



## NEWSLETTER July 2009

Dear Wasteless Society members

As midsummer shines outside and the swallows twitter, it feels good to be consuming less fuel for heating and lighting, and using the bike more.

I expect most of you saw *The Age of Stupid*, and I wonder what changes you have made in your life recently to be more energy efficient.

We'd welcome your input and ideas for living with a lighter footprint. I've been looking at the teachings of an American anti-ageing expert called David Wolfe, who recommends going barefoot, sweating, and bathing in cold water as much as possible. Try it!

Well, Wasteless Society is doing a bit of merging this summer: we are joining forces with the BC Energy Group, and planning to share resources with the local Friends of the Earth group – subject to our members' approval!

Any comments, questions and contributions for the next newsletter, due out in October, please e-mail me: see below for contact details.

Have a fine (and not-stupid!) summer.

Your editor Rosa

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS** The Board is delighted to welcome two new members:

**Jim Pratt** and **Keith Wood**, who are both members of the BCCE Steering Group. Jim has been an active member of WS for some years, and Keith Wood is relatively new to the area, and has valiantly taken on the WS website and e-mail-out.

**REVAMPED WEBSITE** We nearly decided to delete the website, then it was rescued and rebuilt by Keith, and now has current news and contact details and even a clip from the Wasteless Society film. Thanks to Alan Terrill for looking after it for years!

Visit [www.wasteless.co.uk](http://www.wasteless.co.uk) to see the latest update

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH BC FRIENDS OF THE EARTH?**

**The local FOE group needs a friend!**

Dave Thomlinson and Michael Whithouse have approached the Board, proposing that BC FoE would, in effect, be the national campaigning partner of WS. Dave will draft a partnership agreement. Any objections, anyone?

### **NEW OFFICE IN BC**

The Lightfoot/HES/Wasteless Society Office will be moving on July 10th from Enterprise House **to the office above the Chemists**, (where *Alana Ecology* used to be). It's bigger, and we can hold evening meetings there. The address is **Old Primary School, Church St, Bishops Castle SY9 5AE**, though the entrance is on New Street, under the spiral staircase!

### **Screening of *The Age of Stupid***

We had a record turn-out on June 10<sup>th</sup> with an audience of about 130. Most people seemed highly impressed by the film, and a good discussion followed it, the wind-turbine. The audience also appreciated a chance to see Jonny Keeley's film of the Wasteless Society when we still had HES! We hope to buy a copy of *The Age of Stupid* for general loaning

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We need more members, as your subscriptions are an important part of our income. Please encourage any green friends and neighbours to join, for new members are most welcome. The subscription for anyone joining now covers them until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010! And a big THANK YOU to Dennis Twist for dealing with this!

## **CHILDREN TALK FOR THE EARTH on Youtube.**

I was sent a delightful link of a very inspiring talk by a South American child: if you have broadband, go to <http://mx.youtube.com/watch?v=DLV6jaZFLro&feature=related>

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**Saturday July 11th : "Finding The Energy" - Bishop's Castle Community Energy - Public Meeting.** Exhibition from 1.30pm; **Talks/Debate 3.00pm.** To be opened by Philip Dunne. A public meeting to discuss how the local community might control energy production and waste management.

Includes discussion of energy production by means of Solar, Wind and Anaerobic Digestion.

**1 Aug 09, Clun Show:** We will have a stall to promote WS and HES.

**14-16 Aug 09, FarmerPhil's Fest at Ratlinghope:** agreed that WS would help with the stall to be taken by HES.

**19-20 Sep 09, BC Michaelmas fair:** agreed that WS would contribute to the exhibition being organised by David & Janet Preshous on the theme of "BC past/present/future"

## **WASTELESS SOCIETY AGM**

**Tuesday, 3rd November at 7.30 pm** (with tea/coffee). At the new office  
Please come, to ensure sufficient members attend to render the meeting quorate.

