



## Newsletter March 2010

Dear Members

This is a busy and intense season for us, as we are in the fortunate position of receiving some generous funding for **Bishops Castle Zero Waste Places Project**, with all the consequential media coverage and work involved! So we are producing shopping bags and a local *Green Guide*, doing school workshops, screening a film about oil called *A Crude Awakening*, and running a gardeners' swapshop. Also an updated Wasteless Society leaflet should be out soon.

There's a lot happening at Crowgate, and Neil Hird has this wonderful scheme for a Care Farm..... so read on, and please keep supporting us!

## Wasteless Society News

### **WE SHOPPED AND WE SWAPPED!**

Our Swapshop event at the Wasteless office on February 27<sup>th</sup> was a great success. About 20 people came, there was some lovely stuff, and we did a total of 60 swaps in all. No money was involved in the transactions.

One of the younger participants, 16-year old Isobel Thomlinson thought the event was 'brilliant', and said she would like to organise one at the Community College, aimed more exclusively at the younger 'market'. So, look out for news of this in the near future.

Also, the Wasteless Society will be running a **garden swapshop**, on April 10<sup>th</sup> 11am – 1pm.

We are keen to get all and any local gardeners to come along with spare seedlings, plants, cuttings and general gardening items, for swapping.

### **BIODIESEL**

Sundance are offering biodiesel to Bishop's Castle residents - if you are interested please see the details at [www.wasteless.org.uk/download/](http://www.wasteless.org.uk/download/)

### **Appeal for Publicity Officer for Wasteless Society**

We are looking out for someone who has some free time and computer skills to help us publicise our events and do general PR. It would include writing press releases,

advertising our events and, if possible, taking on the newsletter. For more details on a job description, please contact Dennis or Rosa

## **Subs overdue!..."This could be the last Newsletter for some people!**

Those few Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions (which were due on 1st December last year) will have, or will soon have, received a final reminder. It will be regretfully assumed that Members who have not paid their subscriptions by the end of April do not wish to renew their memberships and their names will therefore be deleted from the newsletter distribution list. So please send your cheque to Dennis!"

*And everyone: please notify Dennis of any errors in the address we are using for you.*

## **Bishop's Castle Zero Waste Place Project**

Late last year the Society accepted Shropshire Council's invitation to collaborate with them on this project (for which the Council secured a grant) and since then we have been working on three main elements of the project –

- waste education in local primary schools,
- the design and production of free-issue re-usable cotton bags and
- the production of a Bishop's Castle Green Guide.

Becky Daniel has, on the Society's behalf, been giving presentations to schools as part of the Council's Waste Education Support Programme (which also involved the involvement of an unusual educational machine - *Recycler the Robot*). Also as part of the project, the Society organised a Swap Shop on 27th February and has improved the cardboard recycling facility at Crowgate

## **BISHOP'S CASTLE GREEN BAG**

We are in the process of producing a bespoke cotton shopping bag as part of the Zero Waste Project for Bishops Castle. The designs were chosen from our bag design competitions: one for pupils at the Community College, where the winner was Megan Powell (yr 7), and an adult one – the winning entry was from Meri.

The bags will be distributed to all households in Bishops Castle, along with the Green Guide. If you'd like to help "posting" them, please ring Rosa in early April.

The intention is to discourage the use of plastic carrier bags in shops – so we can all help by **taking a bag when we go shopping!**

## **GREEN GUIDE TO BISHOPS CASTLE AND DISTRICT**

As part of the Bishop's Castle Zero Waste Place project, we are producing a printed 'Green Guide' to BC and the surrounding area.

If you run a 'green', sustainable, low carbon business, within a 20 mile radius of BC, and think you should be in the guide, or if you know anyone else who fits the bill, please contact us.

We are looking for entries on :

Agriculture

Building and related trades – including alternative energy suppliers and installers

Clothing, fashion and cosmetics for all ages, from babies to grannies

Creative arts of all kinds Environmental businesses and groups

Furniture making and repairing

Gardening and horticulture of all kinds

Tourism

Low carbon energy production ie Wood fuels, turbines, solar panels, etc.

