



Newsletter April 2009

Future Events :

April 29th Film as previously advertised is postponed... see below

Monday May 18th : A presentation by Debi Lewis and Tania Dolley on **Deep Ecology - The Work that Reconnects** as developed by Joanna Macy 7.30 in the Fletcher Room, Bishops Castle Community College (*first entrance on left after X-roads on A488*) This is a *Quest Spiritual Network event*. www.joannamacy.net

Wed June 10th Film Night : *The Age of Stupid* a major new documentary on climate change starring Pete Postlethwaite.

Also we will screen The Wasteless Society Film, made by Jonny Keeley in 2008

7.30pm at The Three Tuns, Bishops Castle, with accompanying presentation and stands on How we can be Less Stupid!

Sat 1st August : Stand at Clun Show

Report on Wasteless Society from Kate Evans

The Wasteless Society has been a bit quiet in the press lately. You will have been hearing a good deal about Lightfoot's HES energy saving surveys project though, and we are very proud of having been the parent of this scheme, which is going on to make such a success, with the distinct possibility of winning the top prize in the 'Big Green Challenge' and spreading our volunteer energy survey system hopefully, across the whole country.

Even if our press profile may be a bit low right now, we are still battling on with the recycling at Crowgate, even though the arrangements of the new Unitary Council, coupled with the blanket contract for Veolia for waste collection means that we are no longer being paid credits for our efforts. We are in the process of trying to renegotiate some payment by means of a yearly grant for recycling, along with other sustainability and community communication projects to spread the message about the need for waste reduction and management.

Though we have 130 members in WS, in fact there are only around 20 active members doing anything practical and only 4 board members meeting regularly. We are sorely in need of more good folks to come on to the board, and inject fresh ideas and positivity into the tired and overworked core group.

Especially, we need someone to take on publicity and communications for us; we need to raise our profile again and get active support to help with our new 'Food Forum' and to help with getting a 'Transition Town' movement up and running.

We need parents to enthuse local schools on environmental projects. This could be anything from starting a school veg patch, to planting trees, holding 'local food' cooking events, to being involved in 'greening' school buildings. If you have children at a local school and an interest in environmental matters (you wouldn't be reading this if you weren't!) Please, please get in touch and we can help and support any projects you might come up with. We do have

some money for this sort of activity and we can help get (even quite large) grants for bigger projects.

Our basic core group works hard behind the scenes to promote our aims and objectives but we can't do everything on our own.

We need you to come forward with ideas of your own and we'll do our best to help them come to fruition.

If you've got any ideas for projects, or just have a bit of time to come and help stuff envelopes for the newsletter or want to help in any way, please get in touch with us and support WS with action.

Rosa James, Kate Evans, Jim Gaffney, Dennis Twist and Neil Hird.

Info@wasteless.co.uk or ring the Lightfoot office on 01588 638738 and they will pass on the message to us.

Food Group Report

Food Forum

On March 26th we held our first Food Forum with panellists Tim Phillips, Joy Greenall, Graham Lambert and Mick Westrip. The intention was to discuss and promote local and sustainable food production, and it certainly brought up a number of interesting and urgent points.

Tim Phillips spoke of the importance of creating good soil (in our gardens and farms), pointing out the value of air and micro-organisms the “hungry heroes”!. He explained the rotation system, adding manure in year 1, then lime in year 2, mulch with liquid feeds in year 3 and compost in year 4. Tim describes gardening and compost with humour, enthusiasm and poetry, and is available for public talks on it! 01588 638762

Graham Lambert, of Myriad Organics in Ludlow, spoke of the SHOPS (*Shropshire Hills Organic Produce Scheme*) veg box scheme he has been running for years. He explained how organic farming produces 20% less CO2 than conventional methods, and that UK is only 58% self-sufficient in food, with an increase of 25% in imports. The problem is that people are not buying enough organic food, and we need more local organic growers. For more information on SHOPS, contact gl@organicbyorder.co.uk

Joy Greenall is a local organic farmer, and first mentioned the challenges of farming today, with the few remaining farmers facing health problems, huge bureaucracy and having to do everything on the farm, with diminishing manpower. But there is more awareness of nature conservation and respect for the land, and there is a successful local organic meat co-operative, though they'd welcome more chicken.