### **Wasteless Society Board:**

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: [dandmtwist@googlemail.com](mailto:dandmtwist@googlemail.com) tel: 01588 640629

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

Jim Pratt: e: [jim.bc@homecall.co.uk](mailto:jim.bc@homecall.co.uk)

Keith Wood: e: [keithw@wasteless.co.uk](mailto:keithw@wasteless.co.uk)

Co-ordinator of Crowgate Recycling: Neil Hird : [n.b.hird@btopenworld.com](mailto:n.b.hird@btopenworld.com)

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## **1000 households rising to the (Big Green) Challenge**

The Household Energy Service (HES), based in Bishop's Castle, has been selected as one of ten finalists in the UK's Big Green Challenge. This competition, with prize money amounting to one million pounds, was launched by NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts). The winner/s will be announced this coming November.

HES is now recognised as one of the best community based initiatives tackling climate change, but will need lots of help and support to show that a service, developed by local people, can win this prestigious award and bring the prize home. 1000 clients saving energy is a good start.

Dave Thomlinson, a local coordinator for HES said, "We start by doing an energy survey and carbon footprint. This information will form the basis of a household energy report with recommendations for Claudia's home and business. Everybody is different ... they have different starting points, their

energy use is tied into their lifestyle as well as, for example, the amount of insulation in their loft. HES takes this all into account. We don't just send out the same old advice to everyone."

Rachel Francis of HES said "We take a hands-on approach to the challenges people face: fuel costs, the recession, climate change and energy waste. We are ordinary people who live locally, many of us are volunteers, but we have a core of qualified Energy Officers who compile the energy reports and are always available to give friendly advice and technical support when you need it."

The Household Energy Service offers a FREE service to all those who live in the area

Rachel said "That doesn't mean we offer something at a reduced quality. In fact we want to make HES the best quality service you can find. But we appreciate donations and offers of help and support and we are very grateful to all our funders and supporters

As part of the Big Green Challenge finalist year, we want to show that we can double the number of households in Bishop's Castle who are taking action to save energy and cut CO2 emissions with HES.

There are two ways you can help HES rise to the challenge if you live in and around Bishop's Castle:

- Please get involved. If you haven't had a HES survey, now is the time to ask for one. Call 01588638738 or email [davet@h-e-s.org](mailto:davet@h-e-s.org).
- Please help even more by volunteering to take part in our "household energy blitz" this summer. To help us rise to the Big Green Challenge please contact Dave Thomlinson
- Please encourage one other household which has not has a survey to have one. This will help us in our "household energy blitz" this summer.
- [davet@h-e-s.org](mailto:davet@h-e-s.org) or give us a call at the office (as above). We will arrange for you to end one of our training sessions at a time that is convenient for you. Although lip service is paid to the importance of so-called **grassroots** movements, driven by the people of a town or community; it is rare that organisations like HES, which have not been orchestrated by government or big business, get a chance to shine. With your help we can. Many thanks for your continued support." For info about the big green challenge: [www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk](http://www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk) For more info about HES [www.h-e-s.org](http://www.h-e-s.org)

### **News from Crowgate Recycling Centre by Neil Hird**

Veolia are now paying the Society £250 quarterly rent for the Society's plastics shed at Crowgate. With an increased number of full bags each week and more cardboard Andrew is at Crowgate six times a week. Please encourage residents to wash and crush - children love doing that - plastic bottles before placing them in the plastic bottle sacks. That way more bottles will go into the sacks. Cae Post still only want plastic bottles numbered 1 to 4. Clean bottles please because they are hand sorted. Hopefully the Society's target of 3 tonnes of recyclable material per month will be hit this year. Prices have improved and Cae Post now sell plastic milk bottles, high density polyethylene, at close to £240 per tonne.

Crowgate's Low Carbon Economy Drive continues. The drive's objects are, firstly, to reduce the waste of valuable finite resources such as oil, gas and coal. Secondly to 'recycle'

the sun's rays using micro generation technology to generate a low carbon sustainable electricity, to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, and by selling any surplus power generated back to the National Grid generate income at a rate of 9.5 pence per unit.

Three local primary schools - Lydbury North, Clunbury and Norbury are seeking 50% capital grants under the Low Carbon Building Programme - Phase 2 (LCBP-2) to install solar photovoltaic (pv) systems. Bishop's Castle Town Hall, the Public Hall and Enterprise House are also applying for similar 50% grants for solar pv systems. Bishop's Castle Community Hospital has applied for grants for a Thermal Heating and a solar pv system. The grant applicants who are successful will then seek similar capital grants from the Community Sustainable Energy Programme. It is hoped that the LCB Programme will continue because there is considerable interest in it.

