



Sustainable
CREDITON

Newsletter

April 2011

Please only print this newsletter if necessary.

**Sustainable CREDITON
(formerly CREDITON Climate
Action) is part of the
Transition Town movement.**

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www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk

Hello Everyone



March has been a challenging month with the dreadful events unfolding in Libya and in Japan. Our sympathies are naturally with all the people involved. However we may not fully appreciate the knock on effect of such crises on our lives in Devon.

With the globalisation of the world economy, tragedy anywhere, and most especially in an oil producing nation like Libya, or one of the world's largest economies like Japan, can have a ripple down effect world wide. So perhaps it is appropriate that this month two of the upcoming events in our programme deal with our economy and the relentless striving for 'growth, growth, growth' that we constantly hear is necessary . If your gut feeling is that this cannot create a sustainable and resilient future, you are not alone, and may want to find out more.

On a really positive front we also have a new Community Market being organised for May in CREDITON. Anyone can get involved, selling, swapping or buying produce so please put the date in your diary now.

Enjoy this newsletter and the spring sunshine and keep on doing your bit towards a sustainable future for all.

Paula Mossman Editor.

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Contents

1. Diary of Events

2. Spring Swap and Shop Community Market - an event for everyone in CREDITON TOWN SQUARE

3. Sustainable CREDITON AGM - what happened and a request for your story

4. News from the Action Groups

4.1 Energy Group - the PV project is taking off - could your roof get involved now?

4.2 Womens Environmental Network

4.3 Transport Group - a new bike path for CREDITON?

4.4 Waste Action Group - the recent Clothes Swap was a great success - **find out more**

4.5 Food & Farming Group - more foody events are planned for this summer

5. A 'New' Economics Study Group - one is forming soon. **Is it for you?**

6. Changes in the recycling regulations at Punchbowl - find out what they are

7. Fly tipping - how you can help

8. Life begins and ends - we say hello and goodbye to Sus Cred supporters

9. 'Making Sense of the Financial Crisis' - a must attend talk in Exeter soon

10. Local elections in May - have your say

11. Campaigns of the Month

11.1 Say 'no' to nuclear

11.2 Halve Britain's Black Bag Waste by 2020

12. Some Interesting Press articles - we report on the good and the not so good!

1. Dates for Your Diary

Friday 1 April 7.30pm

WEN AGM and Brainstorm - details below

Mon 4th April 10am

Food Group Planning Meeting Sandford - contact Linda 01363 777624 for location New people welcome

Tuesday 5th April

Core Group Meeting contact Gerald Conyngham 01363 773000 for location

May

'New' Economics Study Group Cheriton Fitzpaine - details see below Charles Mossman 01363 866106

Monday 9 May 7.30pm

Food and Farming Group planning meeting Dee's CREDITON

Friday 13th 10am

Waste Action Group Planning Meeting - Jill's CREDITON. New people welcome. Paula Mossman 01363 866106

Sat 14th May

Community Market, Shop n'Swap, CREDITON TOWN SQUARE - details below

May 20th - 22nd

Natural Beekeeping Course Embercombe S. Devon - contact Jessie Watson Brown jessiebwb@gmail.com

Sun 5th June

Sustainable Big Sunday Lunch, CREDITON TOWN SQUARE featuring Food & Farming Group's Local Salad Bar

June 10th - 12th

Natural Beekeeping Course Embercombe S. Devon - contact Jessie Watson Brown jessiebwb@gmail.com

Saturday 11th June

Food & Farming Group Seasonal Supper, Boniface Centre - details below

July 22nd - 24th

Natural Beekeeping Course Embercombe S. Devon - contact Jessie Watson Brown jessiebwb@gmail.com

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2. Spring Shop 'N Swap Community Market - Saturday 14 May 2011

The Food & Farming Group are organising a Community Market for local produce and crafts. It will take place in CREDITON TOWN SQUARE on Sat May 14th from 10am to 1pm.

