



Wasteless Society

Newsletter Issue 25
Spring 2007

Spring is sprung already...

It feels like newsletters should appear almost monthly given the amount of activity that is going on in and around the Wasteless Society. Inside this packed issue you will find that our Household Energy Service is not only doing great things in the Bishop's Castle area but also planning its future in communities elsewhere in the Marches. Our brand new project **Chance to Change** (under Defra's Climate Challenge Fund) is currently at work in Kington and will soon move to Ludlow then Hereford. Its theatre production will be on show shortly. And with the **Wasteless Film** due out soon it feels like we should go in to show business! Fortunately, we remain rooted in the community with **Community Carbon Footprints** due to report in both Knighton and Presteigne imminently. And all of this built on the continued hard work of the **Crowgate** recycling operations.

We are no longer alone either. A couple of years ago the Wasteless Society was at the forefront of developing community based solutions to climate change and our use of the earths resources. Today, we are joined by places like Ashton Hayes and Totnes and we can now share our ideas instead of ploughing a lonely furrow. One exciting opportunity for the Society is to advocate places like Bishop's Castle, Knighton and Presteigne as 'Towns in Transition' - read more inside.

On the business side of things, the Society has not yet appointed a new Chairperson with the responsibility for leadership shared amongst the directors who are overseeing a period of change. With the **Household Energy Service** growing and with Chance to Change outreach work going on across north Herefordshire the board has made an in-principle decision to look to place all this energy and climate work into a dedicated community owned organisation. Watch this space and / or get involved.

Oh, and don't forget there is a **Summertime Party** to come to as we are also allowed to enjoy all this activity.

Invitation to all our members and supporters

Summertime Party

June 10th 3.30p.m. to sunset & beyond

Skyborry, Knighton

Food, family friendly, music, dance

Further details Phone

01547 520 304

Wasteless News

Thanks Dave - Press "Released"

Dave Palliser, who has been the Society's press officer (and in last couple of years newsletter editor), has said farewell to this role. And, we recall fond memories of taking Channel 4 News to see Bank Farm (cows on film) and ushering press around the forecourt of Union Street Garage and express our gratitude to Dave for being our conduit to the outside world as we have evolved and grown. We wish Dave well and look forward seeing him at the party on 10th June.

Adam Kennerley



Wasteless Film Progress

Progress is being made on the making of our 'Wasteless Society' film. It is being made to help other communities take up the challenge and become more active, Jim Gaffney and Peter Philips have been interviewed. Kate Evans is helping and finding subjects to film. The deadline is looming so watch this space for date of first showing. Further info contact: Jim Gaffney 01588 638712

Membership Renewal: Reminder

A reminder goes out to anyone that has not yet paid their subscription for the year to 30 Nov 07 (£12 standard, £9 self-rated concessionary), for those that remain unpaid, this will be the last issue of the newsletter received.

volunteer opportunities

Crowgate wanted

To support & develop pioneering recycling activities, call Neil Hird 01588 638739

Wasteless representatives

South Shropshire has an 'Environmental Ambition Group', as part of the way in which local authorities; agencies and the like make decisions about what to do with their resources. The Wasteless Society regularly receives information from the EAG but, we would like to also send information and ideas to the group and so are asking if any of our Members would be willing to represent the Society at these meetings (which take place about four times a year). If you think you could help please contact Adam Kennerley 01547 520304.

Eco earth Presteigne

Saturday & Sunday

May 12th & 13th 2007

11.a.m. - 5 p.m.

talks, displays, workshops, cafes

event free, cars £2.00

Chance to Change



Introducing our Chance to Change

Readers will know that Defra kindly awarded us £56,000 to allow us to develop tools that will engage people in the climate change issues. Now retitled as **Chance to Change** we hear below from Richard Pitts who is wearing the many hats of Project Manager and Theatre Producer. We also welcome to the Wasteless Society staff compliment, Rachel Francis as our Chance to Change Project Officer also Mick Green and Mary Compton as our Theatre Director and Playwright respectively.

