed to combine a Low Carbon Buildings grant with money from the Welsh Assembly and some local fundraising to cover the vat, the school didn't have to pay a penny. As well as helping save money for the school and reduce their carbon emissions the panels are also being used as a teaching aid, and of course an example for others to follow. Well done Mike

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## **THE WASTELESS SOCIETY (Company limited by guarantee, no. 4374233)**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, BISHOP'S CASTLE ON 10th NOVEMBER 2007**

#### **PRESENT**

Directors Jim Gaffney, Adam Kennerley & Dennis Twist  
Other Members approx. 20 8

#### **APOLOGIES**

M Newman, K Evans, N Hird, D Finney

#### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 3rd NOVEMBER 2006**

The Minutes were unanimously approved (proposed by D Thomlinson, seconded by M Membery).

#### **REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

Prior to the consideration of the statutory Report and Accounts, D Kennerley and D Green presented the "Directors' Report" which had been circulated with the notice of the AGM, after which the statutory Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 were unanimously approved (proposed by C Terrill, D Thomlinson).

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The existing Directors (Kaye Chambers, Jim Gaffney, Adam Kennerley & Dennis Twist), being willing to serve again, and in the absence of any other nominations, were unanimously re-elected en bloc (proposed by A Donaldson, seconded by M Membery).

#### **RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

The resolution to re-appoint the Auditors, Whittingham Riddell LLP and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration was agreed unanimously (proposed by D Thomlinson, seconded by R James).

#### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

The following Special Resolution (contained in the notice of the AGM) was unanimously approved (proposed by T Appleton-Fox, seconded by A Terrill):

That a new community-owned organisation should be set up to take over the Society's activities in respect of the Household Energy Service, Community Carbon Footprinting, the Defra Chance2Change project and

related work, and that the Directors be authorised to decide the nature of the new organisation and the terms and timing of the transfer of current work and resources in this field.

The Meeting then closed.

D R Twist, Secretary

## THE WASTELESS SOCIETY

(Company limited by guarantee, company no.  
04374233)

**Short version of the Annual Accounts for the year to 31st  
March 2008  
which were approved by the Directors on 7th September  
2008**

| <b>Profit &amp; Loss<br/>Account</b>    | <b>2008, £</b>             | <b>2007 £</b>       |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Turnover                                | <b>80,549</b>              | 51,534              |
| Cost of Sales                           | <b>(69,998)</b>            | (43,675)            |
| Gross Income                            | <u><b>10,551</b></u>       | <u>7,859</u>        |
| Administrative Expenses                 | <b>(12,596)</b>            | (7,827)             |
| Operating Income                        | <u><b>(2,045)</b></u>      | <u>32</u>           |
| Other Income                            | <b>852</b>                 | 277                 |
| Surplus for the year                    | <u><b>(1,193)</b></u>      | <u>309</u>          |
| Retained Surplus brought forward        | <b>9,201</b>               | 8,892               |
| Retained Surplus carried forward        | <u><u><b>8,008</b></u></u> | <u><u>9,201</u></u> |
| Note: No tax is payable for either year |                            |                     |
| <b>Balance Sheet as at 31 March</b>     |                            |                     |
| Fixed Assets                            | <b>1,305</b>               | 2,776               |
| Current Assets                          | <b>656</b>                 | 24,303              |
| Debtors                                 |                            | 3                   |
| Cash at bank and in hand                | <b>10,570</b>              | 6,456               |
|                                         | <u><b>12,531</b></u>       | <u>33,535</u>       |
| Less: Creditors                         | <b>-4,523</b>              | -                   |
|                                         |                            | 24,334              |
| Net Assets (= Reserves)                 | <u><u><b>8,008</b></u></u> | <u><u>9,201</u></u> |

Copies of the full Report & Accounts (compiled by Whittingham Riddell LLP of Ludlow, Chartered Accountants) are available on request from

*The Company Secretary*  
*Mardu Cottage*  
*6 Mardu*  
*Clun*  
*CRAVEN ARMS, SY7 8QG*  
*Tel: 01588 640629 E-mail: dennistwist@onetel.com*

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**Balance Sheet as at 31 March**

|                          |                     |                     |
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| Current Assets           | <u>656</u>          | 24,30               |
| Debtors                  |                     | 3                   |
| Cash at bank and in hand | <u>10,570</u>       | <u>6,456</u>        |
|                          | <u>12,531</u>       | 33,53               |
|                          |                     | 5                   |
| Less: Creditors          | <u>-4,523</u>       | -                   |
|                          |                     | 24,33               |
|                          |                     | 4                   |
| Net Assets (= Reserves)  | <u><u>8,008</u></u> | <u><u>9,201</u></u> |

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*CRAVEN ARMS, SY7 8QG*  
*Tel: 01588 640629 E-mail: dennistwist@onetel.com*

**THE WASTELESS SOCIETY**

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday, 17th October 2008 at The Church Barn, Bishop's Castle**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th November 2007
3. Directors' Report
4. Adoption of the Annual Accounts
5. Election of Directors

The current Directors, listed below, are standing for re-election:  
Kate Evans, Jim Gaffney, Rosa James, Adam Kennerley, Dennis Twist

*Notes:*

1. Adam Kennerley and Dennis Twist are retiring by rotation but are eligible for re-election.
2. Kate Evans and Rosa James were appointed Directors by the board on 23rd April 2008.
3. Kaye Chambers resigned as a Director on 19th April 2008.

6. Re-appointment of Auditors

To re-appoint the Auditors, Whittingham Riddell LLP, and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

D R Twist, Secretary

**Wasteless Society who are we?**

Directors:

Adam Kennerley e: [adelek66@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adelek66@yahoo.co.uk) tel: 01568 770138

Kate Evans e: [katetheplate@googlemail.com](mailto:katetheplate@googlemail.com) tel 01588 638762

Jim Gaffney e: [jim@textiletechniques.co.uk](mailto:jim@textiletechniques.co.uk) tel: 01588 638712

Dennis Twist: e: [dennistwist@onetel.com](mailto:dennistwist@onetel.com) tel: 01588 640629

Rosa James e: [rosa@james7751.freemove.co.uk](mailto:rosa@james7751.freemove.co.uk) tel: 01938 561404

Also

Website and e-mail-out: Alan Terrill: [alanterill@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alanterill@tiscali.co.uk)

**Newsletter : editor Rosa James**

If you would be willing to receive future newsletter by e-mail, please contact Alan Terrill. It would save us paper and postage costs.

And if you have any computer lay-out skills and free time in December, Rosa would appreciate help with the next one!