

Main Identity

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Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the June newsletter of Sustainable Crediton. Our next big event of the year takes place this Sunday, June 5th. It is the Big Sunday Lunch in Crediton Town Square which opens Crediton's "Summer In the Square" season for 2011. The Food Group and WEN are both having food stalls featuring delicious local and fairtrade products and the Waste Action Group is organising the recycling. Why not come along with a picnic, or buy your lunch from the many food stalls, and enjoy the entertainment and family atmosphere.

It is good to see that the Town Square is being utilised for a variety of events during June, many co-ordinated by the Arts Centre and featuring a number of Crediton based organisations. In a world where travelling is becoming more expensive and oil depletion continues unabated, such a range of locally created entertainment is encouraging to see. So please support all these events and also Sustainable Crediton's two seasonal suppers this summer: one this month and one in August - more opportunity to enjoy yourself locally and with a low carbon footprint.

Contents

1. **Calendar of Events June to September 2011**
2. **News from the Action Groups**
 - 2.1 **Food Group:** information on the Big Sunday Lunch, seasonal suppers and the recent community market
 - 2.2 **Economics Group:** this new group started up in May. What is it about?
 - 2.3 **Women's Environmental Network:** another Teddy Bear's picnic is planned for Sept
 - 2.4 **Energy Group:** the PV project is proving very successful. Find out the latest
 - 2.5 **Education Group:** carbon saving booklets and Positive News now available free for schools. Can you help give them out at yours?
 - 2.6 **Waste Action Group:** Junk Mail - no not the sort that comes through your letterbox!
3. **Creating an Eco Home In Crediton:** find out about Rob and Karen Rickey's project to transform a cold & leaky 1950's house
4. **Craft Circle** - meets weekly - would you like to join?
5. **Government Repledges its commitment to reduce CO2**
6. **Campaign of the Month;** ask your MP to strengthen the Energy Bill.

1. Calendar of Events June to September

Fri 3 June - Spinning Circle contact Sue Reece suereece@metronet.co.uk for venue and time
Sun 5th June 12noon to 3pm Big Sunday Lunch, Crediton Town Square - details below
Mon 6th June 7.30pm Economics Group meeting at Charles & Paula Mossman's house. For details call 01363 866106
June 10th - 12th, Natural Beekeeping Course at Embercombe- contact Jessie Watson Brown jessiebwb@gmail.com
Sat 11 June Food & Farming Group Seasonal Supper, Boniface Centre - book now ring Carol 01363 82794
Sun 12 June 2pm to 4pm - Linscombe Open Organic Farm - www.linscombe.co.uk for details
Mon 13 June 7.30pm - Joint Education/WEN meeting Sandford - details see below
Mon 27th June 7.30pm Economics Group Meeting - venue to be arranged.for details call 01363 866106
Wed 29 June 7.30pm - Energy Group/PV meeting Lamb Inn, Sandford
Fri 1 July Spinning Circle contact Sue Reece suereece@metronet.co.uk for venue and time
Wed 6 July 7.30pm Core Group Meeting at Anne Tucker's
Mon 11 July 8pm - Food Group meeting ideas and planning ahead
July 22nd- 24th, Natural Beekeeping Course Embercombe - contact Jessie Watson Brown jessiebwb@gmail.com

Sat 6 Aug Bring and Share Supper at Woolfardisworthy - Bring and Share - details below

Sat 10th Sept WEN Teddy Bears Picnic Newcombes Meadow - details below

2. News from the Action Groups**2.1 Food Group****Big Sunday Lunch Sunday 5th June**

This will take place on 5 June from 12 - 3 in Town Square. If you can help on the salad bar or by making a salad, contact Carol 01363 82794 or carolle3@googlemail.com Come and buy lunch at our salad bar. There will also be lots of other yummy food stalls, plenty of tables and chairs and live entertainment so do come along.

Seasonal Supper 11 June

At the Boniface Centre, helpers [cooking, setting up or clearing up] £6, 'guests' £9.50. Number of helpers limited. Booking essential - contact Carol, as above, before 7 June to avoid disappointment.