Latest news

Progress is continuing apace with both aspects of the Defra Communicating Climate Change project which consists of two elements. One involves writing and producing a new piece of theatre to help to shift attitudes on climate change. The other revolves around the recruiting of a team of volunteer climate communicators.

To date, we have assembled a small communications group (COG) overseeing the whole project, appointed a project officer to help manage the teams of climate communicators and begun talks with groups in three communities. And adopted a title: **Chance to Change**.

Rachel Francis was appointed as the Climate Communicators Project. She has been talking to people in Kington, Ludlow and Hereford. A 'Toolkit' for the communicators is being assembled full of information and advice.

The theatre project also continues to gather pace. The script development workshops gave us plenty of material to play with. Mary Compton, the playwright is busy working on ideas, and the first cast and crew is being advertised for in Kington. Creating a script is bound to involve plenty of reworking and rewriting, but Mick Green (the Director), Mary and myself are all very positive about the potential that this project could provide, especially when it is linked to the teams of climate communicators and their activities.

Richard Pitts



Wasteless Transport

Electric Bikes in Bishop's Castle

On March 10th, an array of different electric bikes was available in Bishop's Castle for people to try out. 16 bikes were brought in by local owners, and from a shop about to open in Shrewsbury . Outside the offices of The Wasteless Society, people came to stare, talk and ride; and some who hadn't been on bikes for many years had a go - and came back grinning!

Dr Nick Howells took one for a ride and came back converted, amazed at the extra pleasure from being able to have a bit of powered assistance when he wanted it to sail up those steep hills around Bishop's Castle. He then agreed that people using these would get more exercise than he had imagined. Press photographers who turned up tried them and were impressed.

MP Philip Dunne arrived early and enjoyed a brief ride around town and came back converted. He visited the Wasteless Society office and Signed Up to have a Household Energy Survey done on his own home – and agreed to the results being made public! Two electric bikes will soon be for hire in Bishops Castle. So If you fancy coming and having an easy ride around the area contact 01588 638569.
Kaye Chambers



Tour de Presteigne

Sunday May 13th 2007

the world's premier
electric bike event

5.30p.m 20 lap race
t: Pete Mustill 01544 267163

Bishop's Castle Tandem Triathlon

For non-electric bikers, the Bishop's Castle Tandem Triathlon will take place on Saturday 30th June 2007 at Bishops Castle Leisure Centre. Not only is there a Triathlon on the day, but also a junior event for Primary schools and the first 3 years of Secondary schools. Those older than that can join in with the adult event. There is a whole weekend of fun organised to coincide with this event by Tandem Experience - more information about this can be obtained from <http://www.tandeming.co.uk>. or for more information, please contact: Dave Hinves e: dave.hinves@southshropshire.gov.uk or t: (01584) 813332

Wasteless Transport

A Car Club for Bishop's Castle

With Shropshire Access Partnership, TESS (Transport for Everyone in South Shropshire) and Shropshire County Council we are planning a car club. Based on existing car clubs in the UK members of the club have access to a commercial vehicle when they need one, as an alternative to owning a car or, possibly, alongside the ownership of a vehicle.

Car clubs a cheaper alternative to private car ownership reduce car miles driven, reduce car ownership, improve access to transport for the less well off and reduce the need for car parking spaces. They reduce the hassle of running a vehicle but give flexibility of using a car when needed.

In Bishop's Castle we are looking at running an estate car, a van or small car - both of which will be chosen for their low fuel consumption to be as "green" as possible or motoring - and two electric bikes. Available to members to use on payment of a fixed rate per mile or daily or part-day rate for the bikes.

Join the number of people already expressing an interest in joining the Club. Further questions or to register your interest please contact 01588 638569, or e: kec@talktalk.net.

Liftsharing scheme in the Marches

Need a lift anywhere? Driving with a spare seat or two in your car? Then sign up to the new local liftshare scheme. It lists regular and occasional journeys, and matches those wanting lifts with willing drivers. Payment for journeys is negotiated by the two parties concerned. The more who sign up, the more we have a chance of matching journeys (and saving CO2!)