Joy underlined the 4 principles of organic farming: ecology, health, care and fairness.

joy.greenall@btinternet.com

Mick Westrip runs an organic market garden on 4 acres near Knighton, supplying a market stall. He has 3 volunteers working with him and runs courses on *Growing your Own Food*. He claims that the price of land is the problem for commercial growers, and there is a shortage of manpower, as food production is rarely seen as urgent or “sexy” for young people. He (and Graham) pointed out how supermarkets use the sale of organics as a marketing ploy, and such produce tends to cost much more at Tesco's. To contact Mick e-mail vegdoctor@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01547 528315

Garden Share: helping more people grow their own and make use of the lawn!

This project is now up and running. The aim is to make contact between land owners who have more land than they can manage and potential growers who'd like to use someone's land for growing food. We now have 3 plots offered in Bishops Castle, and 3 in outlying areas. For more information ring Rosa 01938 561404

HES News

Dave Thomlinson, local coordinator, writes:

Bishop's Castle and Clun Household Energy Service has made continued progress this year. With the help of Cath Murphy, new volunteer surveyors have been recruited, taking the total number to 20.

From June last year to the end of March this year we have funding from the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and for this period have extended our territory to include all the AONB area except for 5 miles around Church Stretton, where our colleagues at Stretton Climate Care conduct their own energy surveys. We set an ambitious target of completing 160 surveys in the AONB area and whilst we won't quite reach this, we won't be far off either.

As previously mentioned, HES are finalists in the Big Green Challenge national competition – in the top 10 out of 350 entrants. As part of our efforts to win, we are working towards doubling the number of households surveyed in our core area – Bishop's Castle and adjoining parishes – by the end of September. To achieve this we need to complete 140 surveys in the next 6 months. With the AONB work done, this is now our main focus.

Do you live in Bishop's Castle, Colebatch, Edgton, Lydbury North, Lydham or More? If so please help us to recruit HES clients – your friends, family and neighbours. The sooner we can survey them, the better.

Apart from that, we have been getting interest in HES from around England and Wales – for example Ludlow 21 are adopting HES and it is being trialled in Cambridge, Llanidloes and Rhayader.

Meanwhile, Dave Luckhurst, one of our two energy officers, is trialling farm energy surveys. These are quite different from household energy surveys as farms emit not just CO2 but also methane and nitrous oxide and can offset emissions by tree planting on their own land.

We are still looking for new people to join us as energy surveyors. Full training is given. 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. If you like, you can just survey your family and friends. Interested? Please get in touch with the HES office.

The other thing we are looking for is further sources of funding to maintain and develop the HES service in future years. We shall be applying for LEADER funding – that's European money – and will involve Wasteless Society in this effort. If you know of other sources of funding we would be very pleased to hear from you!

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@h-e-s.org.

Take a look at our new website www.h-e-s.org

Last newsletter!

This will be the last newsletter for any members who haven't paid their subscription (due last December) within the next few days, as we shall then have to regard their memberships as lapsed. Anyone who hadn't paid by the end of March will have received a final reminder letter.



Insulating her loft!

Last newsletter for non-subscribers!

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Rubbish Burner Plan by Dave Green.

As well as the BC biomass plant there's another burner planning application being submitted. This one's in Battlefield in Shrewsbury so it might look as though it has nothing to do with the people of SW Shropshire and the Wasteless Society, but as it will burn waste from all over the county it is actually very relevant.

The incinerator is planned at 90,000 tonnes/annum which is big enough to take all the current non-recycled domestic waste from the whole county with no allowance for waste reduction or increased recycling. There are a number of concerns,

- 1, it will put a brake on the amount of recycling being done (which has been rising steadily), and take the pressure off efforts to reduce waste,
- 2, it will deal with Shropshire's waste for 25 to 30 years and won't allow for the development

of better ways of dealing with residual wastes,
3, pollution risks from particulates and dioxins to the air and local water supplies.

To find out more details see www.shrewsfoe.org.uk. or contact me through the WS/Light Foot office. (tel 01588 638738)

It would be very helpful to those fighting this retrograde, outdated scheme if as many people as possible send in objections, they don't need to be long and complicated. The application ref is MS2009/0125/sy. Objections to the Planning Dept, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

Win Win Travel Options!

