

THE WASTE LESS SOCIETY

Newsletter August 2010

Dear Wasteless Society members,

Well, it's been a busy spring, and we are still going and focusing especially on waste issues. We are glad to have formed an affiliation with the new local Friends of the Earth group, and are still working in tandem with Bishop's Castle Community Energy group as well as all the good work down at Crowgate.

If you are a BC town resident, you should have received the Green Guide and a special BC shopping bag.

You might have also heard of new personnel at Lightfoot. And please note the date of our **AGM on Friday 22nd October 7.30pm at our office.** So read on for more news.

Rosa James (Somehow still the editor...)

Re the Caepost visit:-

On 21st July Neil Hird organised a most interesting visit for a group of 9 Wasteless Society members to the Caepost Recycling Centre at Trewern, near Welshpool for a tour of the processing plant and a discussion with the Manager Richard Northridge afterwards.

Caepost currently has the contract to collect 50% of the kerbside recycling collection and from 70 "bring sites" in Powys, together with 8 across the border in Shropshire (including Crowgate). They would also like to form stronger links with Cwm Harry at Newtown to recycle green waste.

It is a social enterprise trying to deliver a "triple bottom line" – i.e. to be profitable, sensitive to environmental issues and to deliver social benefits. To achieve the last of these, a number of people with learning difficulties are employed on a paid or voluntary basis.

All the recycled materials (recyclates) are hand sorted, with the materials going onto two conveyor belts - one for cardboard and paper and the other for plastics. Both steel and aluminium cans are also gratefully received, though not in with the plastics please.

HDPE plastic bottles (largely milk bottles) are in great demand, and are separate from the rest and condensed into bales ready for shipping out.

They have also found a market for plastic bags, reprocessing them into items such as traffic cones. There is also a growing market for plastic cling film.

Prices for recyclates are extremely variable, and the markets are played every time prior to a shipment going out. Unfortunately they were unable to tell us where these materials were

finally destined for, but a visit there is highly recommended to see the next stage in the recycling process beyond Crowgate from the helpful and friendly staff. They welcome visits from groups of interested people, and I expect Neil would be happy to organise another trip, so do let us know if you'd be interested. Their website is www.caepost.co.uk/english/index.php.
Robert Smith

Update on activities at Crowgate and Recycling

It has been a busy period for the Crowgate brigade with its interesting recycling activities :

Zero Waste Place drive: more bags!

Funding is being sought and obtained for natural fibre shopping bags, complementing the Society's bags, for 400 Severn Hospice bags and 250 Farmers' Market bags.

Cae Post visits

Following a very interesting recent visit by eight Crowgate volunteers to Cae Post's resources recycling plant, 250 primary school children from eight local schools will be targeted for educational visits in the Winter term. School children are recycling's best ambassadors!

Recycling household scrap metal: This possibility working with Bill Kerswell is being followed up through Shropshire Council with Mark Hunter at Veolia.

Cardboard container

We are extremely grateful to Tim Phillips for his joinery work, which has made the collection of cardboard for recycling at Crowgate far easier.

Clean rubbish please

Anyone using Crowgate's resource recycling facilities are asked to ensure that all their material for recycling is clean.. Plastic bottles, particularly the valuable milk bottles, should always have the tops removed, be washed and crushed before being placed, with the tops which are recycled, in the Crowgate shed's sacks. This way more plastic bottles can go into each sack, it is easier for Car Post's staff to sort, and far less smelly sorting the recyclable material. Steel and aluminium cans, which can go in the plastic bottle sacks, should also be washed.

And new volunteers???

New Crowgate volunteers are always welcome on the site which in September will have operated for nine years. Neil Hird.

Bishop's Castle Town Hall's Roof

3.24 kWp solar pv system: Dulas Ltd will install this in mid September. Philip Dunne M.P. has been asked to 'switch on' this sustainable, green energy generation system. Funding is still being sought for similar systems on the roofs of the Hospital and Enterprise House.

A 2.5 acre Community Farm at Crowgate.