## Food News

**Helping the Honeybees.** You have probably noticed that honeybees are diminishing. This is worrying, for as well as shortages in honey and royal jelly, about 1/3 of human food supplies depend on honeybee pollination. **The Earth needs honeybees, and so do we!**

According to a report by the Soil Association, a prime suspect is the neonicotinoid group of insecticides. These work on the bees' central nervous systems, thus impairing their foraging and homing ability, and their amazing waggle dance communication.

These insecticides have been banned in some European countries, but are still legal in Britain and USA, and sprayed on sunflowers, sweet corn and oilseed rape.

You can petition DEFRA to ask to ban these insidious pollutants. To find out more, visit [www.soilassociation.org/bees.aspx](http://www.soilassociation.org/bees.aspx) and sign the petition. And better still, join the Soil Association!

**And now the Fish.....** It is now claimed, in a film called *The End of the Line* that fish may be extinct by 2050 if we continue to harvest them at present rates.

It points out that man, "the most efficient predator our oceans have ever known", is allowed to fish in 99 per cent of the seas. So we all need to **eat less fish**, and only buy sustainable ones.

You can order a free copy of *The Pocket Good Fish Guide* from the Marine Conservation Society by e-mailing [info@mscuk.org](mailto:info@mscuk.org) and send them your postal address. All fish-eaters should have it!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SOIL-OIL: 150 next month!

On the morning of 27 August 1859 near Titusville, Pennsylvania, oil started to flow from the first purpose drilled well and the oil industry as we know it was born. Prior to that, oil had only been collected in very small amounts from natural seepages and used for specialist purposes only. The Tar Tunnel at Ironbridge was a typical example.

When Edwin Drake first started to drill, problems and delays due to inadequate equipment left him nearly bankrupt, investors deserted him, and most thought him to be an eccentric old man pursuing a crazy idea that would come to nothing. And then he struck oil and the free flow rapidly filled every bucket and barrel he could find. In no time at all, a 'gold rush' ensued and everybody wanted a piece of the action. But unlike gold, oil proved to be easy to find and abundant, and many did get rich quick!

At that time, the main demand was for lamp oil, with other products like petrol regarded as a waste product. In the 1860's, and maybe because of the availability of a suitable cheap fuel, the first internal combustion engines appeared. Coal was still king and the fuel of choice for shipping, trains and heating. However, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the use of oil grew rapidly, both as a fuel but also as a raw material for a myriad of products from plastics to fertilizers.

As we approach the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the peak oil and global warming situation show us the need to take the next leap of faith and develop the ideas and technologies appropriate the today's world. *Thanks to Alan Jewell for this.*

## Reading matters:

The office has a small library of books climate change, energy saving etc, which can be borrowed free of charge by WS members.

## Your ideas and contributions

Once again, we will welcome any personal contributions, anecdotes, pictures and ideas for our newsletter and website. Next issue copy date: September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact

Rosa James [rosa@james7751.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:rosa@james7751.freeserve.co.uk) tel: 01938 561404 for the newsletter

Or Keith Wood [keithw@wasteless.co.uk](mailto:keithw@wasteless.co.uk) for the website

Or send in your piece to [info@wasteless.co.uk](mailto:info@wasteless.co.uk) or post to the new office.

*If you prefer to receive your newsletter by post in the future, please e-mail or ring Rosa*

## **BISHOPS CASTLE COMMUNITY ENERGY: FINDING THE ENERGY**

By KATE EVANS

BCCE really started as a reaction to the negativity of everything surrounding the biomass controversy.

I wanted to see if something positive could be done instead and came up with the idea of a community-owned energy company– and put up an anaerobic digester as a more suitable technology for the town.

Last autumn we had a public debate about anaerobic digesters in the Tuns. I also went to a WRAP conference on digesters in London.

I got fired up about the whole idea – a community-owned digester taking the town's food waste, farm slurry, abattoir waste and whatever else we can find to feed it and turning it into lovely rich fertiliser and heat/electricity/revenue from the methane gas – utopia!