How to join?

1. If you have access to the internet, register lifts offered and wanted with Liftshare website – www.liftshare.co.uk. Registration is free, quick and easy. At the same time, email duplicate information to kec@talktalk.net

2. Ring **01588 638569**

Details will be entered on charts & kept in the office – You can add your details or peruse what is on offer. **Please supply the following details:**

	OFFERED or WANTED?
	REGULAR or OCCASIONAL?
a)	FROM eg. BC, Market Square
b)	TO eg. Shrewsbury , town centre
c)	DAY(S) eg. Tues-Fri
d)	any DEPARTURE TIME eg. 14:15
e)	FLEXIBILITY? eg. +/- 30 minutes / none
f)	RETURN TIME eg. 18:00, none
g)	FLEXIBILITY? eg. +/- 30 minute /none
h)	NUMBER OF PEOPLE WANTING LIFT?
i)	NUMBER OF SEATS OFFERED?
j)	ANY OTHER DETAILS eg. no luggage
k)	CONTACT DETAILS email address and/or phone no
l)	YOUR NAME (but only if you are happy for this to be displayed)

Wasteless Transport

Introducing our route to Wasteless Transport

Regular readers know we were the first in the UK to introduce 100% biodiesel to a garage forecourt and you can read about its progress below. But, as switching to an alternative fuel is **NOT** the solution to our transport impacts on the planet it is with great enthusiasm that this newsletter has whole pages on new ideas and initiatives that the Wasteless Society is helping develop.

Wasteless Biodiesel

Quite simply the first 100 + biodiesel sales on a garage forecourt have gone rather well. 26,000 litres sold (and 48 tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided) since January 2006 and this is without advertising. So why don't we shout about it more? Well because it is not THE solution. To tackle our emissions from transport there are three basic approaches:

- . Travel fewer miles;
- . Travel in a more efficient manner;
- . Use a renewable fuel.

And biodiesel, as a renewable fuel, is at the bottom of the list but is the one we do because it is the quickest one to deliver and gets people thinking about the other solutions. And it does reduce carbon emissions.

With this in mind, the Wasteless Society and Hay Festival organisers are working together to get biodiesel used by their fleet of vehicles to transport speakers and dignitaries around. The carbon savings will be good - 5.5 tonnes - but more importantly will be the dialogue between the drivers and their captive guests!

So How Much Better is Biodiesel?

In the last Newsletter Kaye Chambers, in her article on biodiesel, stated "each litre of ordinary diesel that is replaced with biodiesel saves 2.2kg of CO₂ emissions" which brought forth the following letter from Dr St John Penney

Sir, I am puzzled the article by Kaye Chambers on biodiesel. Granted my chemistry is a bit rusty, but I cannot follow the savings figure of 2.2 Kg of carbon dioxide saved for every single litre of biodiesel use as against normal diesel.

Does the figure given imply that biodiesel is all alcohol? If normal diesel gives out 2.2 Kg of CO₂ per litre consumed we certainly need to change our ways, and urgently. Could the chemistry of this be explained in the next newsletter please?

Below is a response from David Finney on behalf of the Wasteless Society Science & Technology Group

When a litre of mineral diesel is burnt it emits 2.7 kg of CO₂. The calorific value of biodiesel is around 80% of that of mineral diesel so burning it generates $2.7 \times 0.8 = 2.16$ kg of CO₂ per litre, hence the figure of 2.2 kg quoted in Kaye's article. The important point is, or course, that burning mineral diesel adds to the atmospheric burden of CO₂ whereas burning biodiesel hardly does at all because most of the CO₂ generated was absorbed by the plants during growth i.e. it is very nearly carbon neutral. A more precise comparison can only be made if a Life Cycle Assessment is made for both fuels. If you would like to follow this up a LCA between mineral diesel and biodiesel derived from rapeseed I recommend: www.esru.strath.ac.uk/EandE/Web_sites/02-03/

biofuels: An excellent website, packed full of information, including the basic chemistry, is the Bio Power site at: WWW.bio-power.co.uk/chemi.htm Finally, the biodiesel offered via the Wasteless Society project uses modified waste vegetable fat as its feedstock rather than rapeseed. A LCA comparison between these two biofuels will show that the MWVF route is far superior to the rapeseed route as it recycles a waste product.