On the 4th August Shropshire Council's cabinet will make a decision regarding the eight page proposal submitted to them on the 7th May.

The BC FOE Relaunch On 19th July there was an evening meeting at the HES offices to relaunch the (until then virtually moribund) **Bishop's Castle Friends of the Earth Group**, arranged by Dave Thomlinson and attended by 12 people.

Tim Atkinson the FOE Network Coordinator based in Birmingham gave a presentation on various ways the revitalised group could progress, including joint working with the Wasteless Society through a Memorandum of Understanding and the sort of issues that could be tackled. Everyone was pleased with the outcome, and a further public meeting has been arranged for Thursday 9th September to continue the momentum. Robert Smith

Report on Wasteless Society workshops in local primary schools

(We are very fortunate to have Becky Daniel working with local children in schools)...

This has been a very enjoyable project and appears to have been very worthwhile. The workshops seemed to be very well received by children and teachers in all 5 schools. The “Recycleteer robot” had clearly made a huge impression on the children and the sessions I delivered seemed to back up their previous knowledge, reinforce their sense of the importance of recycling, reducing and re-using and encourage good habits.

At each school I started with an introductory assembly with a Powerpoint presentation about the importance of the three Rs and part of this session included questioning the children about what they already knew. Most of the schools I worked in had mixed aged classes and the activities were designed to work well in these conditions. I tried to balance games, investigations, art activities and discussion with each group to ensure that the day was informative and fun. I feel this has been a very worthwhile project and I am pleased to have been part of it.

This and the activities they did during the workshop days will hopefully stay with the children and help them to waste less at school and in their home lives as well as encourage their families to do the same. We are very fortunate in our local schools that there is already a very positive culture of being green. Recycling boxes are much in evidence everywhere I visited, and the children have a good awareness of the issues. Nevertheless everything we can do to make sure that these issues are always at the forefront of the children’s minds is of course valid and useful. The time went very quickly at each school and if there was more funding/time we might be able to extend what we could do.

Millenium Development Goals Conference June 30

The conference held at Bishops Castle CoCo and convened by the Bridges project involved 8 feeder primary schools and the Y7s from the Community College. It was the culmination of previous work related to the MDG goals.

The WS input saw my spending half a day with the older children from Norbury and Newcastle primary schools and the 2 head teachers. We discussed the goals and linked them to the three Rs we had discussed previously. The children’s challenge was to come up with a workshop that they could run for other groups of children ,and they chose to make ‘powered’ boats out of recycled materials and a lot of fun was had by all!

Becky Daniel

Climate change . . . a very basic approach

As a believer in mankind-induced climate change, I've been corresponding with someone who gave a sceptical talk to the Montgomery Energy Group earlier this year. Neither of us convinced the other so we declared a truce pending unequivocal evidence of global warming,

but during the correspondence I explained that my belief was founded on the following two incontrovertible physical facts:

1. The atmospheric CO₂ content has been steadily rising at an increasing rate from the pre-industrial level of about 280 ppm and is now 392 ppm.
2. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, so any increase in the CO₂ content of the atmosphere will, eventually and inevitably, result in a global temperature rise and consequential climate change.

It is not possible to prove that the increase in CO₂ is man-made, but no one has yet proposed a credible alternative explanation. If it is man-made then, of course, so is the resulting global warming and climate change.

I further argued that "Climategate", shortcomings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, temperature measurement uncertainties, the flawed "hockey stick" etc were just red herrings which should be ignored and we should concentrate on the physics. If the CO₂ goes on increasing then damaging climate change will follow - the only question is when.

Dennis Twist

Room needed for HES new Energy officer

Could you could help out the new Energy Officer, Matthew Tolley, who is looking to relocate from Stoke on Trent but in the short term is looking for a room or a flat to rent. If you are able to help or know somebody who might be able to, please, do let Matthew know: tel: 07834 328074

Book Review on Carbon footprints.....

