

Main Identity

From: "Paula Mossman" <paula.mossman@lineone.net>
To: "paula mossman" <paula.mossman@lineone.net>
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Subject: Sustainable Crediton Newsletter Edition 15 August 2011

Hello Everyone,

This month we celebrate reaching our 500th Sustainable Crediton supporter. It is a fantastic achievement for a community organisation that is run entirely by volunteers, has received very little grant funding, and has only been going for 4 and a half years. Thank you to every one of you for all you do to benefit the environment and to help Sustainable Crediton grow. In September we will be asking you to tell us a bit more about yourselves so we can build up an idea of the skills, interests and experiences of our supporters which we hope will help us move forward even more.

In the meantime would you like to enjoy some sustainable activities during Aug & Sept? Among others we have a bring and share supper near Crediton on Aug 6th, a visit to Embercombe on Aug 10th, and a myriad of events coming up in September. These include another community market, a teddy bears picnic and Crediton Legs It, our chance to show the world how many ways the people of Crediton can get around using just our leg power! In fact something for everyone! Details of all these events and more are included below so make sure you read right to the bottom of this packed summer edition.

**Paula Mossman
 Editor**

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1. Calendar of Events

Thurs 4 Aug 7pm **WEN Celebrating Lammas** at Anita's - details see below

Sat 6 Aug 6pm **Bring and Share Supper** at Riverside, Woolfardisworthy - details below

Wed 10 Aug 10 - 2pm **Visit to Embercombe near Exeter** - details below - contact Jane at HogCO.

Telephone: 01393 383423 www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk

Mon 15 Aug 7.30pm **Economics Group Meeting** at Cheriton Fitzpaine contact Paula Mossman 01363

866106 for more details

Wed 17 Aug 7pm WEN Planning Meeting at Kate's Little Emlett, Black Dog, EX17 4RW

Wed 31 Aug 7.30pm Core Group Meeting at Linda Lever's

Thurs 1st Sept 10am Education Group Meeting contact Chloe on 01363 776968

Sat 3 Sept 10 to 1pm Plastic Packaging Collection Point at Morrisons Car Park - details below - contact Anne Tucker catucker@btinternet.com

Tues 6 Sept 7:30 pm Energy/PV Group Meeting at Lamb Inn, Sandford details Linda 01363777624 or lindaandcolinl@phonecoop.coop

Sat 10 Sept 12 to 3pm WEN Teddy Bears Picnic Newcombes Meadow - details below

Sat 10 Sept 10 to 1pm Community Market Crediton Town Square - details below

Sat 17 Sept 10 to 1pm Plastic Packaging Collection Point at Morrisons Car Park- details below contact Anne Tucker catucker@btinternet.com

Wed 21 Sept 7.30pm Solar Project Public Meeting at Methodist Hall, Cheriton Fitzpaine - details below

Sat 24 Sept 10am Crediton Legs It - Walk, Cycle, Run through Crediton - details below contact Laura Conyngham laurac@eclipse.co.uk

Mon 26 Sept 7.30pm Food Group Meeting details Linda 01363777624 or lindaandcolinl@phonecoop.coop

Tues 27 Sept 7.30pm Solar Project Public Meeting at Cheriton Bishop - details next month's newsletter

Sat 1 Oct Plastic Rubbish Pick Up Afternoon - details to follow - contact Nancy Dowling dowlingnancy@yahoo.co.uk

Mon 3 Oct 7.30pm Core Group Meeting

Sat 15 Oct Harvest Seasonal Supper Boniface Centre Crediton - contact Linda Lever 01363777624 or lindaandcolinl@phonecoop.coop

Sat 19 Nov Seed Swap - contact Linda Lever, details to follow

Sat 10 Mar 2012 Clothes Swap Boniface Centre Crediton - details to follow

2.0 News from the Action Groups

2.1 Transport Group: CREDITON LEGS IT !

Saturday 24 September 2011. Meet Crediton Town Square at 10am

Remember in 2009 when almost two hundred Sustainable Crediton supporters stood together in the Town Square, forming a shape of 350, with our demand for carbon to be reduced to 350 parts per million? Our photo was beamed to Times Square, New York. Coming up now is another global rally in which we are taking part with Moving Planet <http://www.moving-planet.org/events/uk/crediton/721> . It is focusing on how we move around and transport ourselves hence our title Crediton Legs It!!

