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Wasteless Society

Newsletter Issue 26
Summer 2007

Welcome to the summer newsletter, not that it feels particularly summery with the heavy rain and serious, large scale flooding, acting as powerful reminders of how unpredictable our weather is and how it can bite back.

Going beyond the despondency our changing climate creates, we hope you are still able to take part in one of the many Wasteless Society projects / activities described in the latest newsletter, all positive ways for individuals to take action.

Dave and Kate are always looking for more volunteers in the HES work, and have you got involved in the Lift share or 'Pool cars' schemes in the Bishop's Castle area for example, then for those further south, let Alice know if you can help with the 50:50 event being held in the Knighton / Presteigne area.

If you prefer to stay at home, how about writing for the newsletter? Whatever time you have available, all will be gratefully recieved.

Many thanks
Ed team

NewOrg

The Wasteless Society recently agreed that it would establish a new organisation (it won't be called NewOrg, we promise) to take on and run all of our energy work. And so NewOrg is being planned and will hopefully emerge in the late summer and then begin to take on the following enterprises that have been developed under the wings of the Wasteless Society:

- Household Energy Service;
- Community Carbon Footprinting;
- Chance2Change – the Defra project delivering the community theatre and now beginning work in Ludlow and Hereford.

If you would like to be kept abreast of NewOrg's progress or would like to join the team making this happen then please contact Adam Kennerley on 01547 520304 or adalek66@yahoo.co.uk

Wasteless News

We are on the move - Wasteless Society office

We will be changing our office location from 1st August, the WS/HES office is moving to **Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishop's Castle SY9 5AQ**. Opening hours will stay the same as now, (Tuesday and Wednesday 1p.m. - 5.00p.m., Friday 10a.m. - 1p.m. the telephone number will stay as **01588 638738**. Do visit us there. Many thanks to the Middletons for the use of the present office which has been a great asset.

eco-earth, the Rodd, Presteigne 12th & 13th May 2007

Wasteless volunteers were out in force manning the Wasteless stall - at 'eco earth 2007', promoting ways to the public on how to make their homes more energy efficient, and to get more aware of their energy use by undertaking a carbon footprint survey. There was also information on the groups active in this work throughout the region

Plans for 'Eco earth 2008' are underway, with the emphasis on ways to engage and include more people in action against climate change.



Wasteless volunteer Mark Paviour talks about energy efficient bulbs

HES Award Ceremony

HES held an awards ceremony recently, to congratulate their 'star' volunteer surveyors, David Finney has been awarded 'gold' as he has undertaken 50 surveys, Kate Evans awarded silver for 25 and Alison Donaldson received bronze for undertaking 20 surveys, many thanks to them. All HES volunteers were also congratulated and thanked, undertaking the remaining 60% of surveys

Below: Bishop's Castle Mayor Jim Gaffney is seen presenting the awards to David Finney, Kate Evans and Alison Donaldson.



members

This newsletter is available for our Wasteless members, can be found on our website and used to promote our work. If you know anyone who would like to join us please contact Dennis Twist 01588 640629. We currently have 173 members

Wasteless what's on diary dates action opportunities

Support your local farmers market!

Many Farmer's Markets are now showing signs of thriving, a source of locally produced food and crafts, from home cured venison sausages to totally wonderful pots of fruit mousses for indulgent desserts, herbs and plants, cheeses, liqueurs, soap, candles, you name it, you can buy it!

Miranda Stanley, who runs the Bishop's Castle market says that the other markets in South Shropshire and Herefordshire are expanding and beginning to make a real impact for local growers and producers.

Not only that **HES** - will be at Bishop's Castle market in August and TVEG can be found at the Knighton Farmer's Market

Buy 'Good Energy'

Wasteless Society have found an energy company able to supply 100% renewable energy. They are called 'Good Energy'

We are setting up an arrangement with Good Energy for WS members and HES clients who want to change to 100% green electricity.

Good Energy offer one of the best prices and have an easier billing system than for example than Green Energy UK.

Green Energy however, offer a 10% plus tariff for those who don't want to pay the small premium a 100% tariff costs. Details of the new arrangement will be on the WS website very soon.

HES will be at Clun Carnival, **August 4th** and **August 18th**, Bishop's Castle Farmer's Market. If you can help at any of these please let Kate or Dave know 01588 638738.

Film: 'What Are We Waiting For', is being shown on **Thursday 6th September**, 7pm at the Knighton Hotel.

