



Sustainable  
CREDITON

# Newsletter

## Dec 2010

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1 December 2010 to mid January 2011

Please only print this newsletter if necessary.

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

Why not visit our new website  
**[www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk](http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk)**

# Hi Everybody



**Welcome to the last edition of the Sustainable CREDITON Newsletter for 2010. The Core Group would like to wish everyone reading this a peaceful and enjoyable festive season.**

## **Contents:**

### **1. Calendar of Events**

### **2. Visit the Holy Cross Tree Festival and see Sustainable CREDITON's Xmas Tree**

### **3. News from the Action Groups**

3.1 Food Group - the next seasonal supper is coming up in January, don't miss out

3.2 Energy Group - the new Sandford PV project: would you and your roof like to get involved?

3.3 Womens Environmental Network - WEN is back with lots of events for your calendar

3.4 Transport Group - lets take inspiration from Taunton

### **4. Free Seasonal Parking in CREDITON**

### **5. Spinning Group:** hailed a great success

### **6. Sustainable CREDITON give a Workshop on sustainability to Mid Devon District Council**

### **7. Copplestone Wins a £50,000 lottery grant:** find out how and why

### **8. Campaign of the Month:** Christian Aid's, 'Trace the Tax'

### **9. A Climate Change Game for your Computer**

### **10. Happiness and Sustainability:** Chris Johnstone explains how to achieve real happiness

**The calendar section of this newsletter is becoming increasingly popular and we would like to encourage all readers to use it to publish dates of sustainable events they are involved with in and around CREDITON. Any dates you would like included in the next edition should be sent to the editor at this email address by 10th January 2011. Please note that our next newsletter will be published in Mid January 2011.**

**Enjoy your festive celebrations.**

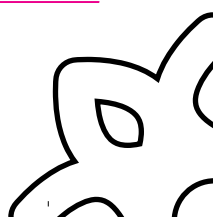
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**Paula Mossman, Newsletter Editor**

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## 2. Calendar of Events

### Dates for Your Diary 2010

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#### **Thurs 2nd to Sun 5th Dec \***

Holy Cross Church Xmas Tree Festival with Sustainable CREDITON's 'Living' Tree

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#### **Sat 4th Dec \***

10am to 1pm Farmers Market Town Square CREDITON - with FREE Parking in St Saviours Car Park

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#### **Tues 7th Dec \***

7.30pm Happiness and Sustainability with Chris Johnstone, Mint Methodist Church Exeter - details below

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#### **Tues 14th Dec**

7.30pm Waste Action Group Planning Meeting at Jill's

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#### **Wed 15th Dec**

Core Group 'Mulled Wine and Nibbles' at John Downe's house

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#### **Sat 18th Dec \***

10am to 1pm Xmas Farmers Market Town Square CREDITON with FREE Parking in St Saviours Car Park

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#### **Tues 21st Dec \***

7.30pm WEN Winter Solstice Celebration Anita's 6, Queen Elizabeth Drive - details below

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### Dates for Your Diary 2011

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#### **Fri 7th Jan \***

2pm-4pm Spinning Circle at the Arts Centre, East Street, CREDITON - more details below

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#### **Wed 12th Jan**

7.30pm Waste Action Group Planning Meeting

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#### **Wed 19th Jan**

7.30pm Core Group Meeting CREDITON Inn

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#### **Sat 22nd Jan \***

10am to noon WEN Kiddies' Clothes Swopping Party - details and venue below

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#### **Fri 28th Jan \***

7.30 pm WEN Great Clothes Swop Rebekah's 5, St Lawrence Green - details below

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#### **Sat 29th Jan \***

7pm Food Group, Winter Seasonal Supper - details below

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#### **Fri 4th Feb \***

2-4pm Spinning Circle, Arts Centre CREDITON

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#### **Fri 11th or 18th Feb \***

Film 'The Pipe' CREDITON Arts Centre - co-sponsored by Sustainable CREDITON and CREDITON Arts Centre: more details later

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#### **Sun 27th Feb \***

WEN Tarka Trail Walk - more details later

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\* all events thus marked are open to ALL (sometimes subject to booking, as advised in body of newsletter)

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## 2. Sustainable Crediton Xmas Tree

Please come and visit our tree at the Holy X Church from 2nd to 5th December. We have a 'The Living Tree'. We are using the same tree as last year, lovingly cared for by Anne Tucker in her garden for the last 11 months. Cleo Heard and the children from Copplestone school have created the decorations from natural materials on the theme, the importance of trees to us and our environment.