I thought you might like to mention in the newsletter an excellent book I got recently from Art and Artisan called :- "*How Bad are Bananas? - The Carbon Footprint of Everything*" by Mike Berners-Lee (Profile Books 2010 - £8.99)

In the book he suggests as a first move reducing the average UK individual's carbon footprint from the current level of 15 tonnes (which includes a factor for goods manufactured overseas) to 10 tonnes.

To this end, he details the footprint of everything from sending text messages and a pint of tap water (at the light end) through to a volcano, a bushfire and a war at the other with things like a pair of shoes and a bike ride from London to Glasgow and back in between.

He concludes, by the way, that bananas are not bad since they are largely shipped and do not require heated greenhouses.

I did work through his book listing the amount of activity you could get from each process (from the lightest to the heaviest) for a tonne of carbon if that's of any interest - it runs to 3.5 handwritten pages of A4 – too long for the newsletter?

Robert Smith

Fashion and garden Swapshops

As part of our Zero Waste initiative for Bishop's Castle, earlier this year, we held two events, a fashion, books and CDs Swapshop in the HES/Wasteless office and a Garden Swapshop on a lovely sunny Saturday in April, on the street in front of the pharmacy.

Both were successful and well attended, but the garden swap was the winner with loads of enthusiastic punters lining up to swap their plants and seedlings for other choice items.

By coincidence, at the garden swap event, we had just got our lovely 'Green' shopping bags back from the printers, so they had their first outing that day. Here is our Green Party election candidate, Jacquie Morrish, showing hers off, while Philomena Wood examines some garden

swap produce in the spring sunshine. We intend to hold another garden swapshop and produce tasting event on the last weekend in August to see what we have all managed to grow over the summer. (Venue to be announced)

Kate



Green Bags and Green Business Guide.

For our Green cotton shopping bag, we wanted to find a design that would convey our message and also display the talent and creativity of the people of Bishops Castle. We worked with teachers Helen Plaistow and Rachel Owen to hold a youth competition with the Year 7s at the High School, while the adult competition was open to anyone over 16. Choosing the winners was a difficult decision, much argued over by the WS board, but we are delighted with the winning designs and hope you will agree the bag looks great! The adult winner was Meri Hunneyball and you can see her design below.

Producing the Bishop's Castle Green Guide was a longer process. We used the brilliant Shrewsbury FOE publication as the template for our own much more modest version, and even then it took several months to finalise and get to print. As a first attempt, we are quite proud of our achievement, and intend to build on this year by year until we've got a fully comprehensive guide to all the low carbon, sustainable businesses and services in the town and district.

Once they were delivered to the office, we had a jolly bag stuffing evening, putting a guide in each bag and then delivering them free, to every household in Bishops Castle.

As WS members, you of course get a free bag and guide too, so if you live close to BC, do come and pick yours up from the office, or you can contact us and we will post one direct to your home.

Otherwise, they will be available from shops in the town and we hope they will encourage people to use the green services in the guide and never to use plastic carriers again!

Kate Evans



NEWS FROM HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SERVICE / Lightfoot

I am pleased to say that we have appointed three new staff: Our new Energy Services Manager is **Denice Jaunzens**. Denice will start late August/ early September. **Matthew Tolley** is starting as Energy Officer on 23rd Aug.

Our new Local Coordinator for Knighton and Presteigne is **Mandy Brick**, starting on 9th August.

But along the way we also say farewell to Dave Green who has been with HES since it was first launched. Dave's big green footprints will be hard to fill but he leaves behind a wealth of knowledge for our new Energy Officer to work with.

The need for saving energy and carbon has never been greater, the desire to keep warm and affordably warm never stronger and HES remains one of the most successful pioneers in the UK. We look forward to continuing to improve the places where we live.

Dave Thomlinson Local Coordinator, Bishop's Castle and Clun

Saving water

It has been such a dry summer so far, and a recent camping trip made me ultra aware of how much water I use. No doubt you good green people are thrifty and have water butts to harvest the precious rain for your garden.... But here are some more tips for saving H₂O, which are all the more relevant for those on a water meter.