A few other like-minded enthusiasts got together in October and set up an ad hoc group to investigate the possibility of

1. An **anaerobic digester** on the edge of the town, to process domestic and commercial food and garden waste, farm slurry and other waste streams. This will produce methane gas for making electricity, together with liquid fertiliser and solid soil conditioner that is nitrate-free and would comply with the new NVZ slurry regulations.
2. Installing subsidised and affordable domestic and small-scale **solar water heaters** and **photovoltaic panels** on suitable local buildings.
3. A small community wind farm comprising two or three turbines, (strategically placed!).

The result so far is a fantastically motivated bunch of people with the beginnings of a dream for Bishops Castle – for all of us to have a chance to invest in, decide on and benefit from our own energy consortium.

We've put out a questionnaire to gauge everyone's feelings and opinions on the subject called FINDING THE ENERGY.

Please fill in the one below as soon as you can and return it to one of the collection points named on the sheet. You can find it online as well [www.BCcommunityenergy.org.uk](http://www.BCcommunityenergy.org.uk) .

The more early returns we get, the better the picture we'll have to show at:

### **FINDING THE ENERGY – COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SATURDAY JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **A Public debate and exhibition on sustainable energy systems for BC and district**

There will be an exhibition of sustainable, low carbon energy systems, opening at **1.30pm**, with experts to give information and answer questions.

The debate will be opened at **3pm** by MP Philip Dunne. There will be a short speech from Kate Evans, followed by brief talks on AD (anaerobic digesters), wind technology, solar energy systems and community co-operatives, how they are funded and run. This will include speakers on the various technologies available and a public debate on the whole question of community ownership, energy production and waste management

The floor will then be thrown open for questions and hopefully, a very positive debate and maybe even a result might come out of it!

**EXHIBITION STARTS AT 1.30 AND DEBATE BEGINS AT 3.PM WE AIM TO FINISH BY 5.PM SO WE CAN ALL GO AND ENJOY THE REST OF THE BEER FESTIVAL!**

If you want to know more and have your say, come along and bring friends and family too!

If you care about what happens here and would like to know more or get actively involved, please fill in your questionnaire and hand it in to one of the addresses listed (you can also find it on [www.bccommunityenergy.org.uk](http://www.bccommunityenergy.org.uk) ) and come to FINDING THE ENERGY on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition will open at 1.30 pm and the debate, opened by Philip Dunne MP, will start at 3pm.

**We have put out a questionnaire to local residents to gauge opinion on this matter**

### **‘FINDING THE ENERGY’ QUESTIONNAIRE**

1 = STRONGLY DISAGREE, UP TO 5 = STRONGLY AGREE, X = ‘DON’T KNOW’.

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR CHOICES AND ANSWER AS MANY AS POSSIBLE

**Are you worried about energy? How concerned are you about each of the following?**

High costs							
		1	2	3	4	5	X
Global warming and carbon reduction							
		1	2	3	4	5	X
Sustainable energy production							
		1	2	3	4	5	X
Pollution and environmental factors							
		1	2	3	4	5	X
Energy conservation							
		1	2	3	4	5	X

**Should our community try to reduce its dependence on the national electricity grid?**

eg coal, nuclear gas, etc

1 2 3 4 5 X

**What local energy production methods would you favour for our community?**

Wood/biomass fired combined heat and power station (CHP)

1 2 3 4 5 X

Waste incineration combined heat and power station (CHP)

1 2 3 4 5 X

Anaerobic digester combined heat and power station (CHP)

1 2 3 4 5 X

Community wind turbines

1 2 3 4 5 X

Solar power for water heating

1 2 3 4 5 X

Solar power for photovoltaic electricity production

1 2 3 4 5 X

**Would you be interested in investing in a community-owned energy/waste co-operative?**

1 2 3 4 5 X

**If you were to invest in such a scheme, how would you rate each of the following considerations?**

Personal financial return							
	1	2	3	4	5	X	
Satisfaction in helping community CO2 reduction							
	1	2	3	4	5	X	
Developing sustainable energy production							
	1	2	3	4	5	X	
Community ownership and control of energy production							
	1	2	3	4	5	X	

**If you want more information about renewable energy systems and co-operative schemes,** go to our website at [www.BCcommunityenergy.org.uk](http://www.BCcommunityenergy.org.uk) or we can send you information and web links by email only.

**Thank you for filling in this questionnaire.** Your response is important to us to get an overall picture of opinion in the town and district. Please return it to WS Office, Textile Traders, Happy Bap, Gwythers or Art & Artisan bookshop.