Carbon Footprinting

Knighton & Presteigne declare their results

The big headline is that the carbon footprints for both Knighton and Presteigne have been calculated in the same way Bishop's Castle's was done back in 2004. And the result is that with smaller populations their community footprints are less but each householder is also responsible for fewer carbon emissions. If we recall the outcome from Bishop's Castle this is largely because the town, unlike both Knighton and Presteigne, does not have mains gas which a cleaner fuel than oil, LPG or electricity. Full results for Presteigne and Knighton will be out shortly with events leading to the big 50/50 event in the towns on September 8th.

A view from Knighton

Rumour has it that nothing comes of anything new in Knighton. The same whispers heard in Presteigne and Kington over 40 years ago. No doubt, it was the same in Bishop's Castle when the Wasteless Society started. For everyone it is a balancing act between family, friends, work and leisure. You are reading this because you care and even if it were to stop here, there has already been a positive outcome. Apart from new friends, there has been the series of lectures in Presteigne by Colin Kirkby and Nigel Griffin and two seminars in Knighton organised by Alice Goldstone, which led up to the "Affordable Warmth" days sponsored by our Assembly Member Kirsty Williams, and Member of Parliament, Rogers Williams, in Knighton. Already people from outlying communities are making enquiries as where to go and who to ask. To this end, Knighton has set up an information stall at the fortnightly Farmers Market.

We are on the crest of a wave with "carbon footprint" leading to "money saved". Our task now and our focus is to make these savings a reality. It will be the platform from which we will be able to launch a co-operative allotment and box schemes and sustainable energy projects such as solar thermal energy and biomass and biogas developments. Not only will it give us confidence but also it will give others confidence in us.

John Williams

Wasteless Household Energy Service

Scheme Gets into Top Gear

The Bishop's Castle Household Energy Service (HES) is now fully up and running after the revamp. 215 clients have now signed up, 180 surveys have been done, 150 reports have been sent out and follow up phone calls are in progress. Our aim is to do 400 surveys by the end of the year so we've still got a lot of clients to find and work to do. If you haven't had a survey please sign up, if you've had one please recommend us to a friend or neighbour.

There has been considerable media interest in HES recently. Shropshire Life had a 3 page article in their March edition and South Shropshire Matters gave us a half page, these are available on the website. HES was also featured in BBC 1's Inside Out special on climate change on March 30th.

800 Tonnes of Carbon Saved!

Including all the light bulbs we've distributed, the 26,000 litres of biodiesel sold by Union St garage and the lifetime savings from the measures we know that have been carried out we've saved 800 tonnes of CO₂! This doesn't take into account the measures we haven't been told about yet or any lifestyle changes made, so the real figure is much higher. This is a great start, though we have much more to do. Most of our clients have appreciated the service we've given and expressed an interest in doing something about energy use. Measures agreed vary from fitting low energy light bulbs through loft insulation top ups to moving into town to reduce car use. Details of the carbon footprints we've measured are on the WS website.

