

Main Identity

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Happy New Year to Everyone,

Hope you were able to enjoy the recent snow and that it did not impact your holiday plans adversely. At the end of this month's newsletter is an article about why we have experienced such extreme cold so early in the winter. It may provide you with ammunition to counter the climate sceptics who say that this recent cold spell is an example of why climate change is not happening!

This month we have a number of opportunities for **YOU** to get involved with the work of Sustainable CREDITON. Could you volunteer to help with the Clothes Swop Day in March, have fun attending the next Seasonal Supper or help with distributing copies of Positive News occasionally to cafes in the town centre? Do you have links with a local school that would help us expand our Education Group? Or if you have just a few minutes available, **NOW**, while you are at your computer, could you support three important national 'Campaigns' to help make our world a better place to live for all.

None of this is onerous. It requires at most a few of hours of your time. It is however easy to ignore these requests and hope someone else will do it instead! Please make 2011 the year that **YOU** join us in making a difference, however limited the time you can give. Thank you.

'Become so wrapped up in something that you forget to be afraid.'
 - Lady Bird Johnson

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1. Dates for your Diary Jan to March 2011

Wed 19th Jan 7.30pm Core Group Meeting CREDITON Inn
Sat 22nd Jan 10am to noon WEN Kiddies' Clothes Swopping Party - details and venue below
Fri 28th Jan WEN 7.30 pm Great Clothes Swop Rebekah's 5, St Lawrence Green - details below
Sat 29th Jan 7pm Food Group, Winter Seasonal Supper - details below

Fri Feb 4th 2-4pm Spinning Circle, Arts Centre, CREDITON
Mon Feb 7th 6pm Exeter Uni research project on Transition with Rob Hopkins as guest speaker, -

details below

Sun 27th Feb **WEN Tarka Trail Walk** - more details later

Sat 12th March 2011 11am to 3.30pm **Waste Action Group, Eco Fashion and Clothes Swop Day** at Boniface Centre, Crediton - details below

Wed 23rd March evening **Sustainable Crediton AGM**, Crediton Congregational Church, High St, Crediton - details below

2. News From The Action Groups

2.1 Food Group News - Seasonal Supper coming very shortly

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 with toasted seeds
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 or Ruth Beckley 01363 860820 ruth.beckley@which.net. Payment is in advance to the Green House in Crediton but only after confirmation of your place. Places are limited due to space so don't leave it until the last minute to book.

2.2 Waste Action Group News

Eco Fashion and Clothes Swop Day Saturday 12th March 10am to 3pm at the Boniface Centre, Crediton

All Sustainable Crediton supporters, family, friends and neighbours are welcome to come along to this event so please spread the word as widely as possible..

Admission is just £2.50. Teas, coffees and cakes will be available throughout the day plus light lunches from 12 noon to 2pm.

Bring along your unwanted dresses, trousers, tops, jackets, jewellery, handbags and shoes and swop them for a brand new wardrobe. You can take away an item for FREE for every one you bring and buy additional items for just £1 each. Contributions must be delivered between 10am and 11am, be clean and in good condition, on hangers and clearly marked with size where appropriate. Once you have delivered yours relax with a coffee and watch a free demonstration on how to update your wardrobe without spending a fortune. Swopping then begins from 12 noon onwards once the clothes etc have been sorted.

20 places are also available (for an additional £2.50 each) to take part in one of two 'hands on' workshops where you can begin the process of updating an item of your own clothing under the supervision of young fashion designer Lucy Ponsford from Tavistock. These workshops are aimed at 16 to 25 year olds and sewing machines, thread etc will be provided. Places for these workshops must be booked in advance. Please contact Paula Mossman 01363 866106 and paula.mossman@lineone.net to secure your place. Further details will be provided when you book.

We need approx 8 additional volunteers to help run the day by helping to sort the clothing and run the clothes swop. Volunteers get FREE entry to the main event. If you can help please contact Anne Tucker catucker@btinternet.com as soon as possible. Thank you.

2.3 Energy Group News

Sandford Energy Project to be extended to Crediton area

We have received lots of interest from local and national PV installers to our pre-tender questionnaire. It is apparent that there is potential for a real group discount if we can get a few householders involved with our project. We have short listed to five installers and we plan to issue a tender as soon as we get some firm [though not absolutely binding] commitment from a group of people seriously interested in our project. We are widening the scheme to any home within Crediton and District, that is a radius of about 5 or 6 miles from Crediton. Further details can be found on our website at <http://tinyurl.com/SandfordPV>

Why install PV ? Typically, given normal weather and for a medium sized array, the system would earn over £1,000 per annum , an 8 to 10% return on investment, a much better return than at a bank or building society. Repayment time could be about 10 years and the income would continue tax free and index linked for the guaranteed 25 years. With a loan, the FIT money should cover repayments and you would still get [increasingly valuable] free electricity which would continue after the loan is paid. Additionally you would be exporting renewable energy to the national grid and reducing your reliance on fossil fuel generated electricity.

If you are interested in having PV installed and live in Crediton and District please get in touch with either Linda Lever 01363 777624 (lindaandcolin@phonecoop.coop) or Charles Mossman (c.mossman@tiscali.co.uk) , as the more homes involved the greater the discount we will be able to obtain.

Improving Energy Efficiency in the Home

Many families are spending more on gas, oil and electricity than they need to. We have summarised all the latest information on grants available in Mid Devon for home insulation on our Energy Group web page at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/Middevongrants>

2.4 Education Group

We are reviving the Education Group.

