

Main Identity

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Happy New Year to all Sustainable Creden Supporters

2012 has started with a **bang** for Sustainable Creden. Several people have said to me recently that there is a real buzz in the air in our community and this was certainly reflected at our very successful seminar at the Boniface Centre on Tuesday. Over 80 people from a wide range of Creden businesses, organisations, schools, churches and community groups attended and some fantastic ideas emerged for ways to take Creden forward on its path to becoming a truly resilient and sustainable place. A full report on the seminar and the actions emerging from it will be available shortly and a short overview of the evening is presented below.

In the meantime this Saturday, 21st January, sees another Waste Food Plastic collection taking place at Morrisons recycling area from 10am to 1pm. We urge you to participate and also to book the date of our 5th birthday party, Saturday 25th February, in your diary now and to get your tickets soon. The aim of the party is to demonstrate how, with a minimal carbon footprint, we can have lots of fun celebrating the real milestone of being 5 years old. Do join us, even if you have not been along to a Sus Cred event before. Everyone is welcome and I am sure you will be glad you did.

Paula Mossman, Newsletter Editor

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1. Diary Jan to Mar 2012

Sat 21 Jan 10-1pm **Waste Plastics Collection morning** Morrisons Car Park Creden contact paula.mossman@lineone.net and see below

Mon 30 Jan 7:30 pm **Energy/PV Group Meeting** at Lamb Inn, Sandford details Linda 01363777624 or lindaandcolini@phonecoop

Mon 6 Feb 2pm **Waste Action Group Meeting** at Jills - for more information contact paula.mossman@lineone.net

Wed 15 Feb 7.30pm **Core Group Meeting**

Sat 25 Feb 7-11.30pm **Sustainable Creden's 5th Birthday Party** Sandford Village Hall Details below

Sat 10 Mar 10-3pm **2nd Annual Sus Cred Clothes Swap** Boniface Centre, Creden - details paula.mossman@lineone.net and below

Wed 28 Mar **Sustainable Creden AGM** - details to follow

2. Party!! Party!! Party!! With Us

Sustainable Crediton's 5th Birthday Party

Saturday 25th February 2012 Sandford Village Hall. Doors Open 6.45pm

Everyone Welcome - bring friends and family.

7pm to 8pm: Childrens Entertainment & Childrens Corner throughout the evening

8pm to 11pm: MC Richard Ward - Lots of local entertainment including dancing to the Swamp Gods

Bring your own drinks (glasses provided), crockery and cutlery, and a plate of local food to share

Freecycling Corner: - bring bric a brac and household items to swap (no clothes please)

Tickets available from Sandford Village Stores and the Green House, Crediton

Adults £2.50 in advance £3.50 on the door. School age children £1

A not to be missed event - put the date in your diary NOW

3. News From the Action Groups

3.1 Waste Action Group

Plastics Collection Days are back - Sat 21st January at Morrisons Car Park Recycling Centre 10am to 1pm !!

We will be holding another Plastics Collection Day at Morrisons recycling area on Saturday 21st January from 10am to 1pm.

1st Crediton Scouts will be with us to help.

Please bring along that waste food plastic packaging from Christmas and New Year plus clear and coloured drinks bottles, household cleaning fluid bottles, shampoo & shower gel bottles, sauce and dressing bottles, margarine and ice cream tubs, cream, yoghurt & cottage cheese pots, salad pots, fruit and veg trays, sandwich boxes, preformed biscuit and chocolate box trays, cds and cases, plastic flower pots. Everything should be **clean** and lids should be loosened.

Sorry the following are still not recyclable and so we cannot accept them: 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.

Tell your friends and neighbours about this day and encourage them to bring their plastics too. In September we saved 74 huge builders dumpy bags of plastic going to landfill. Lets see if we can save even more this time!

And don't forget that you can take all the above types of recyclable plastic to Punchbowl Recycling Site outside Crediton (just off the Barnstaple Road on the way to Copplestone) at any time too.

Punchbowl Recycling Centre Under New Management

Sandi the former manager of Punchbowl recycling site near Crediton has retired. In her place the site has a new manager who has moved to Crediton from the Ashleigh site near Tiverton. She is buzzing with ideas about how to make the site more 'user friendly' so why not take your recycling along there and give it a try!

Junk Mail

The latest edition of Junk Mail magazine, the Devon Community Recycling magazine, can be found at the link below.

Junk Mail comes out every 3 months. The current edition contains a great article about our plastic collection days in September.

Here is a taster of another very interesting article in the current issue:

'Devon has come a long way in the last 20 years from a recycling rate of just 2% in 1990/91 to 55% today.

This was considered a high achievement at that time and Devon won the Friends of the Earth first "Recycling County" award.

So what's possible in the future?'