'50:50' - **Saturday 8th September** takes place in Knighton and Presteigne - information on how to lower our environmental impact. Contact Alice Goldstone on 01547 520374 or alice@ogtraining.co.uk for further detail.

Wasteless Society AGM - Friday 5th October - details to follow but please place the date in your diary.

HES/WS celebration for **November 10th** at the 3 Tuns, details available soon.

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, 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.

Wasteless Transport

Biodiesel -down at Hay Festival

Richard Hill, local biodiesel manufacturer and supplier to the 100% diesel pump at Union Street Garage, Bishop's Castle was invited to supply biodeisel to the Hay Festival. As a result, over 1200L was used for on-site plant generators for the electricity and in a blend for site vehicles. Next year, Hay are looking to increase biodiesel use further.

Greenprint have a great website setting out their ambitious sustainable plans, for more information on the environmental thinking behind the Hay Festival check out their website (Greenprint) and also the GVEG website - www.goldenvalleyenvironmentgroup.org.uk

In brief - The Greenprint Project

Over the last 20 years, Hay Festival has grown from 1000 visitors to 150,000 in 2007. However with that growth they have become increasingly aware of the impact they, and their audience, have on the environment. In 2006 they started making major changes, however Greenprint represents a step-change, not only for them but through the debates and discussions during the Festival, also we hope for our visitors.

Of their own impacts one of the major ones is the use of cars and fuel for running the site operations - there are lots of generators providing electricity for example. This is why for the first time they used locally produced biodiesel (Richard Hill). A blended fuel mix was used for diesel fueled cars (used mainly to ferry artists to and from events/the railway station - sometimes a lot further) and some on site machinery.

Right: Richard Hill transferring biodiesel to the on-site pump.

Photograph courtesy of Patrick Dyke, GVEG



A Car Club for Bishop's Castle

In Bishop's Castle, Wasteless members are looking to run 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.

Wasteless out & about

Summer with The Teme Valley Environment Group (TVEG).

TVEG marked 'World Environment Day' with direct action - cleaning up the Cwm Brook that runs through Knighton. As a result 10 volunteers collected over three black sacks of rubbish. Interesting finds included spoons, pint glasses and a collection tin for an asthma charity!

Summer has brought a 'free film festival'. By the time you read this both 'An Inconvenient Truth' (Al Gore's Award winning film on CO2) and the 'The Power of Community' Cuba's survival beyond fossil fuel have been and gone. However, not all is lost, **Thursday 6th September - What Are We Waiting For** Renewable Energy Options for the Teme Valley. A short film from Greenpeace leads the evening showing how our current energy system wastes two-thirds of the energy (yes two-thirds!). The film will be followed by a series of speakers and an opportunity for you to have a say on what energy supplies in the Teme Valley might look like in years to come. **Knighton Hotel, 7.30pm start**

By **Saturday 8th September** summer has headed into the '**50:50 Event**', taking place in Knighton and Presteigne. Activities and information on how to reduce our environmental impact, including energy, transport, food and waste and how to better support local business.

Volunteers are needed to help organise this event. If you are interested or have an informative stand for the event, please contact Alice Goldstone on 01547 520374 or alice@ogtraining.co.uk.

If you want to join the group and take part contact: Alice Goldstone: 01547 520374. Email Alice@ogtraining.co.uk. website: www.ogtraining.co.uk

In case you missed it - 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 - for information**

Details will be entered on charts & kept in the office - You can add your details or peruse what is on offer.

Community action

Just Energy Coop

Based on the success of other community owned renewable energy cooperatives, such as Baywind and Westmill, an 'energy' cooperative is being set up in this area – **Just Energy Coop**. Aiming to support communities across the Marches and looking at a variety of technologies including biomass, wind and hydro. Set up to provide a means for local developers to work with their local community, to produce viable renewable energy and pass on the benefits available to the community. Benefits may include:

- A company for local people to own the developments and to gain a financial return from their operation;
- Putting a proportion of profits towards tackling fuel poverty and energy efficiency measures within local communities;
- Creation of jobs in the area;
- Retention of money in the local economy.

If you would like to be placed on the mailing list of Just Energy Coop to be kept informed of progress then please complete the slip below and post it to Just Energy Co-op, PO Box 43, Knighton, LD7 9AH.