We are using lights with rechargeable batteries.

If you like our tree why not vote for it and raise the profile of Sustainable Crediton.

## 3. News From the Action Groups

### 3.1 Food Group News

**We will be holding the Winter seasonal supper in Sandford on Saturday 29th January at 7pm.** The menu will be:

Chicory and blue cheese salad

Roast squash and leek barley risotto

OR Chicken and 'chorizo' barley risotto

Jam steamed pudding and 'proper' custard

**This is a 'cook and eat' gathering meaning everyone will take part in the preparing and cooking of the food, before we all sit down together to eat; it is a rather fun and sometimes chaotic way to spend a winter evening. The cost will be £6 per person. Please book your place with Carol Lee 01363 82794 or carollee3@googlemail.com mailto:carollee3@googlemail.com or Ruth Beckley 01363 860820 ruth.beckley@which.net mailto:ruth.beckley@which.net Payment is in advance to the Greenhouse but only after confirmation of your place. Places are limited due to space so don't leave it until the last minute!**



Image: Alison Shakspeare

Being served at the October 2010 Seasonal Supper

### 3.2 Energy Group News

#### Sandford Energy Project

We have issued a pre-tender questionnaire to nearly 30 local and national PV installers requesting information from them regarding our potential project. We want to find out whether there is potential for a group discount, how best to go about our project from an installer's perspective, which installers are genuinely interested in working with us, and among many other things which installers will work with us in a transparent and value adding way to offer our participants the best value for money in PV installations. We hope to short list to a few installers during December, so that we can go out to tender early in the new year.

If you are interested in having PV installed and live in Crediton and District please get in touch with either Linda Lever or Charles Mossman, as the more homes involved the greater the discount we will be able to obtain.

<mailto:lindaandcolin@phonecoop.coop> <mailto:c.mossman@tiscali.co.uk>

#### Pioneer Microgenerators

A freedom of information request has revealed how little it would cost the electricity industry to include early adopters in the FIT scheme - £4.25 Million pa, under £100 million for lifetime of the scheme.

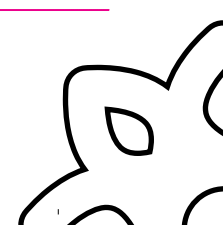
<http://www.yougen.co.uk/blog-entry/1582/FOI%20request%20reveals%20cost%20of%20paying%20feed-in%20tariffs%20to%20early%20adopters/>

Here is the Government's official response to the pioneer microgenerator's petition:-

<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/epetition-responses/petition-view.aspx?epref=Microgenerators>

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## 3.3 Women's Environmental Network News

**The Crediton Women's Environmental Network (WEN) is back! Please come and join us at our following events. If you need any more information about us do please get in touch.**

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**Most direct is by phone (Kate – 01363 860208) but can email too (kate@littleemlett.co.uk)**

Crediton WEN tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in Crediton Parish Church in early December. Our theme is angels – wise angels, guardian angels, angels of the light and angels of love.

**Winter Solstice** We will celebrate on Tuesday 21 December at Anita's (6, Queen Elizabeth Drive, a.clarinet@live.co.uk) from 7.30pm. Please bring some refreshments to share and RSVP appreciated to Anita. Here's a little bit about Winter Solstice taken from Glennie Kindred: "The great cosmic wheel stops and begins again a new cycle of increasing daylight and warmth. It is a time to name our dreams and make our resolutions for the coming months. The old year has died and it is an opportunity to come out of hibernation and celebrate being alive!"

**Kiddies' Clothes Swapping Party** Saturday 22 January at Kate Povey's (Little Emlett, between Black Dog and Kennerleigh), 10am to 12pm. I've been waiting for my siblings to have children but don't like the thought of storing all my stuff in a loft when it could be put to good use in the meantime. Please join me in donating and swapping children's (under 5's) clothes, toys, books, and stuff (baby bath, cloth nappies, buggies etc). Please label clearly whether it is a donation or a loan. It doesn't matter if you have nothing to donate – first time parents especially welcome – please spread the word. Numbers are limited so please RSVP to Kate (kate@littleemlett.co.uk, 01363 860208). I can store items from January – please call to arrange collection or drop-off.