The market is an opportunity for small or very small producers eg: gardeners with spare plants, craft workers, people with surplus home-made jams and pickles, local organisations wanting to raise funds – in fact anyone for whom the Farmers' Market is not appropriate. Let us know if you're going to bring produce, so that we can include you in our advertising.

Sell or swap your produce. Nothing to bring? Then come and buy.

Very low cost – to have a stall just make a donation to Sustainable CREDITON to help cover the hire of the Square and publicity. Bring your own table. Bring a brolly for sun or rain.

Help us to advertise this event – come to the Sustainable CREDITON stall on 2nd April [corner of Market Street from 10am to 12noon] and get some postcards to give to friends and relations.

Above all, be there – help to make this a big community happening!

Contact; info@creditonlocalproduce.co.uk or call El on 01363 866543

nb: Anyone bringing meat or dairy products must adhere to the rules and regulations of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 and the provisions of the Food Safety Act 1995 and any other legal requirements. Full details are available from the Environmental Health Department of Mid Devon District Council.

3. The Sustainable CREDITON AGM - what went on?

The 4th Sustainable CREDITON AGM took place on Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm at the Congregational Church in CREDITON.

17 supporters attended. The meeting began with a short presentation on the work being done by the 'Little Rotters' Club at Lansdown Primary. It was very impressive and encouraging to see how much environmental work the school, staff, pupils and parents are engaged in.

The formal AGM followed. Gerald Conyngham gave a summary of the previous years' activities and thanked the retiring members of the Core Group; Sue Chantrey, Simon McEwan and Georgi Bellingham for all their help. Anne Tucker presented the accounts for 2010 which are in good shape. The election of the Core group for 2011/2012 followed: Chair, Gerald Conyngham, Vice Chair, Charles Mossman, Treasurer, Anne Tucker, Publicity Officer, Alan Murray, Communications and Newsletter, Paula Mossman, Town Council rep, John Downes, Additional Core Group members; Linda Lever, Elaine Clement, Dominic Doble and Kate Povey. The position of secretary remains vacant for the time being. Dominic and Kate are new to the Core group and we welcome them warmly. Next month we will ask each of them to include a short profile in the newsletter.

After the formal meeting and refreshments we watched 'Affluenza', a 50 min US film from 1997 that talks about the 'disease' of materialism and how it affects US society. The predominant positive message of the film was that it is possible to live more simply and with less money in order to have a lower environmental footprint and whilst feeling happier than when living a lifestyle that consumes resources heavily. It was followed by a discussion on the future direction

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of Sustainable Crediton and how we could help people in our area understand the attractions of living more simply. Some suggestions that came from the audience were; joining in a 'No Shopping' Day, running 'anti advertising' competitions, encouraging the DCC car share scheme, encouraging people to use Freecycle and other such organisations or possibly setting up one of our own, promoting Earth Hour , working with children in schools so that the message filters down to parents and older generations.

If any of the above ideas appeal to you or you have your own suggestions for living more simply, please contact us, especially if you could donate a little time and energy towards making them happen. One idea might be for you to write a short piece for this newsletter about how you have managed to live more simply in your own family and what consequences that might have had for you both financially and in your well being and lifestyle. It is amazing how people can be inspired by other peoples' stories so please do not think that yours does not matter.

4. News From The Action Groups

4.1 Energy Group

Sandford/Crediton Solar Energy Project Update

Sustainable Crediton has selected Solarsense as our preferred supplier of photovoltaic panels. After our extensive tendering process which started out with 28 companies, which was whittled down to five for tender, we evaluated Solarsense to be the best value supplier for our buying group. Solarsense is a fully accredited installer of solar PV (electric) systems and have installed over 3,100 such systems since 1994, making them the leading installer in Bristol, Somerset and the South West, and amongst the most experienced in the UK.

The Buying Group scheme comprises a price list of a wide range of PV systems updated quarterly, a 5% community discount applicable to Sustainable Crediton supporters who have joined the scheme

and a further rebate payable after 12 months depending on total number of installations carried out . For example if between 10 and 19 systems are installed, there will be an additional 2.5% rebate; between 20 and 50 systems installed, a 5% rebate; and over 50 systems, installed a 15% rebate.

