

WASTELESS SOCIETY

Wasteless is not just Bishop's Castle.

While much of the current activity centres on the border market town of Bishop's Castle, it is not alone. Many members and communities elsewhere are also seeking ways to reduce their impact on this planet.

The Wasteless Society is happy to visit communities up and down the Marches to share with them the work we have done. **For information: Adam Kennerley**

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Encouraging responsible use
of the earth's finite resources



Wasteless Society

Newsletter Issue 20 Autumn 2005

Website News
www.wasteless.co.uk

Check out the remodelled website, you can find loads of information on who we are, what we have been doing and how to take part. Download the latest newsletter, pick up handy hints or see what events or meetings are going on. It will be regularly updated. A huge thanks to 'web master' Alan Terrill for making it happen and looking after the site. Thanks also to the Countryside Agency for their financial assistance. Any feedback? Contact Alan Terrill

The Energy services club

Below is a quick guide as to what the Energy services club or 'ESC' is and what it aims to provide to householders in and around Bishop's Castle.

Firstly, by becoming a member of the ESC you receive free advice on how to improve the 'energy performance' of your home or building – that is, how to keep heat 'in' and help reduce fuel bills. A member of staff would confirm what can be done, arrange for the work to be undertaken and find the lowest cost.

The ESC activities will be looking for local firms to undertake a lot of this work, supporting the local economy.

Welcome to Issue 20, like buses you hear nothing from us for ages, then two newsletters come along in quick succession! There is a reason, honestly. We are getting closer to receiving the financial support for setting up our 'Energy Services Club' and want to keep you informed about what this might mean.

The **AGM** and 'Green Energy' evening is shortly upon us - **October 7th**, Town Hall - all most welcome. Inside are more details on what we mean by 'Green Energy'.

Another important issue that will effect members and will require the members approval is a proposal for an annual membership fee of £5 taking effect this autumn. Membership numbers grew over the summer by around 15% and, with the new Energy Services Club due shortly, we anticipate a doubling or trebling of members. The change is a necessary step to help us cover our core costs. Any questions relating to this change please contact Dennis Twist.

STOP PRESS  **STOP PRESS**

Don't miss the music -
Saturday 17th – Three Tuns
Funk the System & Rumbajax

Secondly, for those who wish to reduce their fuel bills even further there will be advice and support for the installation of small-scale renewable energy devices such as solar water heating and ground source heat pumps.

The ESC will also promote access to renewable electricity or 'Green Electricity' through your existing wires. Simply changing your supplier can help save the planet!

The ESC would employ two people initially for a period of two years. If successful, the club would become a permanent community owned business. The ESC is owned by its members, profit is retained, and new ideas incubated.

ESC Volunteers needed

To end fuel poverty in the area, drive down CO₂ emissions and develop new business opportunities we will need the support of volunteers in two particular areas:

1. Take part in pioneering the country's first community led ESC, volunteer to visit properties and complete energy survey forms with householders. (Very straightforward and training is provided). Contact Dave Thomlinson.

2. Join a team of four or five volunteers to work with other community groups and businesses in the area to help them benefit from energy management. If you want to know more contact Adam Kennerley.

Find out more about ESC at the Green Energy Evening, Town Hall (7th Oct) or contact Adam Kennerley.

For questions on **Energy Efficiency Team** contact David Finney and for questions on **Small Scale Renewables Team** – contact Pete Banford

Transport Team Report

Contact John Smyth

Members of the Team are busy making greener travel choices available to local people, working to bring a biodiesel outlet to the area (almost there – see below) and planning a "Greenwheels" event to give information about the alternatives to 'fossil-fuel' travelling.

The local bike group is campaigning for safer and fossil-fuel-free transport (and healthy recreation), by seeking funding for a study into a flat and traffic-free trail, linking Bishop's Castle to Craven Arms and its rail connections.

Biodiesel Special

Contact Kaye Chambers

The Wasteless Society is close to agreeing the siting of a biodiesel tank at Union Street Garage. This autumn will see forecourt sales of a renewable transport fuel – the first such venture in the Marches! And by 2006 this fuel will be made from waste vegetable oil by a local manufacturer.

Resources Team

Contact Neil Hird

The heart of the Team's work as always is at the Crowgate recycling facility, recently expanding its service to take cardboard as well as plastics (in addition to the glass and tin collection service provided by the district council). The return of green waste collections still eludes us but we keep trying.

New ideas coming forward include:

- Turning the town 'carrier bag' free with Wasteless shopping bags
- Looking at ways to crush our plastic bottles - (taking up less transport space on the way for recycling).

Food Team

Contact Michael Whithouse

Feeding ourselves creates a large percentage of our total carbon footprint. If we can increase the availability and demand for local food, this would reduce food miles and make an impact on our carbon emissions.

A range of potentially exciting solutions are being evaluated and would benefit from the thoughts of growers / farmers, retailers and consumers. Please make contact if you are interested in any of the following ideas:

- Promoting the expansion of the farmers market and local vegetable box schemes
- Developing a community supported agriculture scheme, possibly around the idea of supporting a local dairy;
- Supporting the availability of allotments along with encouraging more food growing at home

Community Renewables

Contact Adam Kennerley

The Team investigates our options for community scale renewable developments, with an initial focus on wood fired heating. Team member Chris Proctor is working hard to show how a small biomass district-heating scheme would be the best option to heat several large buildings at the bottom end of town. With moderately large heat demands biomass would be able to provide secure and cheaper heating.

Baroque Delights Concert

The first of our fund raising events was held in early summer, an exuberant concert of baroque music given by the renowned Denner Ensemble led by Wasteless Society supporter Mark Baigent. Many thanks go to Michael Whithouse, Mark Baigent, Alison Murray and Trish Appleton-Fox for all their hard work, the event was enjoyed by 80 people.

In making a statement on 'carbon' we asked each concert attendee the miles they had travelled to get to the concert. Using a formula devised by Dennis Twist, we are shortly to plant 4 oak trees that will take in the amount of carbon emitted by the travel hence achieving carbon neutrality!

Events Events Events

• Rumbajax and Funk the System

Saturday **17th September** at The Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle – doors open 8pm.

Enjoy a night out to the sounds of **Funk The System** - a young BC born and bred band playing a fusion of funk and soul - followed by the moody and magnificent sounds of South America and Eastern Europe from **Rumbajax**.

Tickets £7 – available now from Textile Traders and The Three Tuns or on the night. Contact Jim Gaffney.

• Greenwheels

24th & 25th Sept – part of Michaelmas Fair at BC - find our marquee on the playing field.

THE event on how to travel without the use of fossil fuel! From human powered tandem and recumbent to electric pushbike, scooter and van, to the flash kit car "Tiger" running on biodiesel. Contact Dave Thomlinson.

• The Wasteless Society AGM plus Green Energy Evening

Open to all, 7.30 pm Friday **7th October** 2005, Bishop's Castle Town Hall - Refreshments provided

The AGM will be suitably brief, as we want to give the maximum opportunity for a Green Energy Evening revealing the details of how the forthcoming Energy Services Club, biodiesel operation and other plans that could revolutionise the way in which local people own and run their own energy systems – giving more security of supply and lower costs. Contact Adam Kennerley.

Lastly, did you know that spent batteries can be taken to Athena Photography, King Street, Ludlow for forwarding to a recycling company.