**The Great Clothes Swap!** Friday 28 January sees the return of our successful Clothes Swap Party. Is your wardrobe a little jaded? Received some Christmas gifts that you'd never wear but can't bear to chuck them out? Here's a chance to swap with friends and find new items whilst knowing yours are going to a good home. Venue is Rebekah's (5, St Lawrence Green, rebclare@yahoo.co.uk). Starts at 7.30pm. Please RSVP to her as space is limited. Please bring refreshments to share.

**Tarka Trail Walk** Sunday 27 February. We will be taking the train from Crediton and going on a Tarka Trail walk – no more than 5 miles and suitable for buggies. More info later.

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## We would like to wish everyone seasonal greetings and 3 top tips for a greener Christmas:

1. **Don't buy wrapping paper.** Use bits from last year, make potato prints on plain paper or find colourful pictures from newspapers (Guardian often does double page spreads).
2. **Don't buy rubbish.** If you wouldn't like it, don't get junk for someone else. Make up a local food hamper, frame a family or landscape photo you have taken yourself or go extravagant with some top quality eco toiletries from Neals Yard in Exeter, Faith in Nature from the Green House or make your own!
3. **Do enjoy yourself!** Most of us get some time off at Christmas so enjoy it. Recharge batteries, take a walk in beautiful Mid Devon and cherish time with loved ones.

## 3.4 Transport Group

Here is inspiration from Taunton. We want one too!! A new pay as you go car is at Taunton Deane Borough Council offices, 5 minutes from the train station is accessible for all residents, businesses and even Sustainable Crediton members when in Taunton!

[www.tauntoncarclub.co.uk](http://www.tauntoncarclub.co.uk)

<http://www.tauntoncarclub.co.uk/>

For more information on how to join a Crediton Car Club contact Laura Conyngham

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<mailto:laurac@eclipse.co.uk>

## 4. Free Parking in Crediton

There will be **FREE PARKING** in St Saviours Way Car Park, Crediton all day on the following Saturdays:- Saturday 4th December (Farmers Market), Saturday 11th December, Saturday 18th ( Xmas Farmers Market) December.

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**Cllr Bob Wright** Come and shop in your LOCAL shops and help our town centre survive and thrive.

## 5. Spinning Circle

The first meeting of the Spinning Circle was a great success and the next will take place on Friday 7th January 2-4pm at the Arts Centre, East Street. Spinners and would-be spinners at all levels very welcome. £2.50 contribution to room hire includes cup of tea. The following meeting will be on Friday February 4th.

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## 6. Mid Devon District Council Workshop

On Wed 24th Nov Paula Mossman and Gerald Conyngham of Sustainable Crediton Core Group and Simon Tytherleigh of Bradninch Climate Action gave a 2 1/2 hour workshop to councillors and senior executives of Mid Devon District Council. The title was 'Towards a Sustainable Mid Devon'. The workshop fell into 2 parts. We began with a multi media presentation ably narrated by Paul Birch of Transition Taunton who joined us for this purpose from across the border in Somerset!. Paul and his partner Chrissie had created the presentation and workshop at the invitation of Taunton Deane Borough Council in summer 2009. It was rolled out to 375 Taunton Deane employees over 11 workshops last year. After Paul's presentation, which was very powerful and convincing about the effects climate change and peak oil are likely to have on our lifestyles worldwide, we facilitated a workshop session involving all present. We imagined we had been transported to the year 2030 and that Mid Devon was now a vibrant, sustainable, and resilient community despite the effects of peak oil and climate change. The object was to see what actions we would need to take as individuals, as a community and what actions MDDC was uniquely placed to take, to bring about the changes necessary to create such a community. There was a real buzz in the room towards the end and some really positive ideas emerged.

The results of the workshop will now be presented to the MDDC executive and we are hopeful that they will see the value in rolling it out to all MDDC staff in 2011 in a similar way to that at Taunton Deane.

If YOU are involved with a community group who would like to have a talk on climate change and peak oil, or indeed participate in a similar workshop, please contact Paula Mossman paula.mossman@lineone.net <mailto:paula.mossman@lineone.net> in the first instance. We would be keen to work with you as we want to spread this work as widely as possible.

