

Hi Everyone,

Autumn has well and truly arrived as I sit and write this. It is a time of year when we start thinking more about indoor activities and how we will spend the longer winter evenings. If you have some spare time this autumn and winter can I appeal to you to spend a little of it becoming more involved with the activities of Sustainable Crediton.

Why do so? Well it is easy to forget in our well watered, green and beautiful part of Devon that climate change is really happening and that the amount of time we have left to stop it becoming a runaway disaster is ticking away month by month. It really is crucial therefore that we all do a little bit more to play our part. I know our Energy Group, Waste Action Group, Transport Group and Food Group would all really welcome some extra enthusiasts, even if you have only a couple of hours a month to spare. Sustainable Crediton could also do much more work in other areas such as with schools and young people with some more 'person power'. So please lend a hand if you can. Getting involved can be fun, really rewarding and the source of new friends and experiences. Whatever your particular talent or interest you will be a valuable addition to our group and you will be helping to create a more sustainable community here as well as assisting the planet wide movement to secure our grand children's future.

Thank You, very much.

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Events Diary

Sat 9th October 7.30pm Big Seasonal Supper Boniface Centre Crediton (details below)
Please book by Wed 5th October.

Mon 11th Oct 7.30pm Core Group Meeting Linda Lever's house

Fri 15th Oct 11.15am Waste Action Group Visit to Puncbowl Recycling Centre (details below)

Wed 20th Oct 7.30pm Waste Action Group meeting at Jill's house

Sat 16th October Zero Carbon Britain: Schumacher Conference Bristol (more details below)

Sun 17th Oct WEN Local Group's Retreat, Southend

Wed 20 Oct 7.30pm Food Group Planning Meeting Carol's in Bow contact Linda Lever lindaandcolin@phonecoop.coop

Wed 24th Nov 9am to 12.30pm Sustainable Crediton workshop with MDDC at Pheonix House Tiverton contact Gerald Conyngham for details

Fri 2nd to Sun 5th Dec Holy Cross Church Xmas Tree Festival with Sustainable Crediton's 'Living' Tree

Sat 12th March 2011 11am to 3.30pm Waste Action Group Clothes Swop and Restyle Day Boniface Centre

1. News From The Action Groups

1.1 Waste Action Group

Waste Management Conference Friday Sept 30th

4 members of the group participated in a conference in Tiverton last week that included representatives from Devon County Council, MDDC, Viridor (who have planning permission to build a new Energy from Waste (EfW) plant at Marsh Barton, Exeter) as well as a number of Community Groups such as Transition Town Totnes and Proper Job Chagford. Opinions were often divided as to how Devon should manage its waste issue, but there was general agreement that recycling is critical and that rates must be improved.

We learned some interesting and disturbing statistics about the amount of landfill waste that Devon households currently produce: 400,000 tons a year or 548 kgs for every household! The current household recycling rate across the County is 52% by weight, with Teignbridge and South Hams being most successful at 58-59% and Mid Devon lagging some way behind! DCC's target is for 57% county wide by 2014.

DCC are very firmly of the opinion that the way forward with treating residual waste (that which they say cannot be recycled or from households who refuse to recycle) is to construct and utilise Energy from Waste plants such as the one which now has planning permission for Exeter. These plants incinerate the waste at high temperatures and this produces steam to run electricity generation turbines. Two more such plants are in the planning stage for Plymouth and Barnstaple. We listened to the presentations by DCC and Viridor on the issue were then asked to vote on how we felt about Energy from Waste schemes being the way forward for Devon. Sustainable Crediton participants felt the arguments against them which are too long to be listed here were very strong and said a definite 'no' to them. This was however very much the minority view in the room overall.

Conclusions we have drawn from the day? That to reduce first, then reuse and finally recycle is critical to the future of a truly sustainable society and that as households we have a duty to get as close to a 'zero waste' situation in our own homes as possible. We would ask each and every one of you therefore not only to strive to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible in your own homes, but to become ambassadors for the cause by passing the message on to others. Thank you.

Visit to Punchbowl Recycling Centre

Punchbowl Recycling Centre on the outskirts of Crediton is run by Devon Waste Management on behalf of Devon County Council. It takes and processes a lot more categories of recycle than we can currently put in our black box doorstep collection which is run by Mid Devon.

A group of us are visiting the site on **Fri 15th October at 11.15am** for a guided tour with the aim of seeing what the challenges of running such a site are and how we can assist in promoting it's use by the public. We can accommodate a couple more people on the visit, and if anyone reading this would like to join us please contact Paula Mossman on 01363 866106.

Clothes Swopping and Re-styling Day Sat March 11th 2011

We have booked the Boniface Centre for what promises to be a fun event which we are in the early stages of planning. ***Please put the date in your diary now.***

Ladies why not start putting to one side any good quality clothes, bags, jewellery or accessories you no longer use to bring along and swop for a new wardrobe!!