Retail and Other businesses suitable for inclusion

With any information, contact by **March 20<sup>th</sup> at latest:**

Kate Evans [katee@wasteless.org.uk](mailto:katee@wasteless.org.uk) or ring Kate on 01588 638762 or

Robert Smith [roberts@wasteless.org.uk](mailto:roberts@wasteless.org.uk)

## **NEWS FROM CROWGATE RECYCLING from Neil Hird**

My sincere thanks for your volunteer support, without which the Wasteless Society could not operate at Crowgate.

Andrew Broom continues to do good work at Crowgate. He is there for one hour six times a week. Therefore volunteer support is vital.

The easier collection of cardboard is being followed up. James Thompson, Shropshire Waste Partnership, (SWP) has agreed to fund a cardboard collection facility in the compound. Tim Phillips with help from Jim Pratt will do the joinery. Cae Post ask us not to mix cardboard with paper because both are handled and bailed separately. Fly tipping continues though the credit crunch has reduced the volume. Please report immediately fly-tipping t Heide Steel at Street Scene, Ludlow, tel 0845-678-9000.

## **Crowgate Low Carbon Energy Drive – some funding successes but!**

The Wasteless Society has helped to find the capital funding of £18,862 for a 3.24kWp solar pv system on the B.C. Town Hall roof.

50% LCBP funding has been secured for a 1.62 kWp pilot solar pv (photovoltaic) system at Enterprise House, 50% funding for a 3.20kWp solar pv system at Lydbury North Primary School, 50% for a 6.0 kWp wind turbine and solar pv system at Norbury Primary School and 50% funding for a thermal water heating and a pilot solar pv system at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital. The clever thing will be to secure the remaining 50% capital funding plus VAT payable on the above six projects. With the present financial crisis LCBP funding on solar pv systems both in the public and private sectors has stopped. We are looking at alternative funding sources but to date have had no success. An interesting initiative came from the youngsters at St George's Primary School, Clun who want sustainable energy for their lap tops used in their planned 'open' class room. Funding sources are being sort for a 1kWp solar pv system. How refreshing having youngsters planning their own sustainable, low carbon energy source!

## **Crowgate – Care Farm proposal.**

Brief presentations were made to Shropshire Council's Cabinet and B.C. Town Council that a **care farm** should be set up on some of the unused 4.6 Crowgate acres, offering health, education and social care services to vulnerable folk in South Shropshire. Presently some of these folk are bussed 25 miles to the excellent Oak Farm at Ditton Priors.

A proposal will go to the Town Council that it works in partnership with Shropshire Council over a long term lease for a farm. The Wasteless Society, working with Lightfoot, could perhaps establish and manage the farm which would be an organic market garden with poultry, small animals and a tree/plant nursery plus an educational facility. The latter could be in the unused building of the former Crowgate pre school group. There could be a waste food -plus green garden waste-fed anaerobic digester (AD) on the farm providing heat to the proposed polytunnels. The digestates would be an excellent soil improver and liquid fertiliser.

If AD funding was unavailable a community compost scheme as at Oak Farm is a possible alternative source of soil improver. The farm's produce could be sold to Shropshire LEA. Shropshire Council is keen to include more fresh, locally grown produce in Shropshire County's school meals.

Funding is possible through the England Rural Development programme and this is being looked into.

Unfortunately there is a very short time scale because Shropshire Council propose to nationally advertise for sale the Crowgate unused acres.

## **Bishop's Castle a Zero Waste place**

Shropshire Council have agreed to fund Severn Hospice so that they can purchase some 600 cotton shopping bags! Please do use natural fibre shopping bags and stop using plastic shopping bags which are a plague on the planet.

## **Events**

### **Garden Swapshop**

The Wasteless Society will be running a **Garden Swapshop**, on April 10<sup>th</sup> 11am –1pm at or outside the Office near the Pharmacy.

We are keen to get all and any local gardeners to come along with spare seedlings, plants, cuttings and general gardening items, for swapping. Contact Kate for more details.

### **Open Meeting Government Climate Change Act:**

#### **How will it affect us and when?**

Guest Speaker: **Edward Leddy-Owen** from Energy Saving Trust (West Midlands). What are Carbon Emission targets? What are Carbon Budgets? What will the effect be on Local Authorities? How will it affect householders and businesses? What will be the effect on our energy bills? What action should we all be taking?