Funded by

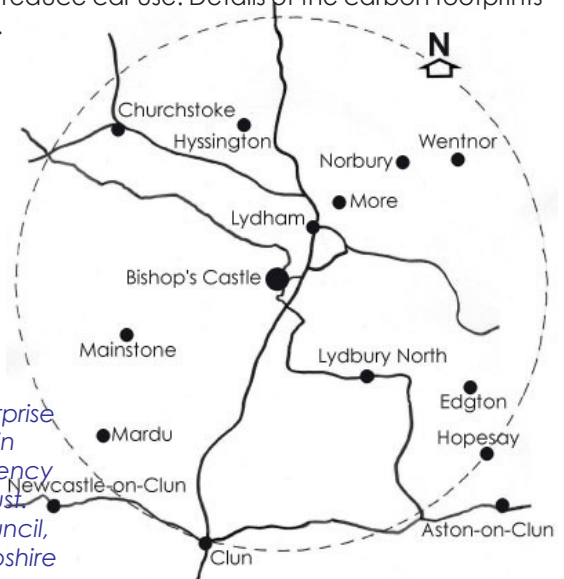


energy saving trust™

The Household Energy Service is an enterprise of the Wasteless Society, developed in partnership with the Marches Energy Agency and financed by the Energy Saving Trust.

It is supported by: Shropshire County Council, Bishop's Castle Town Council, South Shropshire District Council, South Shropshire Housing

Association, Energy West Midlands.



Volunteer Surveyors wanted!

To help us keep up with our client list. We could especially do with more surveyors in Bishop's Castle itself. Full training and support will be given

Admin Assistant wanted

To help us process the paper version of the survey we're now offering our surveyors. Our volunteers are at the heart of our service. Without them, we wouldn't be able to run without charging substantial fees. They find working on HES very satisfying but all of them are busy people with other commitments so we need to spread the workload. If you're interested in either of these roles and can spare a couple of hours a week or fortnight please contact Kate 01588 638738.

A Future for HES

Discussions are taking place about the future of the Household Energy Service (HES) once the present funding finishes at the end of Oct. The idea is that we'll offer HES to other communities and there's the possibility that it could grow into quite a sizeable scheme (though how this is to be funded hasn't been worked out yet). If you have an opinion on whether this enlarged HES should stay with the WS or become a separate body please let us know via the office (or contact us if you want more information). Thanks, Dave Green

The initial funding for HES runs out at the end of the year. Everyone we've discussed this with seems keen that we continue. This fits with our view that saving energy needs to be an ongoing process, not a one off event. We have plenty of work to do over the coming years with new and existing clients. As ever funding is the problem. Donations are a great help but will probably only bring in 25% of the funding we need so we're looking at other ways of keeping the scheme going. On top of continuing locally, we're also working on offering HES to other communities. We've already had a lot of interest from around the UK. Knighton is likely to be the first new community to take on HES, as they're keen to follow up on their current community carbon foot printing work.

Do you know someone who would benefit from a free household energy survey? Then suggest they sign up

To join the scheme or for more information please send your details
(name, address, postcode and contact telephone number)

Name:.....

Address.....

Post Code.....Telephone No.....

Send to:HES, Wasteless Society, 2 The Square, Bishop's Castle,
SY9 5BN. Telephone:-01588 638738. Email: hes@wasteless.co.uk

Household Renewables

Home Photo-voltaics (PV)

After a couple of years of indecision, we dumped the cost justification and decided to have some PV panels installed on our roof. Our house stands above the village of Priest Weston. In March 2006 we applied to the DTI for a grant from their 'Small scale Solar PV Grant Scheme' and got the go ahead in late April. We chose "Horizon Solar" who used a local company in mid-Wales for the installation work and decided to go ahead with a 14-panel configuration of Sanyo 205 watt modules to fit our roof.

An extremely well planned and executed installation by Marley got underway in June.

This promised to generate approximately 2,580 kwh of 'clean' electricity, at a cost (with VAT @ 5%) of £16,590. The DTI grant amounted to £7,175, leaving us to find the remaining £9,415.

As well as the panels, the cost covered everything: the site survey, equipment delivery, the roof frame for the panels, the inverter and a wireless display module.

The PV system should generate approximately 40-50% of our annual needs, so we continue to draw power from the mains, but we can export any surplus electricity generated to the grid. Our power company, 'nPower', installed an export meter at no cost. There is a 2-year installation warranty, and the PV modules are covered by a 20-year performance warranty (guaranteed at 80% output on year 20).