To read both articles and lots more go to: <http://dccn.typepad.com/files/junkmail-issue-8-web.pdf>

2012 Clothes Swap Day Sat 10th March at the Boniface Centre from 10am to 3pm.

Admission is just £2.50

Bring along dresses, tops, trousers, skirts, jackets, coats and accessories you no longer use from 10am to 11am (preferably marked with size and on a hanger. No footwear or underwear, stained, dirty or damaged garments please). Ladies and mens clothes and larger sizes all welcome. You will be given a ticket for each item you bring which you can exchange for another item on offer when shopping begins at 12 noon at no charge. If you run out of tickets additional items can be purchased for just £1

There will also be **free demonstrations and advice** on how to carry out simple clothing repairs such as sewing on buttons and taking up hems. Ann Turner, an experienced professional curtain maker, will be demonstrating how to update and renovate curtains and the local knitting and spinning groups are coming along too. If you have ever wanted to learn how to knit a simple garment or spin your own wool this is an ideal opportunity to find out and have a go under their guidance!

Refreshments and light lunches with home made soups and cakes available.

In fact a great day out and a chance to take home a whole new wardrobe of clothes!!

For more details and to **donate hangers** please contact Paula Mossman 01363 866106 or paula.mossman@lineone.net

3.2 Energy Group News

Solar PV Project Update as at 18th January 2012

Solarsense have pulled out all the stops to install as many members as possible before the Government set deadline of 12th December. As of the 12th December, 63 systems had been installed. That was all the systems planned to be installed before the deadline. 7 of our members cancelled their orders in order to place an order elsewhere to get installed before the deadline. We still have 5 members' orders awaiting installation. These orders were placed after the Government announcement reducing the FIT to 21p and have been placed on the understanding that they will only receive 21p .

We believe it is still worthwhile to commit to PV at this level of tariff and it may possibly be more difficult to get the FIT if stringent energy efficiency measures are required from April 2012. The rate of return whilst we are at the 5% discount and 15% rebate is around 8% tax free and index linked, far better than any bank or building society investment. All member orders installed by 13th June 2012 will receive the 5% discount and 15% rebate. That means orders received through to the end of March will qualify for full discount/rebate. Orders installed after 13th June 2012 will start at 5% discount only. Contact Linda Lever on 01363 777624 or lindaandcolinl@phoncoop.coop if you'd like to sign up for a free survey. Solar industry insiders are concerned that the Government may cut the FIT rates to as little as 9p per KWH from April 2012 if it loses the Appeal mentioned below, so even more reason to get PV panels now rather than waiting.

The government's appeal hearing against a High Court ruling declaring its proposed changes to the scheme as unlawful had been scheduled for Friday 13th January. But on the day, three court of appeal judges failed to reach a conclusion on whether or not the government's proposed changes to the feed-in tariff scheme were unlawful. They stated that they could not make an immediate decision, and as of today no decision has been

reached. However, the Government announced today that the current feed-in tariff rate for solar installations with less than 4kW capacity will not fall below the proposed 21p per kWh for all systems completed between the December 12 last year and March 31 this year.

The reassurance is significant as it meant solar firms can assume that regardless of the outcome of the current legal battle over whether the government's plan to effectively cut incentives before the end of the consultation period is illegal, the feed-in tariff rate for the current period would not fall below 21p. It implied that if the government won its appeal against a court ruling branding its proposals as "unlawful" the feed-in tariff incentive for installations carried out after December 12 would probably be cut to 21p, while if it lost the case the incentives would revert to the previous rate of 43p per kWh.

Free Energy Meters

We have 17 energy meters to give away on a first come, first serve basis. Donations always acceptable of course!

Checking energy consumption usually leads to reducing energy use and consequently bills.

If you would like a meter please contact Linda Lever on 01363 777624 or lindaandcolinl@phoncoop.coop

3.3 Food Group

We are holding our next meeting just before the newsletter comes out and haven't arranged the following one yet, but if you want to know when and where that will be or to help with the catering for the next clothes swap contact Linda on 01363 777624 or lindaandcolinl@phoncoop.coop

Some of our members are very busy with preparations for the Food Festival on 16 and 17 of June, so make sure you have that in your diaries.

Linda Lever

lindaandcolinl@phoncoop.coop

3.4 Transport Group

A timetable in your wallet / purse.

Turner's Bus Timetables were offered to customers at January's Farmers' Market. Turner's fares are reasonable and their drivers helpful.

Photos speak volumes

14 councillors and officers attending Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership Creedy Local Action Group at Crediton Council Chambers on Tues 10 Jan discussing "Cycling on Pavements" were shown a sequence of photographs taken by Alison Shakspeare during Crediton Legs It 24.9.11. The photos illustrate the potential hazards of parked car doors opening and double overtaking, to name but two. It was agreed that cyclists should be considerate towards pedestrians and safety leaflets should be distributed.