Menu

Starter: Broad bean hummus and bruschetta

Main: Panfried mackerel or Ithaca pie (spinach and goats cheese) with a selection of seasonal salads
 Pud: Strawberries and cream with shortbread

Seasonal Bring and Share Supper In August

This will be a 'Bring and Share' supper, hopefully out of doors, on Saturday evening the 6th August at Ann Pollards, Riverside, Woolfardisworthy, Black Dog. which is not so far away from Crediton as you may think! More details to follow in July newsletter but please get in touch if you have any seasonal menu ideas including barbecuing and baking in our outdoor dustbin oven.
 Contact Ann on 01363 866434 or ann.pollard@phonecoop.coop

Shop n'Swap Community Market

We felt that our first effort on 14 May was a success with a good variety of stalls all around the Town Square and a steady stream of shoppers. The accent this time was on plants, but there were plenty of other goods including crafts, cheese, eggs, herbal preparations, cakes and even a very welcome foot massage. All the stall holders were willing to come again, so we hope to build this up and make it a regular feature on the Town Square - perhaps every other month during the summer - so look out for another market in July when there should be more fruit about, not just rhubarb!

Enquires about the Group to Linda Lever 01363 777624 lindaandcolini@phonecoop.coop

2.2 Economics Group

The new Economics Group held its first meeting on Mon 23rd May. 8 people attended with several more having expressed an interest but unable to come. We began by introducing ourselves and explaining a little of why we had come along.

We then watched parts 1-6 of 21 of Chris Martensen's Crash Course www.chrismartensen.com using the Sustainable Crediton multi media equipment over drinks and nibbles. Between each part we stopped to discuss the material that had been presented and our reactions to it.

It was clear that some members of the group already had a more advanced grasp of the material than others! Generally everyone felt frustrated by our inability as individuals to have any significant effect on the global and national economic situation and agreed that our main focus for practical action needed to be local, to help our community and families.

The next two meetings will be at 7.30pm on Monday 6th June and Monday 27th June.

At the next meeting we will continue to watch the Chris Martensen material with a view to getting to a point where we can all understand fully what drives the global monetary system. Then we intend to move on to discussing what actions we may be able to take to assist our community in the face of potential economic 'meltdown'.

Anyone else who can make the above dates and would like to join the group is welcome. Contact Paula Mossman 01363 866106 and paula.mossman@lineone.net for more details.

2.3 Womens Enviromental Network

The Crediton Women's Environmental Network is running its Teddy Bears Picnic again! Date is now confirmed as Saturday 10th September, at Newcombes Meadow by the bandstand, so there's something to look forward to when school starts again. Heading our musical line up will be Rosa Rebecka – back by popular demand! We will also have face painting, balloon modelling, circus skills and lots more.

All we ask is that you bring a plate of food to share (clearly labelled) and ideally something that is local or fair-trade or organic or homemade. This is a celebration about food and community with teddy bears and music as extra! Please put the date in your diary and contact me if you would like to be involved (help with distributing leaflets, offers of storytelling, helping to tidy up at the end, offering loan of a gazebo, tables, chairs, anything you think might enhance the picnic).

WEN have regular meetings / social evenings, please contact me, Kate Povey, for the next date and venue.

Tel: 01363 860208 Mob: 07775 712237 Email: kate@littlemlett.co.uk

2.4 Energy Group

Sandford/Crediton Solar Energy Project Update

We continue to have an excellent uptake with over 60 households having signed up for a survey from Solarsense. Nineteen orders have been placed through the scheme. meaning we are only one order away from the 5% discount and 5% rebate part of our incentive table. A total of 10% in the form of rebate and discount can be a saving of over £1000 on a typical system on already very keen prices. Now is the time to invest with the feed-in tariffs at their highest before they start to fall from April 2012. Payback times are probably in the region of 8 years at the moment.

Full details of the Sustainable Crediton Solar Project can be found on our webpage at <http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk/Solar%20Project.htm> or by emailing Linda Lever at solar@sustainablecrediton.org.uk. We have included links on this webpage to our agreement with Solarsense, to the latest price list, to Solarsense's website and a worked example of a typical installation and its payback time.