This is a day to:

- move beyond fossil fuels
- demand action from world leaders
- get moving on the climate crisis

We will be walking, running, cycling, skateboarding, skipping, scootering, hoola hooping and any other means by which we can move around the town without using fossil fuels. Our event offers a wide choice in distance and plenty of encouragement. There will be:

- Yoga Walk half a mile with breathing, stretching and mindfulness.
- Basic route of 3 miles via Hayward's and Landscore, back to Town Square.
- Optional extra routes so you can go for 7 miles or 10 miles.
- Come on a bicycle, skates, scooter, a board, or on foot.
- Come with neighbours, family and friends your hoola hoop or your skipping rope.
- It is FREE.
- We will move in groups for support and safety.
- Homemade cakes and cold drinks at the finish for all who take part.

- 10% off cycle repairs and free safety checks at the Bike Shed in Crediton during 2 weeks leading up to the event.

We need YOU to Leg It !

For more information contact Laura Conyngham laurac@eclipse.co.uk Cake makers - Tell Liz Kingdom liz.kingdom@talk21.com 01392 851242 by Fri 16 Sept if you can pledge a cake and deliver it to her in the Square by 10.30am on Sat 24 Sept.

2.2. Energy Group

Sandford/Crediton Solar Energy Project - Update as at 25th July.

Take up for our project continues to be excellent. 100 people have joined the scheme for a survey. 84 homes have been surveyed with 16 people still awaiting surveys. 34 orders have been placed. This puts us firmly into the 5% discount and 5% end of year rebate part of our discount table. With another 16 orders we will be into the next rebate band of 15%. Installations have started and as of the 25th July seven installations have been completed.

We have publicised the start of installations and managed to get front page headlines in the Crediton Courier on the 22nd July. We are planning two more public meetings after the school holidays in September, one in Cheriton Fitzpaine on 21st September 7:30pm in the Methodist Hall and the other in Cheriton Bishop on the 27th September, full details to be confirmed next month.

Solarsense have given us notice that they believe the price of Sanyo pv panels will be increasing as a result of the recent natural calamities in Japan which have somewhat disturbed Sanyo's manufacturing supply chain. We will update the website with any price changes when and if they occur.

<http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk/Solar%20Project.htm>

Solarsense (our PV partner company) win 'Company of the Year' Award

The Renewable Energy Association is "the voice of the renewables industry in the UK" - the national organisation which represents renewable energy producers and promotes the use of all forms of renewable energy in the UK, so to win their Company of the Year Award is a huge accolade for Solarsense. The Company Award criteria is for "the industry participant which has done most during the year to advance UK renewables", and Solarsense were up against stiff competition from prominent nationwide organisations including Barfoot Energy, Drax Power and Sevenoaks Energy Academy. In the end the judges' decision swung in Solarsense's direction by merit of the fact that Solarsense not only stand out in the UK as long established and experienced solar installers, but that they also take the benefits of solar to the developing world with their annual charity project work taking direct action with solar power.

2.3 Waste Action Group

The Waste Action Group hopes **everyone will contribute** to two projects we will be running in Sept and Oct. They are:

1. Food Plastics Collection and Recycling Trial. This will take place on 2 Saturdays in September, 3rd and 17th in Morrisons Car Park from 10am to 1pm.. Anyone can bring along plastics from the list that follows to put into the dumpy bags that will be available in the recycling area which is on the left as you enter Morrisons Car Park. Look out for the Sustainable Crediton banner!

We can accept: clear and coloured drinks bottles, household cleaning fluid bottles, shampoo & shower gel bottles, margarine and ice cream tubs, cream, yoghurt & cottage cheese pots, salad pots, fruit and veg trays, frozen food bags, sandwich boxes, plastic packaging, preformed biscuit and chocolate box trays, cds and cases, plastic flower pots

We cannot accept: polystyrene, bubble wrap, cling film, biodegradable plastic, paint tubs, plastic toys, pet food or soft drink pouches, crisp packets, and any plastic mixed with other materials.

All plastics should be ***clean and lids should be loosened.***

Depending upon the response to this trial the WAGS group may expand this scheme across Crediton in coming months.

So start saving up your plastic to bring along and please tell all your neighbours and friends to do the same. We will report on how the trial went in the October newsletter.

2. Plastic Rubbish Pick Up Afternoon.

On Saturday 1st October we plan to organise a plastic rubbish pick up afternoon in key areas of Crediton. We will announce full details in next month's newsletter but would like to invite everyone to come along and help. Please put the date in your diary now.

This project is to highlight awareness of the pervasive nature of plastic waste in our town, villages and countryside. There is lots of it out there when you start really looking!

Other Waste Action Group News:

Next Clothes Swap Day. We have now set a date for the next Clothes Swap. Many people have asked us when it will be, so we are letting you know good and early.

It will take place on Saturday March 10th 2012 at the Boniface Centre Crediton.

Start collecting up your good but unwanted/unused clothes, bags and jewellery ready for the event:- and tell your friends and neighbours about it too!