If your community is interested in what the cooperative might be able to do for them then please make contact with Adam on 0779 11 22 491, email adalek66@yahoo.co.uk

Offer now on - Community Carbon Footprinting

Based on the work undertaken in Bishop's Castle, Presteigne and Knighton the WS have simplified the 'community carbon footprint' process and made it available in a handy 'toolkit' that we are offering to others. Little Dewchurch near Hereford are already underway and New Radnor are about to get going.

By surveying energy use in homes, businesses and public buildings a picture can be drawn about how much energy a community uses and how much CO₂ is being emitted as a result.

In addition to the factual statement, two further advantages the process brings include:

1. The bringing together of a group from the community who become well-informed in energy matters and then able and willing to do more;
2. It raises the profile of climate change within the community letting them know that action is afoot.

The toolkit is available from the Wasteless Society. A **BRONZE** version is currently available for FREE (normal cost £150) and includes the initial handover training session and remote support.

A **SILVER** version is available which simply means that a community can access the support of an experienced carbon footprinter who will normally come from a neighbouring community. Costing just £500 it incorporates the training session for your energy surveyors.

A **GOLD** version, costing £1,000, provides all this but your supporting carbon footprinter is with you every step of the way. For information about this contact Adam Kennerley - 01547 520304 - email adalek66@yahoo.co.uk

A future for HES

HES will continue in Bishop's Castle after the initial funding runs out in October and there are plans to run it in other local communities, although this won't be through the Wasteless Society but, through NewOrg. Knighton, Church Stretton and Montgomery have all expressed an interest and Pontesbury another possibility. HES will carry on in Bishop's Castle on a 'shoestring' with between £3,500 and £7,500 in grant funding or sponsorship, plus the client donations, commissions and profit from doing some house sale surveys.

If you know anyone who can help us with this please let us know. The larger figure allows for sharing office costs and paying a local co-ordinator. If this role isn't paid it could be split between 2 or 3 volunteers. We are however, also looking at larger scale grant funding or sponsorship that would enable us to run a better service with part time paid local co-ordinators and also offering HES to a wider range of communities.



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**, Richard Pitts Project Manager and Theatre Producer updates us on current progress.

Chance to Change -Rehearsed Reading of Brand New Play, July 16th

WS Members were invited to attend a special reading of the brand new play commissioned as part of the Chance to Change project, funded by Defra.

On Monday 16th July there was an opportunity to hear the script for the first time, followed by a discussion on the content with the cast, writer, director and producer. The evening was a great success, with useful feedback being given and received.

Rehearsed Readings give the director and writer the opportunity to try out different ideas and approaches with live audiences. Following on from readings such as these the writer and director will revise the script according to the feedback. Rehearsals will then commence in September, involving students from Ludlow College.

The final stage of the project will see the production being staged in and around Hereford during January and February 2008 before the project closes at the end of February next year. By then the project will have created a finished script as well as a Communications Toolkit. Both will be available for communities and individuals across the UK to use to raise the issue of Climate Change within their communities.

Richard Pitts

01544 267768 or by post via RPA, First Floor Office, Radnor Buildings, Green End, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2DR.



Wasteless Party



On June 10th, there gathered at Anne-Mary's lovely garden in Skyborry a collection of Wasteless Society members and freinds on foot, pedal and train (and a few by car). This venue near Knighton was chosen to give members from Knighton and Presteigne groups an opportunity to come and meet Bishop's Castle members.

So, in the afternoon we sat under a gazebo for shade and watched the thunder clouds roll by, taking bets on what time we'd need umbrellas. The rain actually held off until our musicians Satch and Susan Raven started to tune up, then we huddled together and they had a captive audience!

As a networking event, it was a good opportunity to meet volunteers from other areas, and compare bikes and relax together with a glass or 3. We didn't quite boogie into the night, but maybe next time!

Thanks to Tara Paul for food, to Adam for providing the idea, the budget, the beer and good directions, to Anne Mary for use of her house and garden, and to all those who rsvpd as requested!

Rosa James



Carbon Footprinting - results

Carbon footprints for Knighton, Presteigne and Bishop's Castle.