The re-styling element of our day will be run by a young fashion designer and is aimed at encouraging young people to hold onto and wear their clothes for longer. We want to cut down on the 'Primark effect' that sends thousands of tonnes of usable clothing to landfill every year merely because it is 'last years fashion'. So if you know of a young person aged 16+ who might like to participate in the workshops we have planned please encourage them to come along too.

1.2 Energy Group News

Photo Voltaic Solar Electricity and solar hot water

Are any of this newsletter's readers *considering purchasing PV panels in the near future?*

A group of Sandford residents, including some Sustainable Crediton supporters, are considering their options in Sandford with Linda Lever. One option which could be considered is obtaining a group discount from a reputable installer. If you think you might be interested in joining a similar Crediton scheme for PV panels please contact me at c.mossman@tiscali.co.uk. If there are enough people interested then we could meet to discuss a way forward.

If you are thinking of having **solar hot water panels** installed it might be best to wait until after April 2011 or at least until the Government makes an announcement on this topic. We hope there will be an arrangement called the renewable heat incentive similar to the FIT payments starting next year. We'll let you know if we hear anything.

There is disappointment for early adopters of renewable energy as the Coalition breaks a pre-election promise of the Tories. After months of silence from energy and climate change secretary Chris Huhne, he has finally spoken out on the subject of equal cashback for people who installed solar PV, micro wind or hydro before 15 July 2009. The promise was to pay the same rate to early adopters as new installations receive (that's 41.3p per unit rather than the miserly 9p they currently get). Recently Chris Huhne revealed that he's reneging on that promise in an answer to a question from Green MP Caroline Lucas.

1.3 Transport Group News

A car club for Crediton came a step closer on 7 September when the Town Council's general purposes committee gave a very positive response to Laura Conyngham and John Skrine's presentation on the value of a car club to the town. We asked them for a designated car parking space for the car and after a good question and answer session – nobody seemed to be against the idea and there was strong support - the committee agreed to recommend the idea for approval to the county and district councils.

Now that the Council is showing a positive interest, we need to get enough people to commit to the idea to bring a Co-Cars car to the town. Every car club car can take up to 24 other cars off the road, never mind the convenience and cost-saving it offers to people who live in a congested place and do a low mileage, so we very much hope enough people will show interest in the scheme to sign up. Apart from a £50 deposit you pay nothing until you use the car.

Our next step is to leaflet all the households in within walking distance of the centre of Crediton.

Do let Laura (laurac@eclipse.co.uk) or John (johnskrine@gmail.com) know if you'd like to help. You can read more about Co-Cars here: <http://www.co-cars.co.uk/>

1.4 Food Group News

Harvest Seasonal Supper

This takes place next Saturday, 9th October and promises to be a really good evening.

Bookings need to be in by 5th October for this delicious 3 course meal made with locally produced, seasonal food. Contact Carol NOW to book your place: 01363 82794

If you're too late to book for this time why not contact Carol to make sure of the next supper carollee3@googlemail.com or 01363 82794

The Harvest Community Market in September

We had a colourful presence on the Town Square with stalls of surplus garden produce [including lots of apples!], home made jams, pickles and bread and a goats cheese stall. It was a successful, sunny morning and much of the produce was bought or swapped. We are thinking about making this a regular feature next year and building up attendance as the community market becomes better known.

Report on a Composting Day by Alison Shakespeare

I was able to take advantage of a free place on a HogCoCourse in Chagford with 'Compost Guru' Nicky Scott. The day was a series of mini discoveries, beginning with the venue itself. Proper Job, is a little gem of recycled materials and newly generated compost shoehorned into a tiny, constantly reorganised site with eclectic buildings and minimal car parking. If you ever need Farrow & Ball paint, books, clothes or an old bike Proper Job would be a good place to start.

The next pleasure was meeting the other attenders. Young and old, male and female, they all had a keen interest in composting and even the old hands felt there was more to learn. Everybody contributed both searching questions and useful tips. But we all benefited hugely from the years of practical compost production, work with schools and communities, book production and conference presentations that Nicky Scott was willing to share with us.

We covered hot and cold composting; small garden heaps to major commercial disposal of waste; bins made of out wood or recycled plastic; tumblers, cylinders, wormeries and hot boxes. But here's the prime directive: your compost heap is a living being so make sure it has the right balance of water, heat, air, food and TLC and your garden will bloom. Happy composting.

Useful links: www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk www.proper-job.org

Seasonal Recipe - Quince Jam sent in by Dee Ross

900g (2lb) quinces, peeled, cored and sliced (prepared weight)

1.4 kg (3 lb) sugar

A knob of butter.

Put the quinces in a preserving pan with 1 litre (1 3/4 pints) water and simmer very gently until the fruit is really soft and pulpy. Remove the pan from the heat, add the sugar and stir until dissolved. Add the butter, bring to the boil and boil rapidly for 15-20 minutes or until setting point is reached. Remove any scum with a slotted spoon, then pot and cover in the usual way.