Devon County Council Waste Strategy: The WAG submitted its comments on Devon County Council's Waste Strategy to the year 2032. Basically we felt that DCC's vision was unambitious and relied on incineration to reduce the amount of landfill.

We pointed out that a target of 65% recycling by 2032 was already being achieved in parts of the UK now and was commonplace in Europe. With a target of 80% recycling and using DCC's figures, incineration would be unnecessary and uneconomic.

We also pointed out that their assumptions of growth may not actually be correct and that they should also factor in some scenarios of no or even negative growth both of which coupled with 80% recycling meant that incineration would be unnecessary. If the future does involve serious economic downturns due to peak oil and peak various other raw materials, then there will be less wastefulness and reusing our wasted resources will become ever more important.

2.4 Food Group

Bring and Share Seasonal Supper

Saturday August 6th, at 6pm. Riverside, Woolfardisworthy, near Black Dog.

Riverside is a working smallholding where the delicious Riverside Goats Cheese is made. (See www.riversidegoatscheese.co.uk) Ann or one of the family will show you the goats and people are welcome to wander around the farm and garden. Please remember to shut the gates! And bring some wellies. Climbing the multi-storeyed tree-house is at your own risk. All ages welcome

Bring a dish and some drink to share and your own crockery, cutlery and cup or glass. Please make it seasonal and locally produced. We are a supermarket free zone.

We have a small barbecue, a pit fire and a dustbin oven which you are welcome to use, but please bring your own cooking equipment. We will supply the wood. You may also want to bring a picnic chair or blanket to sit on.

Please book by 1st August. Ring 01363 866 434 or email ann.pollard@phonecoop.coop. When booking please tell Ann what you will bring for the supper so we don't end up with potato salad only !! Also contact Ann for details on how to get there.

Community Market Saturday 10 September 10am to 1pm

Our markets are intended to be complementary to the Farmers' Markets, not to compete with them.

Come to sell or swap surplus garden produce or produce from your smallholding, sell locally produced crafts and non food produce, promote or raise funds for your local organisation. Even if you only have a dozen eggs or some tomatoes and a few courgettes, bring along a basket of goods to sell or swap for other produce.

Simply bring your own table and chairs, a brolly for sun or rain and make a donation on the day to Sustainable Crediton to help cover the hire of the Square and publicity. If you can please let us know you're coming: info@creditonlocalproduce.co.uk or call EI on 01363 866543

Nothing to sell? Come and buy!

NB If you are bringing meat or dairy products you must adhere to food safety regulations

A report on the Food & Drink Security Event, July 2011 by Alison Shakespeare

An eclectic bunch of food-interested folk were brought together by a lightly worded invite from the University of Exeter. Producers, retailers, academics, distributors and consumers gathered for the 'welcome local finger buffet and regional drinks reception' but were soon sat down in front of their name tags eager to see what the 'introduction, discussions and break-out groups and feedback session' were going to cover.

The hosts turned out to be Professor Michael Winter and Dr. Matt Lobley, (Co-Directors of the University's Centre for Rural Policy Research), who were eager to share the news of two major pieces of research.

The UK is currently producing 54% of its food needs - and the percentage is falling.

The first was 'for information only' and was Professor Winter's 'baby'. In the autumn a Food Security and Land Resilience Alliance is being launched. The alliance is between Exeter and Bristol Universities and Rothamsted Research at North Wyke. They are going to research crop diseases, soil, water, the ecosystem and climate. So if any producer out there has a burning need for some research to help them improve their yields - get in touch (d.m.winter@exeter.ac.uk).

The second piece of work was to furnish the main points of discussion for the remainder of the evening. Dr. Lobley is lead on a review of the agri-food sector in Devon and Cornwall. The review will sum up the volume, values, processing of, routes to market, market trends and the skills and training requirements of the sector.

Dr. Lobley wanted the break-out groups to discuss:

- How is the challenging economic environment impacting on consumer behaviour?
- Looking to the future, how important will trends such as localness and place-based producers be? Other emerging trends?
- What are the barriers, the opportunities and the support needs?

But, as is the way of these things, we talked education, health, research into pathogens offered by the university, supermarkets (nobody loved Tesco).

Matt Lobley (mlobley@exeter.ac.uk) was sanguine about our digressions and enthusiastic about our interests and in the autumn he will be approaching Devon producers to take part in his review - you have been warned!!

Local Produce Website

www.creditonlocalproduce.co.uk

Don't forget to keep looking at this and sign up for monthly e-news and special offers.