Sustainable Crediton supporters will need to join the Buying Group in order to benefit from the scheme. At the public meeting in Sandford on the 24th February, attended by over 50 people, we proposed a fee to join the scheme in order to fund both the ongoing publicity of this project and any future projects. Having previously explained the benefits accruing to our supporters from this Agreement, there was absolutely no dissent to our proposal from the audience. A joining fee of £5 and a £15 donation to Sustainable Crediton for every order placed was agreed . At the meeting 21 people signed up for the scheme there and then and subsequently a further 9 have done so. Surveys are underway and the first order has been placed.

It is our intention to promote the scheme widely in Crediton and neighbouring villages, but wish to give our existing supporters the first chance to have a survey done. Full details of the scheme and an application form can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk/Solar%20Project.htm> <<http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk/Solar%20Project.htm>> or contact Linda Lever on 01363 777624.

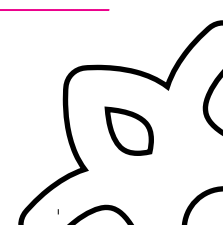
We recognise that installing PV panels is a large investment. We have researched whether there are any low cost loans available but unfortunately there does not appear to be any. However the Government did pledge to set up a "pay as you save" low interest loan scheme. They have gone quiet on this recently and it would be very useful if a number of us could email or write to Mel Stride (mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk <<mailto:mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk>>) and/or Chris Huhne (chris.huhne@decc.gsi.gov.uk <<mailto:chris.huhne@decc.gsi.gov.uk>>) and remind them about pay as you save arrangements for those who can't afford to pay up for renewables upfront.

4.2 Women's Environmental Network

In February the grey skies on the day of our **WEN Tarka Trail Walk** didn't bode well for a good turnout and it was just the three of us who caught the train to Eggesford and went walking over fields, under the railway line, over the river (and not quite as buggy friendly as I had promised!) We had a picnic

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in the woods and then back to the Garden Centre for ice-creams and sunflower seeds!

In March we've had the **International Women's Day** coffee afternoon at Ashton's Lounge but again turnout was low – four of us (2 of which were children!)

I'm hoping the **Kiddies Clothes Swap** is a success on 26 March and then I am keen for everyone interested in the future of Crediton Women's Environmental Network to attend a meeting on Friday 1 April, 7.30pm (venue tbc). It will be a sort of brainstorming AGM to work out how we can be most effective, what campaigns interest people and how people want to be involved. We need more people in our core group to keep going. Please come along! As always please do get in touch with any queries, ideas and if you want to join our e-mailing list.

Kate Povey Tel: 01363 860208 email: kate@littlemleff.co.uk

4.3 Transport Group

As petrol prices rise we continue to campaign for safer cycling.

For Mid Devon's Green Infrastructure Strategy we propose a cycling contraflow along Belle Parade to the Town Square in Crediton. This safer east –west route will encourage cyclists, complete Sandford's cycle route to Crediton's town centre and eventually link to Exeter.

For more information and to join the group contact Laura Conyngham laurac@eclipse.co.uk

4.4 Waste Action Group News

Clothes Swap and Eco Fashion Day

We held a very successful Clothes Swap and Eco Fashion Day at the Boniface Centre on Sat March 12th. Over 150 people attended and approx 1000 items of clothing were swapped including some lovely handbags, a gentlemans leather coat we estimate was worth over £200, and a huge variety of tops, skirts, trousers, jackets and dresses. Even a pair of gents very bright, orange trousers formerly belonging to Sustainable Crediton's Chair Gerald Conyngham found a new home!!

Lucie Ponsford of Giselle Designs in Tavistock

held two well attended Eco Fashion clinics during the day. Sixteen ladies from age 14 to 'mature' brought along pieces of clothing from their existing wardrobes or pieces they had 'swapped' earlier and began adapting them with Lucie's help. Some really lovely clothes began to emerge and workshop participants went home enthused and with some excellent ideas to refresh their wardrobes.