- Use a cup rather than running tap for tooth brushing
- Use a watering can with harvested rainwater for irrigating your veg, and only use a garden hose once all that has dried up!
- If you must wash your car, use a bucket and sponge rather than a car-wash or hose
- Need you flush the loo after every use? “If it’s yellow, let it mellow”....
- If you have a toilet with a front handle rather than a dual flush, you can install a gadget called an *Interflush* to save water. And of course you can stick a hippo in the cistern – available from HES office.
- If you use biodegradable detergent, chuck the washing up water on the garden.
- Lastly imagine how much water you could manage with if you had to carry it on your head from the nearest river every day! And pray for more rain! Rosa James

Bishop’s Castle College installs new composting machine

The Community College in Bishops Castle has become the first site in Shropshire to install a Ridan in-vessel composting facility to process their kitchen waste into valuable soil improver.

The aim is to help the college to reduce their waste as well as create a useful product for their garden.

The project has been fully funded as part of the Bishops Castle Zero Waste Place scheme, which has seen Shropshire Council, and the Bishop’s Castle Wasteless Society, awarded £10,000 by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to spend on a variety of waste reduction and recycling initiatives in the town. All types of food waste can be composted using the Ridan composter. Food waste is loaded in at one end and the handle is rotated forcing the material to travel through, and to emerge rotted down out of the other end in just a few weeks.

The composting takes place in a closed insulated container, which allows very high temperatures to be achieved.

Gemma Mustoe, lead teacher for environmental and land based science, said: “We are delighted to be able to play our part in helping the area to move towards zero waste to landfill. The unit will help the college to save money and protect the environment. It will also be a valuable educational tool for the students to learn more about waste, horticulture and environmental science.”

For more information on Ridan composters visit www.ridan.co.uk or contact Gareth Proffitt, Communications Officer. Tel (01743) 252828

Bishops Castle as centre for Green Business??

A thought from Steve Ashdown of “Revert Creative” (who edited our Green Guide) *“This may not be new to you but I was just reading through the “Invest in Shropshire” e-newsletter and saw the article on P2 about the Market Town Revitalisation Programme and thought of The Wasteless Society. **BC has the potential to be a centre for Green Business** and this is after-all a priority for Shrops Council...”* steve@revertcreative.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Garden swapshop with produce tasting: August 30th Bank Holiday Monday. More details later
- **VISIT TO LUDLOW MILL ON THE GREEN HYDRO ELECTRICITY SCHEME AND RIVERSIMPLE HYDROGEN FUEL CELL CAR COMPANY TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2010**

Dave T would like to invite you to a HES/ Wasteless Society/ Montgomery Energy Group/ BC FOE visit to Ludlow on **Tuesday 21st September**.

Provisional schedule:

11.30 Arrive at Riversimple

12.30 Lunch at the Green Café - sample menu below (or you can eat sandwiches outside)

1.30 Visit hydro electricity scheme

For more information please see

<http://www.riversimple.com/>

<http://www.ludlowmillonthegreen.co.uk/default.aspx>

There is no charge for this visit. Re: travel, this can be determined nearer the time: bus, train, minibus, car share are all possible. **Please let Dave know if you are interested ASAP as places are limited. Tel 01588 630683**
e-mail: davet.hes@live.co.uk

Wasteless Society AGM Friday, 22 October, 7.30 pm at the WS office

Please come!

Wasteless Society: who are we?

Directors: Jim Gaffney, Dennis Twist, Kate Evans, Jim Pratt, Keith Wood, Robert Smith

Website: www.wasteless.org.uk Run by Keith Wood e: keithw@wasteless.org.uk

(There is a new page on the Wasteless website for Recycling)

Recycling: Neil Hird n.b.hird@btinternet.com

Transport Group: Dave Thomlinson e: davet.hes@live.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Rosa James rosaj@wasteless.org.uk, tel: 01588 630760

BCCE: Kate Evans e: kate@wasteless.org.uk tel: 01588 638762

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.

You are welcome to drop in for a chat or to ask questions during these hours.