2.5 Crediton Women's Environmental Network

Celebrating Lammas :Thursday 4 August, 7pm at Anita's (6, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Crediton)

Please feel free to come with a snack to share. Children welcome. We will have a **Basket of Abundance** where you put something in and then take out something which someone else has put in! This can be food you have grown, or a posy of flowers, or some little knick knack.

About Lammas (taken from Glennie Kindred): Lammas is the celebration of the grain harvest, the seasonal peak of high summer. The grain harvest is being gathered in, representing for us both the food which will sustain us throughout the winter, and the seed, which will grow again in the spring to bring next year's harvest. It is a time to give thanks for the active growth period as the Sun's energy begins to wane and we turn, once again, to face our inner selves. Lammas is also known as Lughnasadh, Feast of Lugh (the Corn King), or Festival of First Fruits. There used to be great Lammas fairs across the country, trading fairs, horse racing and it's a good time for baby naming and marriages.

WEN's Teddy Bears Picnic Saturday 10 September Newcombes Park (by the bandstand) from 12 to 3pm.

Please bring a plate of food to share (you can pick up something from the Community Market that morning), a teddy and rug, and enjoy some excellent live music, face painting and children's activities. Adults welcome too.

We want our Teddy Bears Picnic to be the best so far, if you can help with advertising it and organising, or can be there early on the day to help set up please let me know: Kate Povey, Little Emlett Orchard Black Dog Crediton Devon EX17 4RW Tel: 01363 860208 Email: kate@littleemlett.co.uk

2.6 Education Group

We have continued to contact schools and to give them free copies of 'Hot Tips for a Cool Planet', a booklet kindly donated by Southgate Publishers of Sandford. So far we've given out 640 copies. We have also been giving out copies of 'Positive News', an encouraging quarterly newspaper with good news on sustainability issues from around the world. Look out for them in and around Crediton.

We could do much more with more members of the group - contact Chloe on 01363 776968

3.0 Seminars on Climate Change and Peak Oil

We now have an excellent visual presentation about climate change, peak oil and sustainability which we want to show to groups and organisations in the Crediton area, followed by a discussion about action that can be taken to move towards a more sustainable future.

If you know of or are involved in groups that might be interested in this please let me know.

We also need more people to help deliver the presentation. We can provide a preparation session and you would have the option to work with an experienced presenter, so if this appeals, get in touch. You can do as much or as little as you have time for.

Gerald Conyngham gerald@eclipse.co.uk

4.0 Our New Skills Database

Sustainable Crediton now has over 500 supporters which is really encouraging. However we know very little about your skills, experience and interests. Having more information would enable us to utilise people's skills to better effect and involve our supporters more effectively in existing and new activities. So our plan is to set up a simple database and we will be sending out a questionnaire in September. We hope you will feel enthused to respond and let us know a little more about yourself.

All skills, experience and interests whatever they may be are equally valuable and appreciated. Here is a very short list of some that would be very useful by way of an example. It is by no means exhaustive!

- people with legal knowledge to help draft agreements with companies such as our PV partner Solarsense
- people with planning knowledge if/when we decide to set up a community energy project

- someone with a video camera who could film our events and put the films on UTube
- people who enjoy writing/communicating and would like to help with the newsletter/publicity
- people who would like to help give talks on climate change and peak oil
- people with links to local schools who could help us build on our relationship with them

Gerald Conyngham

5.0 Free Stuff

If you are looking for free items or want to have a clear out, as well as the "Freecycle" website, this Freeads website may also be useful. I have not used it personally so cannot comment on the results, nor should this be seen as a personal recommendation, but it may well be useful for finding a home for those items you no longer require or obtaining items for free.

See <http://www.freedads.co.uk> for details. Anne Tucker

6.0 Visit to Embercombe on Wed 10th August 10am to 2pm

HogCO (Home Grown - Community Owned), of which the Sustainable Crediton Food Group is a member, is hosting a free open day at Embercombe, near Exeter. It is open to all Sustainable Crediton members.

It is an inspiring 50 acre site which includes a large circular organic market garden, poly-tunnels, medicine garden, woodland, lake, orchards, bees, yurt villages and more.

Embercombe's vision is 'touching hearts, stimulating minds, and inspiring committed action for a truly sustainable world'. It works with volunteers from the community, businesses and schools.

There is an invitation to stay for lunch for an additional £2 per person.

Please book direct through Jane at HogCO. Telephone: 01393 383423 www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk

Editors note: Charles (my partner) and I recently spent a weekend at Embercombe learning about natural beekeeping. It is a wonderful place and well worth a visit.

7.0 Thought for the Month

The line between failure and success is so fine that we are often on the line and do not know it.

How many a man has thrown up his hands at a time when a little more effort, a little more patience, would have achieved success.

- Elbert Hubbard