Sincere thanks go to all the Sustainable Crediton supporters who came to help. We were overwhelmed by how well the event caught the public's imagination and simply could not have coped without our trusty band.

If you were not able to attend the event **far not**, as we have decided to do it all over again!. Watch this space for the date, probably next spring. If you still have clothing in the back of your wardrobe that is not being worn we have 3 suggestions for you: either take it to a charity shop, arrange an informal clothes swap at home with some of your friends over a bottle of wine, or, if you can wait, put it to one side to bring along next time.

We would love some new faces in the Waste Action Group to help organise events like the Clothes Swap. If you think you might like to get involved please contact Paula Mossman paula.mossman@lineone.net to let us know of your interest and find out more.

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4.5 Food and Farming Group

Big Sunday Lunch 5th June Town Square

The Food Group will be organising a salad bar as one of the stalls to buy lunch. If you can offer help with this, either by making a salad or helping on the stall, get in touch with Carol carollee3@googlemail.com or 01363 82794

Buying Local Produce Have you signed up yet for monthly seasonal offers by email? Go to www.creditionlocalproduce.co.uk – it's easy! If you have any local produce news or have a good seasonal recipe using local produce let us know – info@creditionlocalproduce.co.uk

Next Seasonal Supper 11th June

Since our suppers are becoming so popular, this will be another one at the Boniface Centre. Details of menu, etc in the next newsletter. To book a place, contact Carol carollee3@googlemail.com or 01363 82794 or Ruth 01363 860260

We might also have a bring and share supper in July – let us know if you're interested in that.

For more Information on getting involved with the Food Group contact Linda Lever, 01363 777 624, lindaandcolin@phonecoop.

5. A 'New Economics' Study Group - might it be for you?

After reading 'The New Economics' by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) and hearing Tony Greenham of NEF talk in Exeter recently, we are becoming more and more convinced that the UK economy cannot continue to grow indefinitely. World resource depletion, climate change, approaching peak oil and world developments like the nuclear disaster in Japan will all determine that economic growth as we currently understand it will have to stop. As a response to this Charles & Paula Mossman have decided to invite interested people to

form a small informal 'new' economics study group.

The idea is that it will be based on the U Tube videos by Chris Martensen <http://www.chrismartenson.com/> which detail why our present economic system has to change and discuss what we can do to 'future proof' our lifestyles and community. Two small groups of around 6 people each have recently studied this, one in Transition Exeter and one in Bradninch Climate Action. They both found it a very useful and stimulating exercise.

Charles and Paula suggest starting a group in May at their home near Cheriton Fitzpaine. The idea would be to meet informally once a week or once a fortnight for approx 6 meetings over a bottle of wine and a few nibbles. The group would watch the on line videos posted by Chris Martensen and then follow this with a discussion.

If you might be interested in joining such a group please call Charles & Paula on 01363 866106 or email c.mossman@tiscali.co.uk before the middle of April so we can work out a mutually suitable date to get started.

6. Changes at Punchbowl & Ashleigh Recycling Centres

As part of Devon County Council's cost saving initiative, charges are to be introduced from April 1st 2011 for disposing of certain bulky waste at Punchbowl (Crediton) and Ashleigh (between Bickleigh and Tiverton) recycling centres. Please be assured they will not effect the majority of household waste, including green waste, disposed of there.

Briefly they are as follows:

- Soil/Rubble £2 a bag
- Plasterboard £7 a sheet
- Asbestos £20 a sheet/bag
- Tyres £2 each

There will also be restrictions on vehicles and

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these will include cars with trailers, which will be limited to under 10ft in length.

More details are available at the centres and by calling **0845 1551010**

7. Fly Tipping

Sadly we anticipate that the charges being introduced at Ashleigh and Punchbowl could lead to increased fly tipping in the countryside.