## 7. Coplestone £50,000 Lottery win

Last week Coplestone successfully won a £50,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund to build a community playing field and village hall.

Well done Coplestone.

Ken Warren, the organiser, tells us how they did it:

"The world of digital communication is a wonderful thing. When we first started this journey to apply for the Lottery Peoples Millions little did we realise what it entailed, in effort and time. From filling in forms and building a project profile for our fund requirements, to winning our way through to the Television phone votes. We then had to bring everyone

together on a Wednesday afternoon, including 45 children with the dads and mums for football practice, and also the police.

We had about three weeks before voting day to form a strategy to get people to vote for our cause, but just a week before voting day we found that our little village was up against Woodrow Project from Torquay. How were we going to win against a large town like Torquay?

The object of the lottery appeal was to build a close community which has been missing from our village. Coplestone has a population of 1000 residents, with over 150 under sixteen's. Anti social behaviour is quite a problem. There is no village hall or football pitch and nothing for the young people to do. However, there is a spark of hope for our village and that is a football club for the five to ten year olds, which was started by Guy Gibson and Hannah Edwards. They play on a small area of grass at the side of the school. The club started with just a few children on a Saturday morning, but now word has spread and up to fifty children attend for training sessions. Their energy and enthusiasm needs to reach the older children in the village which in turn will reduce the ASB. This was the basis of our appeal.

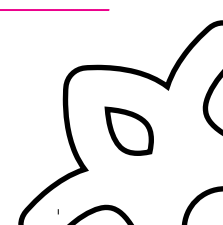
The parish council had purchased a field just beyond the school but, as with all Devon fields, this is not a level site. A large area of the land will have to be levelled and drainage put in before laying the football pitch. Once this has been achieved, our next project is to build a community hall for the rest of the village.

So how did Coplestone, without a community spirit, get our plea out to the wider world?. First we contacted the local paper who we worked with throughout the appeal. We then asked for volunteers to help deliver flyers to the villagers explaining what we were attempting. As always the same people offered their help. We then asked for anyone who was familiar with Facebook and other forms of communication to put the information out there, also for people to e-mail friends and work colleagues.

One of the most difficult challenges of the whole process was not knowing the telephone number for people to vote until 4am on the morning of the appeal. We then had to have four thousand flyers printed with the phone number on to be delivered to all the local schools by 8am. A team of villagers delivered the flyers to every house in the village and to shops in our local town of Crediton. Tesco and Morrisons were also targeted with various teams of people handing out flyers throughout the day. My van was fitted with loud speakers and driven through all the neighbouring villages asking people to watch the television appeal that evening and vote for Coplestone. All this activity started to build excitement in the village and in turn the seed of building a community we so badly need has been born."

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## 8. Campaign of the Month

This month's campaign is Christian Aid's Trace the Tax campaign. Poor countries have the riches to help work their own way out of poverty. But a worldwide culture of financial secrecy allows some unscrupulous companies to dodge tax and rob poor countries of more than \$160bn a year. Trace the Tax is about helping them get their money back. You can help. The link below goes to Christian Aid's website where you can lobby Vince Cable to crack down on tax evasion and send emails to four of the UK's largest companies on this subject.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/trace-the-tax/index.aspx>

## 9. A climate change game for your computer

A computer game that wrestles with the problems of climate change has recently been launched. Find and preview it at this link:

<http://www.fateoftheworld.net/>

## 10. Happiness and Sustainability

With David Cameron proposing that we have a Happiness Index to measure the well being of the nation, why not get ahead of the game by attending this event organised by Transition Exeter with Chris Johnstone as the main speaker. Tuesday 7th December at 7:30 pm at Mint Methodist Church, 154 Fore Street, Exeter.

If you can't attend here is an article by Chris Johnstone on the subject of happiness.

[http://issuu.com/findyourpower/docs/can\\_you\\_grow\\_happiness/1](http://issuu.com/findyourpower/docs/can_you_grow_happiness/1)

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**For More Information,  
please contact us in the  
following ways**

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Paula Mossman: 01363 866106

Linda Lever: 01363 777624

Gerald Conyngham: 01363 773000

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### Email

[info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk)

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### Post

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