Liz Colebrook writes:

The Wasteless Society and Bishop's Castle Bike Group hosted an enlightening talk at the Three Tuns in February. Speakers addressed the subject of how to cut your carbon emissions whilst still managing to get from A to B in Shropshire. Fred Ratcliffe, head of passenger transport at Shropshire County Council explained how the new 'customer-led' Shropshire LINK minibus system works with a sophisticated software package offering a flexible timetable and route planner. We simply phone in our request and the computer tells us when a bus is available. Phone 0845 6789068 or 01743 210368 to access the service.

Nick Holden from 'G-Fleet' informed us about their consultancy work that computes vehicle type and emissions with the number of passengers to make recommendations to companies running a service at minimal cost to the environment. He also explained the new road tax banding coming into effect in April for vehicles registered after March 2001 with some low emission cars attracting zero road tax whilst other gas-guzzlers attracting a whopping £400 tax!

Finally, Les Lumsdon, with 25yrs experience in sustainable transport and tourism had some useful advice for the thinking person travelling around Bishop's Castle. Changing our behaviour is at the heart of his plea, e.g. setting off on holiday from your very own front door by foot or bicycle and exploring the wonders of Shropshire and surrounding counties – also known as 'slow travel'. In the question and answer section it was suggested that free bus services might equally be aimed at the younger population who would be inspired to use buses rather than rely on parents running them about at great expense!

Bishops Castle Community Energy (BC CE)

Aims and objectives

An energy production and conservation company invested in and owned by local individuals and businesses to produce and manage as much of the energy needs of the town as possible. As yet, no detailed business plan has yet been formed, only the objectives and operating principles.

From this, an initial steering group of 12 people has been set up to explore the community reaction to the idea and the opportunities for practical action.

The first action undertaken in October 08 was to present the idea to the Town Council for approval in principle, which we have done and received unanimous support.

Having gone through the controversy over the proposed Biomass CHP plant, which is still embroiled in its planning inquiry, we are acutely aware of the need for complete transparency and community support in everything we do, and the continuing support and approval of the Town Council is vital to this end.

The aims and objectives of BC CE would include;

Energy Reduction

Support and help promote Lightfoot's existing HES service to reduce and conserve energy
Buildings insulation and draught proofing
Promotion of LE and LED bulbs for all lighting purposes
Promotion of low energy, high efficiency appliances and machinery
Promotion of fuel efficient vehicles and public or shared transport systems.
Support and promote Wasteless Society in its recycling and other sustainability projects

Energy Production

1. An anaerobic digester on the edge of the town, to process sewage, domestic and commercial town food waste, farm slurry and garden waste and to produce;
 - a. Methane (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 proposal for a small community wind farm consisting of two or three turbines, (strategically placed!)
4. Small scale biomass burning; eg. wood pellet boilers and high efficiency wood burners for domestic or small business use.
- 5 Ground/water/air source heat pumps

Waste management

Anaerobic digestion of food waste, abattoir animal by product wastes and local green waste.
Support and promote Wasteless Society's existing recycling project at Crowgate
Promote a campaign for waste reduction of all sorts especially of plastics, from shrink wrapping to carriers to expanded polystyrene packaging.

We are keen to include and involve anyone and everyone from Bishops Castle (and neighbouring villages) in this project and will be holding a large public meeting/event on the proposal, hopefully sometime in June., with a view to raising funds for an Anaerobic Digester feasibility study.

Topical green tips

- *Try to combine car-shopping with other essential trips, and bring your own bags to avoid collecting yet more plastic carriers. Encourage "your" shops to stock local products, and do a food-mile check before you buy things. (Do we need butter from New Zealand?!)
- *Carnivores: choose local meat, especially pheasant, rabbit and animals that don't belch. Avoid especially those fed on soy-feed: see FOE's *Food Chain Campaign* on soyfeed causing deforestation in Latin America
- *Install more rain harvest butts for garden and pond, in case of droughts this summer
- *Bed-heating: use a sheepskin or extra fluffy blanket under you instead of hotty or electric blanket for milder spring nights
- *Woodstoves and ranges: keep a kettle or pan of water on top to save on the electric kettle
- *Get or share a green-house or poly-tunnel, then you can grow your own peppers, tomatoes, aubergines, cucumbers and even sweet potatoes
- *Petrol reduction: Light foot on the throttle! Brake as little as necessary
- * Encourage recycling in your workplace