If you see fly tipping please report it to Mid Devon District Council at the following links: Either telephone 01884 255255, email customerfirst@middevon.gov.uk or go to the following link which takes you straight to an on line form where you can make a report. <http://www.middevon.gov.uk/eworks/flytipping/flytipping.asp>

Please save these links for future use. Charles Mossman recently used this last link to report fly tipping in a hedgerow near Cheriton Fitzpaine and it was cleared within a week.

Thank you MDDC.

8. Life Begins and Ends

We send our sincere congratulations to Georgi & Jeff Bellingham who had a 3rd child, a little girl named Amelia, weighing 8lbs 11oz on Thursday 17th March. Mother and baby are both doing well. Until recently Georgi was a member of our Core Group and Jeff has done much valuable work helping with our re-branding, website and PDF newsletter. Thank you both and enjoy the addition to your family.

Sadly we must say goodbye to Nan Payne who passed away recently and was buried at Great Bradley Cottage Natural Burial site on Wed 23rd March. Nan came to Crediton about 2 years ago to be near her family and became a loyal Sustainable Crediton supporter. Her last Sustainable Crediton event was the Seasonal Supper last October. She will be fondly remembered by many of us.

9. 'Making Sense of the Financial Crisis'

A 'Must Attend' Talk in Exeter With Nicole Foss on Sunday 3rd April, 6.30 at the Friends Meeting House, Wynards Lane, Exeter. Admission Free . Organised by Transition Exeter.

A presentation on Peak Oil, Ponzi Economics, and how to prepare for what's to come. We're all on a roller coaster ride... financial markets are up today and down again tomorrow, but hey... we're bound to bounce back soon, and when we do, it will be 'business as usual' again. Right?

"Wrong!" says Nicole Foss, aka Stoneleigh of the website Automatic Earth. Her analysis integrates finance, energy, environment, psychology, population and real politik in order to explain why we find ourselves in a state of crisis, and what we can do to be ready.

Nicole gave this presentation at the last Transition Conference. It was 'the talk' of the weekend. If you are at all concerned about the direction our economy is taking and what it could mean for all of us this is the event for you!

10. Local Elections in May

Local elections will be taking place in May for Crediton Town Council, the parish councils and Mid Devon District Council.

John Downes (Lib Dem) a member of the Core Group and Laura Conyngham (Green Party) who co-ordinates the Transport Group are two active Sustainable Crediton supporters who will be standing this time around. Laura will be standing for Crediton Town Council and John for the Town Council and MDDC.

Turn out at mid term local elections is usually low. It is however our opportunity to have some influence on how we want our local communities to be run. Let's exercise our democratic rights this time around.

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11. Campaigns of the Month

11.1. A Nuclear Free Future for the UK
With the nuclear emergency in Japan fresh in our minds, the Government has launched a review of our own nuclear safety. Please sign the Friends of the Earth petition calling for a safe and nuclear free future at this link http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/nuclear_27386.html

11.2. Halve household 'Black Bag' waste by 2020

The Government is currently deciding what to do about the nation's rubbish. This is a crucial opportunity to push for an ambitious goal to halve household 'black bag' waste by 2020. Please ask the Prime Minister to talk half as much rubbish.

The results of the Waste Review are due in May - so this is your chance to tell him that you're sick of seeing food and other waste being thrown away when it should be composted or recycled instead.

12. Interesting articles

the 'good' and the 'not so good' !!

12.1. Climate Change

Climate change is real, humans cause it, we must act - an Australian viewpoint <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/45244.html>

12.2. Waste: Wasted food equals 3% of greenhouse gas emissions in UK, says new survey <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/wasted-food-equals-3-of-greenhouse-emissions-in-uk-says-new-survey-2249167.html>

12.3. Energy: Major tidal energy scheme set for waters off Islay
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-12767211>

12.4. The Environment: The end of the plastic bottle?

It's a start - PepsiCo launches green bottle made entirely from grass, bark and corn husks <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/pepsico--launches-green-bottle-made-entirely-from-grass-bark-and-corn-husks-2244370.html>



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