The first 3-months of summer operation resulted in a payback from our electricity company of some £65, plus, of course, a reduction in our quarterly bill. We were very pleased with all aspects of the 'Horizon Solar' approach, and would happily recommend them to anyone interested. They deal in most forms of micro-energy generation, and can be contacted at: Marley-bursell@yahoo.com;t:01938-811095,

Mike Watkins

Wind Group

A group of people interested in the possibilities of installing wind power have been meeting regularly in the Wasteless Society offices. As well as discussing possible solutions, the group has visited Trevor Wheeler's turbine at Brynmawr and David Finney's photovoltaic array in Diddlebury. If you're interested in joining the wind group contact Dave Green via the office. There's also a wind section to the new forums on the WS website.

Visit some PV

Saturday May 12th, 2p.m.

Visit to see a fully operational set of PV panels that are grid connected. Courtesy of David Finney, Diddlebury. Call or e-mail the office to book a place.

T: 01588 638738
e: info@wasteless.co.uk

Energy Beyond Oil

This was the title of the recent talk by **Paul Mobbs** at the Assembly Rooms in Presteigne. It was his take on the energy crisis that faces us all and how North Sea oil peaked in 1999 and gas in 2003 making Britain more dependent on imported supplies. Global projections for World Energy supplies peak between 2015 and 2025 alongside this, oil consumption grows annually; this situation is clearly unsustainable. He added that undepleted uranium is a limited resource with its own problems and at current usage will run out in 63 years.

He wanted to emphasise that the solution is to dramatically 'reduce' use and 'waste' less – less of everything – less energy of course, but less of all those things in our lives that use energy and resources to obtain. Less is more! He also spoke of the 28% energy wasted between the production of electricity in our power stations and use in the home or workplace. There is far less wasted when power is produced locally. Locally produced energy would be one solution but he favoured the truly renewable energies such as tidal, solar and hydropower. He emphasised that renewable would never be the full solution, only part – it could never work without a commitment to reduce what we consume and waste. Paul presented his reality to encourage us all to think of a way forward for our communities and ourselves.

He encouraged us all to be part of the solution, to join local active groups for example Teme Valley Environment Group on 01547 520374 or Green Presteigne 01544 267437. Or go to **www.wasteless.co.uk**

Anne Mary Davies

An Inconvenient Truth

Following on from the review given in the Winter news the film was presented on an unseasonably warm late April evening in Bishop's Castle, the Wasteless Society showed Al Gore's famous and revealing film "An Inconvenient Truth" with due thanks to the Bishop's Castle Film Society who assisted in staging the event.

An audience of over 50 people gathered at the Three Tuns and it was generally agreed that the film powerfully communicated the facts about climate change and clearly demonstrated the challenge – with growing awareness of the issues the Wasteless Society is working hard to offer practical ways for everybody to take action and become part of the solution.

Prior to the film Dave Green, Manager of the Household Energy Service, briefly presented details of the free survey offered by HES that advises people in the Bishop's Castle area how to make their homes more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions. Whether as a result of the film or Dave's encouragement, several new households were recruited during the evening!

Michael Whithouse

What Are We Waiting For?

Available for loan from the Wasteless Society Office is the Greenpeace film on **Decentralised Energy**.

15 minutes that reveals how the UK throws away two-thirds of its energy and shows how every community can localise their energy production.

Community Renewables

Biomass Combined Heat and Power

In the last issue of the newsletter we promised to bring to you the views both for and against the proposal for a gasification plant planned for Brockton outside of Bishop's Castle. Well times have changed and the developers have withdrawn those proposals completely. There is now a separate proposal for a 2.5MW biomass fired Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant to be located on the industrial estate at Bishop's Castle. The developers website is at www.bishopscastlebiomass.co.uk or you can contact Ed Whately on 01588 680265 or the developer Chris Day on 01844 351123.