4. Website/Newsletter News

Sustainable Crediton developed its current website www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk about 2 years ago. It has been a great site but we feel it is now time for a fresh look and Sus Cred supporter and website designer Sarah Green, who lives near Lapford, has volunteered to upgrade the site and take over as administrator. This is very exciting news and we are most grateful to Sarah who will also be taking on the job of producing our monthly newsletter from Paula Mossman.

Now is the time therefore for YOU to have your say about what additional items and features you would like to see on the website and in the newsletter.

We will do our best to incorporate as many as possible as we really want the website and newsletter to reflect the needs and ideas of all our supporters. So please do let us know what you think. You can do so by replying to this email or contacting Sarah direct at sarah@BrighterWorking.com within the next month.

Thank you. Everyones ideas and views are valuable so please do get in touch.

5. Can we create a truly resilient , vibrant and sustainable Crediton by 2030?

A report on the seminar held on Tuesday 17th January, Boniface Centre, Crediton

DON'T PANIC, KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON - was one of the themes that emerged from our hugely successful seminar at the Boniface Centre on Tuesday 17th January. The seminar was a joint venture between Sustainable Crediton and Crediton Town Council and representatives from 35 different organisations in Crediton attended including a number of independant businesses, churches, schools, community organisations, Town, District and County Councillors and also a number of Sus Cred supporters. In total 82 people came along, the most successful event of this type in Sustainable Crediton's history - so far!!

The event was opened by mayor Frank Letch and Sustainable Crediton's Chair Gerald Conyngham and fell into two parts. We began with a multi media presentation on peak oil and climate change and how we can mitigate their effects on a local level by creating strong, self reliant and resilient communities. This was ably presented by Simon Tytherleigh, a Bradninch Town Councillor and member of Bradninch Climate Action. He has been working closely with Gerald Conyngham and Paula Mossman of Sus Cred to create and refine what proved to be a very powerful, if at times shocking, opening 40mins, with a short break in the middle for reflection and questions.

We then moved into the second part of the evening which was an interactive workshop. Initially participants were asked to work in groups on different aspects of local sustainability, brainstorming the actions we would need to take in the next 18 years to create a community in Crediton that can withstand the shocks that may be facing us by 2030. Retail development, housing, holidays & leisure, food & farming, energy, water, travel and transport were among the subjects up for discussion and there was a real buzz in the air as groups debated various ideas for ways forward and those ideas were collected on huge sheets of paper.

We then moved into an exercise where everyone was encouraged to write on coloured post it notes the ways they and their families could begin taking action on this challenge right now. Additional post its were used for ideas on where businesses and organisations and also the 3 tiers of local Council could start taking action too. The post it notes were collected on 3 flip charts and it was amazing to see the 100's of ideas and committments that emerged like a field of little coloured flags!

The evening closed with a summary from each table of one idea that had emerged as a theme for the evening and also the opportunity for all those present to indicate how they would like to keep the momentum created by the evening going. The theme of 'DONT PANIC' was joined by; inclusivity for all sections of society, we are not alone as a town in doing this work, lets make sure of the true credentials of our purchases when we 'Buy British'.

As the evening closed we all felt it was only 'The end of the beginning'. Sustainable Crediton now intends to produce a document containing all the ideas and use it as a starting point for continuing this work in the town. This will be available to all participants and any other Sus Cred supporters or interested local people by email in the near future. If you were not at the seminar we will let you know how to get hold of a copy in the next newsletter.

Many thanks to everyone who came along. We have spent many months preparing for the evening and it was heartening and exciting to see the number of people in our community who are really committed to making a sustainable, resilient, vibrant Crediton of the future a reality for all.

Gerald Conyngham and Paula Mossman

6. Campaign of the Month

This month's campaign is from Rainforest Rescue and is entitled Peru: Uprising Against Gold. More than 8,000 farmers have been guarding dozens of mountain lakes at an altitude of 4,000 meters in the Peruvian Andes. The natural water reservoirs are acutely threatened by gold mining. The lakes are vital as water sources for livestock and agriculture in the valley. The farmers are calling on the new Peruvian president to fulfill his campaign promise and speak out against the Conga gold and copper mining project. **Please sign the petition and help the people of Cajamarca defend their fundamental rights and water sources.**

Take Action >>

7. Learning about Herbs for Your Health:-

Anne Stobart, a well known local herbalist and Sus Cred supporter, will be organising a series of workshops during 2012 on using herbs to take care of your health. Subjects include herb aid for the Menopause, for Healthy Joints and for Boosting the Immune System.

Given the importance of taking responsibility for our own health you might be interested in contacting Anne for more details at herbaid@herbaid.co.uk

8. Quote of the Month

"Community is nearly impossible in a highly monetized society like our own."

("That is because community is woven from gifts, which is ultimately why poor people often have stronger communities than rich people. If you are financially independent, then you really don't depend on your neighbors—or indeed on any specific person—for anything. You can just pay someone to do it, or pay someone else to do it.)"

Charles Eisenstein

What are your thoughts?

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