Our public meeting at the Old Town Hall in Crediton at 7:30 pm on the 26th May was well attended. Over 60 people came and we had 16 households sign up for a survey on the night with a further 6 applications so far through the post. There was over an hour of questions and answers which was very informative and I discovered a useful tip to get more from our own PV system. This was that it is a good idea when our system is generating over 3KW on a sunny day to "store" some of the energy in the form of hot water in our immersion tank rather than export excess electricity to the grid. Whilst we earn 3.1p for every KW exported, it will cost far more than this to heat our hot water cylinder with oil as we currently do.

Ecotricity

Ecotricity, based in Stroud, Gloucestershire is the largest independent and ethically focussed green energy company with over 45,000 domestic customers. Its profits are ploughed back into building new sources of green electricity such as wind power and solar parks. Ecotricity is partnering with organisations that have a like minded membership profile such as Christian Aid, Co-operative Bank, the Soil Association, Triodos Bank and Sustainable Crediton. The energy provider has ambitious targets to convert tens of thousands of homes to Ecotricity each year. We recommend Ecotricity because unlike any other national electricity supplier, Ecotricity only generates renewable energy so that every penny you spend with them is invested in new wind or solar energy, £50 Million in the last 7 years. Ecotricity promise that their New Energy Tariff will always match the standard price of the regional supplier, so for many people switching will be price neutral. For everyone who signs up for green electricity quoting CCA1 on the phone 08000 302302 Ecotricity will give a £15 contribution to our Community Renewable Fund. Local Businesses can also switch by obtaining an individual quotation based on past electricity consumption from Ecotricity's freephone number. Quoting CCA2 will generate a £40 Ecotricity donation towards the Community Renewable Fund.

2.5 Education Group

We are currently contacting schools to offer free copies of the booklet for parents and children 'Hot Tips for a Cool Planet' and the quarterly newspaper 'Positive News'. On Saturday 2 July we'll have a stall at Sandford School Strawberry Fair with copies of the book and children's activities based on it.

Help needed: We want a Sustainable Creditor contact for each school just to deliver Positive News and the booklets. If you can do this contact Chloe on 01368 776968

2.6 Waste Action Group

Devon County Council Waste Consultation Strategy

DCC are inviting comments from the public on this report by July 21 2011. Please respond by this date to ensure your comments are taken into consideration fully in advance of preparing the next stage of the Waste Core Strategy. It is a long document but there is a summary at the end that details all the relevant points. The Waste Action Group will be commenting but it would be valuable for as many people as possible to state their views as well.

http://devoncc.limehouse.co.uk/portal/minerals_and_waste_development_framework/waste/consultation/waste_core_strategy_issues_and_options_consultation?pointId=1722642

Junk Mail Magazine

Have you seen this magazine? It is produced twice a year by Proper Job at Chagford and is full of excellent information and tips about the 3 R's reduce, reuse and recycle. If you would like to receive the email version reply to this email and we will forward it to you. It is too big a file to attach to this email but is no problem to pass on individually. Alternatively you can download the latest magazine Junk Mail 6 from here <http://www.sustainablecreditor.org.uk/Pages/Waste/junkmail6.pdf>

Here is an example of an article from the last Junk Mail about a subject that is dear to the hearts of the WAGS group - plastic

There are now three main types of plastic carrier bag dished out by shops; the older, stronger plastic carrier, the thinner degradable carrier and third type made from bio-degradable plastic often used as compost liners.

The first two are made from petrochemicals (oil) and the latter is usually made from vegetable starch, hence its bio-degradability. Plants still have to be grown to convert into plastic so it still better to have a reusable basket or bag.