If the quinces are really ripe add the juice of 1 lemon with the sugar. Its really yummy, more like a marmalade than jam.

1.5 Tree Group News

We met MDDC's new Tree Officer in the summer and felt encouraged by her enthusiasm and knowledge. She explained that this autumn work will be done on some of the Newcombes Meadow trees and those in People's Park, those that need it. She also explained the difficult and costly business of preparing street tree sites and therefore how restricting this is.

2. Website News

Are you a Facebook user? If so, did you know that Sustainable Crediton is also now a group on Facebook. We want to expand our presence on Facebook, so please become a Facebook member of Sustainable Crediton and invite all your local Facebook friends to do so as well. We will use Facebook as another tool to get our messages across to as wide a range of people as possible, for example there is a discussion board where topics of interest can be discussed between members.

3. A New Data projector for Sustainable Crediton

Thanks to a grant from Mid Devon Community Recycling, we now have a data projector which members of SC can use to give presentations about sustainability or any aspect of our work in SC.

We also have an excellent powerpoint presentation which Transition Taunton sent us which we are planning to use in a workshop with MDDC in November, but can also be used by our members. We are currently updating it for use locally.

If you would like to borrow the projector or have the presentation mailed to you, please contact Gerald Conyngham at gerald@eclipse.co.uk.

4. Crediton is Definitely NOT a Clone Town!

Did you read about Crediton's fantastic High Street in a recent issue of the Courier. We came 5th in a survey of over 100 towns and cities UK wide for the unique and varied nature of our shops and businesses. Lets use our town centre, support our diversity of local shops and keep it this way!

You can read the full report at this link. Sustainable Crediton supporters were involved in surveying our High Street for the New Economic Foundation and contributed to the case study on Crediton in the report.

<http://www.neweconomics.org/publications/reimagining-the-high-street#download-buy>

5. Campaigns Of the Month

5.1. Help us to reduce litter and increase recycling

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)'s new research shows that a UK-wide deposit refund scheme for drinks containers would have clear economic, social and environmental benefits. Importantly, it would have a big impact on litter levels, as well as increasing recycling and diverting waste from landfill. The Government says it's a priority to

reduce litter, increase recycling and work towards a zero waste economy. The Secretary of State has said 'we need a new approach to waste - one which works for the new economy'. CPRE agrees and believes a deposit refund scheme is part of this new approach. The Government is currently holding a public consultation on how we deal with waste. You can show your support for the benefits of a deposit refund scheme by filling in and sending an e-card to the Secretary of State on CPRE's website <http://www.cpre.org.uk/home>

5.2. Join the Stop Climate Chaos "Big Climate Connection" on the 5th and 6th November

The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition is calling for people across the UK to connect with others in their communities on 5th-6th November and lobby their MPs. Details of this event and how to take part can be found at the following link <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-big-connection>. Sustainable Crediton are actually lobbying Mel Stride on the 9th October, but we are hoping that another constituency meeting with Mel will take place via this event in November to reinforce the message that strong Government action on climate change is needed at the UN climate change talks in Cancun and a strong Energy Bill is required for the UK.

5.3 Email your MP about Honeybees

The Soil Association are very worried about the decline in our honeybee population over the past two years. They have urged the Government to make the whole of the British countryside much more bee friendly. They want the Government to ban neonicotinoids to help ensure the health and future of our honeybees. If you would like to take further action to assist this campaign, then please email Mel Stride, asking him to raise his concerns with Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. You can do so by following the instructions on the Soil Association's website <http://www.soilassociation.org/Whyorganic/Welfareandwildlife/Wildlife/Bees/WritetoyourMP/tabid/442/Default.aspx>

6. Would you like:

6.1 some hard facts to present to the global warming sceptics?

At this Met Office Site you can download a very readable report that you can use to counter the sceptics arguments.

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2010/pr20100728.html>

6.2 help to go Carbon Neutral as a household?

A Sustainable Crediton supporter currently living at Beech Hill has set up a website to help you achieve carbon neutral status as a household. To visit and register which is free go to the following link

<https://www.p10earth.com/account/register/?access=cbb88d5e8ab30f423c50c189d1d45583>

7. Zero Carbon Britain - Bristol Schumacher Conference Saturday 16th October 2010

Britain has the skills, natural resources and potential to lead the world in carbon reduction.

You can join the Centre for Alternative Technology, 10:10, World Wildlife Fund and others to explore how we can achieve this in an action packed day of lectures and workshops. Cost is £35, £25 concessions. For more information and to make a booking contact tel: 0117 9031081 or www.schumacher.org.uk

Great Works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.

He that shall walk with vigour three hours a day will pass in seven years a space equal to the circumference of the globe.

Jim Rohn