Penny Westlake from the Crediton Learning Community is sending out a questionnaire for us to all the local schools. We hope the responses will give us a contact in each school who is working on sustainability issues and enable us to know what individual schools are doing.

We hope, too, to find a Sustainable Crediton member to liaise with each of the schools. We can then use this network to exchange ideas and support each other in projects within the schools.

If you have links with any of the following schools (perhaps you are a parent, teacher or work there in some capacity) and are interested in being a school contact please get in touch with Chloe Gray chloegrays76@yahoo.com or 01363 776968. Schools that need covering include: QE, Landscore, Haywards, Sandford, Bow, Copplestone, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Yeoford, Newton St Cyres,

2.5 Womens Enviromental Network

Kiddies' Clothes Swapping Party – on 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.

3.0 Sustainable Crediton AGM Wednesday March 23rd

We have fixed the Sustainable Crediton AGM for Wednesday March 23rd in the Congregational Church on the High Street in Crediton in the evening. We are hoping to involve local schools in making presentations about work they are involved in to green their schools but this is still at an early stage. In the meantime please put the dates in your diaries and more information about timings etc will appear in the March newsletter.

4.0 Exeter University Research Project into values within Transition Towns.

Along with Transition Exeter and Ottery St Mary, we have been invited to take part in a research project looking at values in transition groups.

The first meeting will take place on Mon Feb 7th at 6pm in the Poldhu Room, Kay Building , Exeter Uni, with the title 'What makes Transition Tick'.

Rob Hopkins the founder of Transition will be a speaker. Do come. It should be a fascinating meeting. If you want to share lifts, contact me.

gerald@eclipse.co.uk

5.0 Data Projector and local talks on Peak Oil and Climate Change

Just to remind you that we have a data projector and also now a portable screen which can be borrowed by any member of Sustainable Crediton.

Also the presentation about climate change and peak oil which was shown to Mid Devon, with supporting notes, can be used by members to show to local groups.

Paula Mossman, Charles Mossman and Gerald Conyngham are all available to give talks or support you in giving one, so if you know of a group who would be interested in this fascinating and eye opening presentation please contact us.

To book the projector or arrange a talk contact Gerald gerald@eclipse.co.uk.

6.0 Positive News

Have you read the fantastic quarterly newspaper Positive News? It documents all the wonderful but often unsung and unreported things that are happening around the world to make it a better place. It has been going for some years and recently started a section devoted to Transition News.

Positive News can be given away for FREE in cafes, librarys etc and Sustainable Crediton has decided to sponsor a bundle of 200 copies to be used in just such a way in Crediton.

We are looking for a person who lives in Crediton or the surrounding area who would be willing to have the bundle delivered to their home and to split it up into 4 or 5 sections and deliver a section some appropriate venues in Crediton approx once every 3 months. (Venues will be central and pre-arranged in advance by the Core Group).

If you could volunteer to carry out this infrequent but really useful job we would be really grateful. Please contact Gerald Conyngham gerald@eclipse.co.uk to indicate you would be willing to help.

Thank you.

7.0 Campaigns of the Month

Have you ever joined in one of our online campaigns of the month? They only take a minute or two and are frequently very effective. We have three very different campaigns this month, so perhaps at least one will be of interest to you..

7.1 'No, Not in My Name'

In April 2011 the EU, backed by the world's drug industry, intends to bring in legislation to control the strength of all natural health supplements that can be sold in the UK and Europe and to ban some entirely. This is supposedly being done to regulate health products to 'safe' dosage levels, but many in the natural health industry believe that it is a back door way of the drugs industry gaining control over natural health products which they have previously had no influence over.

The '**No, Not in My Name**' campaign aims to gather 5 million signatures by the end of March to present to Parliament saying UK citizens want the right to choose which health supplements they use and at what strengths. If you agree please sign the petition and read more about this whole silent subject on which the powers that be hope to pass legislation without the general public even noticing!

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/joininghandsinhealth>

7.2 Global Bee Emergency Petition from AVAAZ

Quietly, globally, billions of bees are dying, threatening our crops and food. But a global ban of one group of pesticides could save bees from extinction.

Four European countries have begun banning the poisons, and some bee populations are recovering. But chemical companies are lobbying hard to keep all killer pesticides on the market. A global outcry now for a ban in the US and EU, where debate is raging, could provoke a total ban and a ripple effect around the world.

Let's build a giant global buzz calling for these dangerous chemicals to be outlawed in the US and EU until and unless they are proved to be safe. Please join the 600,000 people who have already signed this petition to save bees and our crops : http://www.avaaz.org/en/save_the_bees?fp and then forward to all your friends.

7.3 Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall's Fish Fight

Around half of the fish caught by fishermen in the North Sea are unnecessarily thrown back into the ocean dead due to crazy EU regulations which are meant to conserve fish stocks. Over 300,000 people are supporting Hugh's campaign. If you want this senseless waste of food to end, please join them by going to <http://www.fishfight.net/> and sign the online petition to the EU Commissioners.

8.0 Training for Transition

Transition Exeter are hoping to run a weekend on Training for Transition. This would cover theory and practice, personal and community aspects. The course has been rated very well by people who have attended in the past.

There are no definite dates yet but if you think you might be interested, please let me know (gerald@eclipse.co.uk). Some bursary help could be available.

9.0 Is the recent Cold Weather linked to Global Warming?

There have been a few press articles about how the cold weather is linked to Arctic warming, and therefore we can expect more of the same

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/expect-more-extreme-winters-thanks-to-global-warming-say-scientists-2168418.html>

NASA Research Finds 2010 Tied for Warmest Year on Record

<http://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/news/20110112/>