Every piece of (petro-chemical derived) plastic that has ever been made is still in existence and will be for the next 1000 years at least. That means every plastic tube, top, bottle, nappy, toothbrush... the list goes on. Plastic has become a useful part of our lives. Can we do without it? I ask the question because it is causing a problem so huge, most of us don't like to think about it. Ultimately though, it affects us all whether we like it or not. My daughter recently fished a fertilizer sack out of the river Teign and as she walked the mile or so home, she filled it, with plastic litter from about a half mile stretch of lane, then she stopped as it was too overwhelming. This sack will be sent to landfill - out of sight, but not out of our minds. No bacteria have yet evolved that can break plastic down, including degradable plastic. Instead it photodegrades, in UV light breaking up into smaller and smaller pieces called nurdles or mermaid tear

Meanwhile 10% of the 100 billion kilos of plastic produced every year ends up in the sea. The natural forces of the oceans has gathered much of this up into a kind of vast raft, assimilated into two parts of the Pacific 'gyre'. This is where it is entering our food chain as plankton eaters unwittingly take it into their digestive systems. Larger pieces are also taken up by some animals, 500,000 albatross chicks hatch yearly, 200,000 of them will die by consuming plastic fed to them by the parents who confuse it from food sources. Turtles confuse plastic bags for jellyfish and their stomachs get filled up with indigestible plastic and these creatures which can live for up to 200 years slowly starve to death. No sea animal is safe from this ubiquity as it infiltrates up the food chain, releasing noxious chemicals. We eat sea food from all over the world, we are not safe. A small fraction of the plastic we use is recycled and transformed into other useful goods, such as textiles or plastic board for furniture etc. In years to come plastic will be mined from landfill as a useful raw material, this is already being done in the US and Canada. Reduce; reuse & recycle! Reduce the packaging; try to buy goods that are not over-packaged, or packaged at all. Re-use bags, even non carrier bags; re-use them for buying vegetables.

Think "stuff". Two questions are 1. Where does it come from (it's source) and 2. Where is it going? If the "stuff" comes from our environment close by, and can be safely returned to our environment through bio-degrading, then be happy!

3.0 Creating an Eco Home in the Heart of Creditor

Rob and Karen Rickey bought a 1950's brick built house, Redlands, in Creditor last year with the intention of seeing just how well insulated and environmentally friendly they could make it.

Rob has created a blog to chart their progress where you will be able to follow the project stage by stage.

Here is the link <http://harperolocito.blogspot.com/>

Below is a brief explanation written by Rob of what they are doing:-

At Redlands we saw an opportunity to have a light, airy and comfortable house with a beautiful and productive garden. The house is a typical 1950s brick construction, which leaks like a sieve and is hard to heat in winter. Using the Passivhaus Planning Package, we intend to reduce the heating requirement by at least 80% and significantly improve comfort and air quality. We are also reorganising the house to take advantage of the sun and the views, which are wonderful.

We started with the studio and garden in order to get the digging over with and get the fruit trees growing as soon as possible. I will include information on the building physics and materials as we go along. Start on the house is planned for August.

4.0 Craft Circle [knitting, crochet, tapistry, etc]

Meets at Wetherspoons at 10 am on Friday mornings - new members welcome. Just come along.

5.0 The Govt renews its commitment to CO2 reduction targets

As a government source has said "This is a victory for the cause of enlightenment over the dark forces at the Treasury."

Read the document at: http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2071015/historic-climate-change-deal-legal-powers-agreed-cabinet?WT.rss_f=&WT.rss_a=Historic+climate+change+deal+with+legal+powers+agreed+by+Cabinet

6.0 Campaign of the Month: Ask Your MP to strengthen the UK Energy Bill

This month's campaign is from Friends of the Earth. The government have accepted the Committee on Climate Change's recent advice on cutting the UK's carbon emissions and accepted their recommended 4th Carbon Budget. Now we have an opportunity to make sure these commitments are put into action in the UK. The Energy Bill offers this opportunity – through a strong bill with an ambitious Green Deal, we can make these targets a reality.

The fine detail of the new Energy Bill is being debated right now. Please take a minute to make sure it gives us:

- Big cuts in climate changing emissions
- Warmer homes and cheaper fuel bills
- Tens of thousands of new jobs

by sending your MP an email at the link below asking for three key changes to strengthen the Bill and ensure everyone has the right incentives to cut emissions quickly.

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/energy_bill_30761.html