**Church Stretton Methodist Church Friday 19th March 7.30pm**

## THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS

Are you concerned about the condition of our world and would you like to explore your ability to respond to that concern?

Then you are invited to a day on

### DEEP ECOLOGY

(as developed by Joanna Macy and others [www.joannamacy.net](http://www.joannamacy.net))

with Deborah Lewis and Tania Dolley

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of April 10am-3pm*

Discoed Church, Presteigne

*Free workshop, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.*

*Limited spaces and booking required*

*Please contact Andrea Gilpin on 01568 611154*

## Free Event in Knighton

### ALL WELCOME

**Imagine** living in an affordable, sustainable, carbon neutral home, going to work by bike, train or bus or walking to a local job in the environmental market.

**Imagine** if lots of communities, towns and villages linked by a railway were all doing the same, using the railway to move goods and people.

There you have it, **Calon Cymru**, a charity whose aims are to create a green corridor along the Heart of Wales Line.

**On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2010** at 7.30pm, at Knighton Community Centre, in the coffee lounge, (free admission) **Calon Cymru** will be giving a presentation about their charity, hosted by the Teme Valley Environment Group. There will be a bar, music and song and a ploughmans supper.

## How to Make Money from Renewable Energy

A Discussion on Feed in Tariffs and domestic renewables,

Led by Dave Green of the Household Energy Service,

at the HES/WS office, Church St BC,

7.30pm Wed April 21st,

**All Welcome**

## **Hobsons' Brewery visit, Cleobury Mortimer**

Tuesday **May 4<sup>th</sup>** arriving at 7.00 p.m. Hear about energy efficiency, tour the brewery, drink the beer! Please let Dave Thomlinson know if you want to go.

## **Tour de Presteigne electric bike rally**

Sat and Sun **8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May**. <http://www.tourdepresteigne.co.uk>

### **NEWS FROM HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SERVICE WE WON – YOU CAN TOO!**

On a very snowy 13<sup>th</sup> January a delegation of HES staff and directors went to London to the **Big Green Challenge** awards ceremony. (NESTA), announced the winners:

**We had won joint first prize and £300,000 !**

HES fought off competition from over 350 community groups across the UK because of our achievements over the course of a year in four areas: CO<sub>2</sub> reductions achieved; the innovative nature of our initiatives; the longevity and replicability of their project; and our level of community engagement.

Jonathan Kestenbaum, NESTA's Chief Executive says: 'The Household Energy Service team has exceeded our expectations of what communities can achieve in reducing carbon emissions and for this they should be congratulated. The success of the project proves that when communities are incentivised, empowered and supported they become a compelling force in solving some of society's biggest challenges.'

Adam Kennerley, Chief Executive of HES said, "This success is down to a fantastic team: our staff, professional energy advisors, 50 volunteers working in our communities and over 1,000 householders who are participating.

What is HES going to spend the money on? Well, this is what we are currently considering. We have lots of ideas. We are likely to extend our service further into South Shropshire and to offer more services such as installing draught proofing and doing loft clearances, so people can install insulation. We shall be advertising new jobs too – if you are interested keep an eye on our website [www.h-e-s.org](http://www.h-e-s.org). We shall bring you full details of our plans for the next two years soon.

We've won so how can you win too? If you have not yet had a free HES household energy survey now is the time to ask for one. Our existing clients have reduced their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an average of 29% (or 17% if reduced flying is discounted) over a year. This equates to savings of £380/ year. Contact us at the office on 01588 630683 or [info@h-e-s.org](mailto:info@h-e-s.org) Dave Thomlinson, Local Coordinator

## TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE needs volunteers

Tools refurbishing group, Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR) South Shropshire group meets twice weekly at its workshop to refurbish tools. It is seeking new volunteers to help with its work, especially by refurbishing tools and by selling items on Ebay. Anyone interested is invited to contact Dave Thomlinson, secretary, on 01588 640550.

Here are some useful links to help to try to reduce the amount of junk mail coming at you!!!