The local group concerned about the proposed Biomass Combined Heat and Power Plant can be located at www.bishopscastlegroup.co.uk or alternatively their Chairperson is Steve Middleton and Vice Chairpersons are Micheal Dawes and Andrew Cunningham

The Wasteless Society has issued a statement about the development and this is given below. If you wish to make your views known to the Wasteless Society, whose board is meeting on 14th May to discuss this, then please contact either Pete Banford (01588 630137) or Dennis Twist (01588 640629)

Proposed biomass CHP plant at Bishop's Castle

The Wasteless Society has recently been made aware of the proposition for a biomass (wood and other biomass crops) fuelled Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant in Bishop's Castle.

Wasteless Society spokesperson Pete Banford said "our initial reaction to the basic concept was favourable on the grounds that Bishop's Castle - requiring both heat and power for its residents and businesses - should be looking to utilise one of its main renewable resources, biomass. The Wasteless Society would be very concerned should the feedstock for the CHP plant incorporate waste."

We await more detailed information and especially the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The Wasteless Society is already active in reducing the town energy demand by operating the Household Energy Service, but recognises that as much as possible of the remaining demand for heat and power needs to be met from a local and renewable source.

Recent comments in the town about WS having a commercial arm and being a partner in the project are simply untrue. We have no commercial division nor do we have any direct involvement in the project. Our position of favourably receiving this type of project should not be construed as support for this particular development, or as indicating any formal involvement in the project.

Pete Banford

Local Renewable Energy Cooperative

Members of the Society will be aware that moves are being made to establish an all new community owned organisation - a local renewable energy co-operative - able to help develop, finance, own and operate community scale energy projects based on the resources of the Marches in order to achieve the maximum benefits for the communities of the area.

Plans are now well advanced and a launch is expected over the summer. If you would like to know more then please register your interest at adalek66@yahoo.co.uk

Transition Towns -Two Views

1

The Wasteless Society has been thinking about ways in which it might work more effectively by collaborating with other similar community organisations around the UK.

One of these is 'Transition Towns' based in Totnes, South Devon. Led by Rob Hopkins, Transition Towns is in the process of developing a network of communities that seek to implement '**Energy Descent Plans**' a response to 'Peak Oil' and 'Climate Change'. As well as Totnes, places that have decided to become Transition Towns include Stroud, Falmouth, Lewes and Kinsale in Ireland whilst Bristol looks set to become the first Transition City.

The sharing of experience and skills by like minded organisations should avoid duplicating existing resources or having to undertake new work in developing ideas that may have already been carried out or tried elsewhere. There seems little doubt that working together is more effective and you should have a good time in the process!

We are excited by the establishment of links with other organisations and will report progress in the next newsletter.

In the meantime a number of Wasteless Society members gathered in Lampeter on 3 April where the Soil Association, Transition Towns and others launched an Energy Descent Plan for West Wales. One of the key organisers was Richard Pitts who also happens to be the Manager of Chance to Change – the Defra funded project reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Michael Whithouse

2

Based on the concern about 'Peak Oil' there is a need to go in to 'transition' or in other words learn to live with much less fossil fuel. (See Paul Mobbs review by Anne Mary)

Transition Towns are places planning for this change. Totnes, is leading the way. In March, representatives of the Society, Teme Valley Environment Group and Green Presteigne traveled (in just one car) to Totnes to find out what they are up to. How will Totnes gets its energy in 20 years time, what will its health service look like, how will its economy function, will its people still be as mobile without fossil fuels to move them about? In addition, quite importantly how will it feed the residents when current food production demands so much oil?

Being a Transition Town is about getting everyone in the community involved and planning for a future without oil. There are people in communities up and down the Marches who are seriously interested in this idea and who will be traveling to the first Transition Town Summer School in Stroud on 31st May.

If you would like to know more about this movement, what it could do for communities here into the Marches or perhaps join us at the summer school (we think a minibus is going this time) then make contact with Michael Whithouse in Bishop's Castle, Adam Kennerley and Anne-Mary Davies in Knighton or Tania Dolley and Richard Pitts in Presteigne (see contacts at end).