Based on the energy used (heating and powering the house and the transporting ourselves around) in the households of the three towns (and their surrounding areas) we can report:

	Presteigne 2007	Knighton 2007	Bishop's Castle 2004	Compared to the national average?	Req level
Total CO2 emitted from the community (tonnes CO2)	12,873	19,919	13,338		
Average CO2 emitted per household (tonnes CO2)	10.7	13.2	12.5	10.2	
Average CO2 emitted per person (tonnes CO2)	5.4	6.2	5.2	4.5	1.4
Total money spent by the community	£ 2.5 million	£4 million	Not calculated		
Average money spent by each household	£2,079	£2,695	Not calculated		

Since undertaking the process in Bishop's Castle we have added in the ability to calculate how much money a community is spending on its energy. Not only does the footprinting process reveal how much we are contributing to climate change it is also revealing how much money is leaking out of our local economies in the process.

The full report on the results from Knighton and Presteigne (available from Adam Kennerley) shows in detail where the emissions are coming from and each community is able to then make plans to reduce energy consumption and keep money in the local economy. Both communities are looking to do what Bishop's Castle has done, which is to introduce the Household Energy Service. And in keeping with trying to retain some of the money locally many communities will be interested in the forthcoming Just Energy Cooperative.

Wasteless Household Energy Service

Our Household Energy Surveys have been continuing at a good pace. We've done 250 now and hope to get another 100 in by the end of October when the initial funding finishes. The feedback from the surveys and report remains in the main positive with quite a few 'excellents' and some 'hugely useful' though of course we can't please everybody. What we need to do now, is to start gathering information on the ways the HES clients are actually saving energy so we'll be ringing round all those who had a survey early on over the next few weeks. We're also looking for a couple of clients who've cut their energy use to re-survey, if you're interested in this please let Dave Green know.

One client was amazed to find out that keeping their pond fountain going 24 hours a day was accounting for 33% of their electricity usage! They now only put it on occasionally with a huge saving in CO2 and their bills.

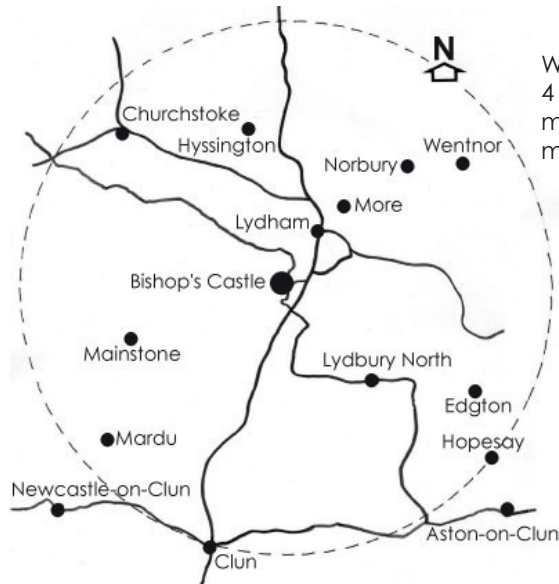
Whilst carbon calculators are now more widely available we still think the fitting together of the carbon footprint and the home energy information, plus the follow up information and support gives HES a real advantage.

HES in the press.

We had an interesting feature article in the Star in May and good coverage of the volunteer awards ceremony, which was also covered on Radio Shropshire. We have a copy of the radio feature on CD if anyone wants to borrow it. The new group in Church Stretton that Dave's been helping have also had extensive press coverage.



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, Bishops Castle Town Council, South Shropshire District Council, South Shropshire Housing Association, Energy West Midlands.



House Sale Energy Surveys.

Dave Green, has qualified to undertake 'House sale energy surveys'.

'House sale energy surveys' are to be introduced by the Government later in the year, they will be compulsory and will need to be undertaken for all house sales.

They are very different to the HES survey as they're interested in how a house might perform theoretically not in how people are actually using a house. This enables house buyers to compare two houses and see which one might perform best but it tells the seller nothing about their actual energy consumption.

Dave Green will be available to do some of the 'House sale energy surveys'

Volunteer Surveyors - four found - more wanted!

We've also trained 4 new surveyors recently. We're still short and 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 - found + more!

Our appeal for admin help received two responses, Mike Watkins is now helping us in the office 2 or 3 hours a week which is a great help. We were also given a filing cabinet and some chairs, thanks to all contributors.

Scanner anyone?

If anyone has a scanner they can donate that would be gratefully received.

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

We have now surveyed 1 in 5 of the properties in and around Bishop's Castle. This means 4 in 5 could still benefit from the free household energy service to save them energy, money and reduce their carbon footprints. If you know of a friend or neighbour who might benefit then help them get in touch

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, Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ Telephone:- 01588 638738 email: hes@wasteless.co.uk