<http://www.stopjunkmail.org.uk>

<http://www.junkbuster.org.uk>

## Call to recycle old electrical items

Shropshire residents are being encouraged to recycle their old electrical items. By simply taking them for collection, they can be safely recycled into separate materials. To get rid of unwanted items without throwing them away:

- Take them to the household recycling centre at Craven Arms Business Park;
- A few retailers will take back old electrical items in store. Go to [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com) to check whether a retailer has chosen to do so.

*Waste items can be dismantled into raw materials and put to new uses; for example, a typical iron contains enough steel to make 13 food cans. Plastic recycled from small household appliances such as kettles or irons can potentially be re-used in new goods, for example games consoles or hairdryers.*

For more information about recycling electrical items visit [www.dontbinitbringit.org](http://www.dontbinitbringit.org).

Issued by James Thompson, Waste Prevention Officer Shropshire Council

T: 01743 255989 M: 07766 474268 E: [james.thompson@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.thompson@shropshire.gov.uk):

[www.recycleforshropshire.com](http://www.recycleforshropshire.com)

## CLIMATE CHANGE FOR SCEPTICS

### THE PROPOSITION

1. That global warming, with consequential and damaging climate change, is happening and is mostly caused by mankind.

### THE FACTS - ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENTS WORLDWIDE

1. Over the past 800,000 years the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere never exceeded 300 ppm - until about 1900, since when it has increased steadily and is now 387 ppm. The only credible explanation for this increase is that it results from CO<sub>2</sub> produced by humans burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) since the start of the industrial revolution.
2. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and global temperatures are closely linked because CO<sub>2</sub> is a powerful greenhouse gas. In past geological times, temperature rises

caused by natural events (e.g. planetary orbit changes) resulted in higher CO2 concentrations which then increased the atmospheric greenhouse effect and amplified the heating. In the current era it is the other way round - rising CO2 levels are initiating the global warming.

3. Global temperatures have risen by over 0.7°C in the past 100 years. Increased CO2 concentrations provide the only satisfactory explanation for this rise.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. There is no doubt that global warming is happening (and causing climate change) and the only believable explanation for the warming is the greenhouse effect of the CO2 that has been, and is being, added to the atmosphere by mankind's burning of fossil fuels.

## **STILL UNCONVINCED?**

- You may be right, but suppose you aren't? The adverse consequences of even a 2°C global temperature rise (the current "target") are so serious that the risk of doing nothing is too great.
- That's why officials from 192 and ministers from 110 countries are meeting in Copenhagen to agree what can be done to avert a potential global disaster - and why everyone, sceptics included, should be doing everything they can to reduce their carbon footprints.

*Dennis Twist*

## **Wasteless Society:**

### **Who are we ?**

**Board of Directors:** Jim Gaffney, Dennis Twist, Kate Evans, Rosa James, Jim Pratt, Keith Wood, Robert Smith

**Website:** [www.wasteless.org.uk](http://www.wasteless.org.uk) - run by Keith Wood e: [keithw@wasteless.org.uk](mailto:keithw@wasteless.org.uk)

**Recycling:** Neil Hird [n.b.hird@btopenworld.com](mailto:n.b.hird@btopenworld.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Rosa James [rosaj@wasteless.org.uk](mailto:rosaj@wasteless.org.uk), tel: 01588 630760

**BCCE: Kate Evans** e: [kate@wasteless.org.uk](mailto:kate@wasteless.org.uk) tel: 01588 638762

**Treasurer and company secretary:** Dennis Twist: e: [dennist@wasteless.org.uk](mailto:dennist@wasteless.org.uk)

tel: 01588 640629 Mardu Cottage. 6, Mardu, Clun, Craven Arms SY7 8QG

**Transport Group:** Dave Thomlinson e: [davet.hes@live.co.uk](mailto:davet.hes@live.co.uk)

### **Where are we ?**

The Wasteless Society and HES Office:

**The Old Primary School, Church Street, Bishops Castle SY9 5AE**

Tel: 01588 630683 (*above the pharmacy - the entrance is round the corner in New Street*)

Open: Wednesdays and Fridays 10am to 3 pm.