Adam Kennerley

To find out more visit [www.http://www.transitiontowns.org/Totnes/](http://www.transitiontowns.org/Totnes/) and <http://transitionculture.org/>

Wasteless out & about

Teme Valley Environment Group (TVEG) started life as Wasteless Knighton in the summer of 2006 and was initially set up to carry out Community Carbon Footprinting. It has now grown beyond that to become TVEG - a voluntary organisation set up to raise awareness of environmental issues and solutions in the Teme Valley. Projects to date have included:

- Community Carbon Footprinting - finding out how much carbon our community produces so that we can plan how to reduce it.

- Affordable Warmth Events - helping vulnerable householders in our community to keep warm and well in their homes each winter.

- Teme Valley Energy Centre - a drop-in centre where members of the community can find out more about how to reduce their day-to-day environmental impact through simple measures. (The centre has temporarily closed while we seek new premises and now has a regular stall in the Knighton Farmers Market).

The group is entirely voluntary and runs on the goodwill of its members and donations from the public at events. We hope that the group will grow and make a real difference to the communities of the Teme Valley - Knighton, Knucklas and Llanfair Waterdine. Future projects we hope to establish include:

- **Sustainable transport.** How do we make transport less polluting? How can we use cars less in a rural area? How should we fuel our vehicles?

- **Community food.** We want to grow good, healthy food locally and reduce our food miles.

- **50-50 event** - the environmental event of 2007 which will take place on September 8th 2007. Come along and learn how to be greener while cutting your bills.

- **Advice and action** on reducing our gas and electricity consumption.

If you would like to get involved in our group please contact Alice Goldstone on 01547 520374 or Alice@ogtraining.co.uk

For Sale: Villager Woodburning Stove

Model BL, two glass doors and low canopy – 8kw output maximum. Top or rear flue options. Spark guard included
New Price £499; offers over £200 please.
Contact: 01588 638569

Take Part

Ways to Get Involved with the Wasteless Society

The Society has a few committees that shape, guide and develop our projects including:

- The HES Committee
- CoG - which looks after the Defra Project and our Community Carbon Footprinting

You can either join a committee and play a part of join a mailing list to get regular updates from them

Those who don't fancy the meetings and want to do stuff Become a Household Energy Surveyor - learn a new skill and help make a difference to people energy demands and carbon emissions.

Join the merry band of recycling volunteers who help make Crowgate a success.

Wasteless out & about

Delivering the Wasteless message to the Soil Association

In early 2007 Michael Whithouse was invited to speak at the Soil Association's annual food and farming conference.

With the theme "One Planet Agriculture" the event emphasised the significance of organic farming and the re-localisation of food systems.

The Soil Association considers that working at local level is the way forward and this may be compared with the approach of the Wasteless Society in developing practical initiatives for local communities to minimise the consumption of fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions.

Michael spoke about the Wasteless Society and how it promoted the better use of resources in the Marches area with a range of activities that includes community carbon foot printing, home energy surveys, biodiesel, recycling and the communication of climate change by means of theatre!

During the presentation Michael mentioned to the audience that, due to heavy demand, the 100% biodiesel fuel pump in Bishop's Castle is in need of an increased supply of used vegetable oil from fast food outlets in Shropshire – in other words we really need people to eat more chips!

Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral

Amongst the communities getting on & doing something about climate change you will find Ashton Hayes - a small village in the Cheshire plain of just 500 households who set themselves the challenge of becoming Carbon Neutral. They have made impressive strides forward, surveying over half the households, the school children producing a rap song and with a real buzz in the community (the pub landlord is now saving £300 / month on his fuel bills and can't stop talking about it!).

In April, they organised their first ever conference and packed out the venue at the University of Chester. The Wasteless Society were there alongside groups from across the UK to hear what they have done and join the panels of experts (ahem) explaining how to get going, keep going and make a difference.

There is now a real feeling that we are not alone developing community-based solutions. The individual actions that we all take, the efforts of the over 250 clients in the Household Energy Service and the 150 people signed up to biodiesel no longer seem like drops in the ocean. Together they make a difference in our communities, and as communities together, we make a difference in Britain.

Read more about Ashton Hayes at <http://www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk/>

Adam Kennerley

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