



Sustainable  
Crediton

# Newsletter

## May 2010

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1 May to 31 May 2010

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)**

# Hello Everyone

## Welcome to the May newsletter. Sustainable Crediton has now launched our new website with its new branding.

Many thanks to Jeff Bellingham and Charles Mossman for all their hard work designing it and loading the content. Do take a look and give us your opinion as well as suggesting that all your friends and relatives log on too.

We think it is a very exciting new image aimed at attracting a younger and wider audience.

Below please read about some interesting events coming up in June and July which Sustainable Crediton is organising and/or involved with. We need your assistance and support with attending them and also promoting them too. Over 350 people now receive this newsletter and if each of us just mentioned what is on offer to two other people and also attended ourselves.... well do a bit of maths here and you can really see the power of numbers!!



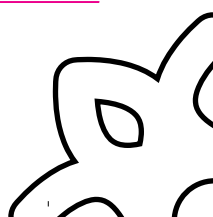
**Paula Mossman  
Editor.**

WEN "Gender and the Climate Change Agenda" launch, page 7.



Report on the General Election Hustings on 21st April, page 8.

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# Dates for Your Diary

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**Further details of all meetings including contacts are under the relevant section of the newsletter.**

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## **Mon 10th May 12 noon**

Energy Group Meeting The Lamb Sandford

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## **Fri 21st May 9.30am**

Food & Farming Planning Meeting at Linda's in Sandford

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## **Wed 2nd June 7.30pm**

Core Group Meeting at Paula & Charles' house  
Cheriton Fitzpaine

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## **Thurs 10th June 8pm**

Food & Farming planning meeting for Food Festival stall  
Carol's in Bow

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## **Sat/Sun/Mon 12th to 14th June**

Transition Network Conference Seale Hayne, Totnes, Devon  
(more details below)

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## **Mon 14th June 7.30pm**

Energy Group Meeting Linda Lever's house

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## **Sat/Sun June 19/20**

Crediton Food Festival with Food & Farming Group Grow  
Your Own Stall (more details below)

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## **Sat/Sun June 26/27**

Sustainable Living Weekend organised by the Energy Group  
and Food and Farming Group (more details below)

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## **Sat 3rd July**

Seasonal Supper organised by the Food & Farming Group  
(further details in June)

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## **Fri 9th to Sun 11th July**

Sustainable Crediton Stand at Quest Festival Newton Abbott  
(more details below)

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# 1. Upcoming Events in June and July

## 1.1 Transition Network Conference 12th to 14th June

Would you like to attend this years' Transition Network Conference? For the first time it is being held here in Devon, at Seale Hayne near Totnes, from 12th to 14th June.

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Details about the conference can be found here <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/conference-2010-uk>.

Although the cost of the event is £130 incl all meals (£115 early bird if booked by 16th May), the Core Group will contribute a small subsidy towards the cost of any attendee. There are concessional tickets also available which are reserved for people who are unwaged.

Please contact Gerald on 01363 773000 or [geraldconyngham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:geraldconyngham@yahoo.co.uk) for further details or if you'd like to take up the subsidy offer.

## 1.2 Crediton Food Festival 19th/20th June

Hope you all have the weekend of 19/20 June in your diaries. The Food Festival in Crediton Town Square, with the Big Picnic on Sunday, should be even better than last year. Look on [www.creditonfoodfestival.org.uk](http://www.creditonfoodfestival.org.uk) for more information. The Food and Farming Group will be having a 'Grow Your Own Stand' on the Saturday.

Volunteers are needed to help with putting up market stalls, stewarding the event and helping on the Grow Your Own stall - contact Linda [lindaandcolin@phonecoop.coop](mailto:lindaandcolin@phonecoop.coop) or ring 777624 with any offers.

## 1.3 Sustainable Living Weekend 26/27 June

Last year there were over 350 visits made to the homes on show at the Energy Open weekend organised by Sustainable Crediton (formerly Crediton Climate Action).

This year the concept has been broadened out to a Sustainable Living Weekend on the 26th and 27th June. The weekend will include energy generation and conservation and also kitchen gardens. Plans are now beginning to firm up and we have eleven homes so far participating in and around Crediton.

On show at various times over the weekend will be various wood or pellet burning stoves, boilers and ranges, at least three solar hot water systems, four photovoltaic electricity generating systems, three wind turbines, one air source heat pump, and two solid wall insulated houses. Nine of the homes will be opening their gardens and on show will be small holdings, organic gardens, a composting loo and a reed bed sewerage system.

We are in the process of drafting a leaflet which will describe what will be on show and how to find the homes that are participating. The leaflet will be available online on our website and in one or two places in Crediton. Final details will be in the June newsletter. Do put the weekend in your diary and come along and encourage your friends and neighbours to join in too.

## 1.4 Quest Festival 9th to 11th July

Sustainable Crediton is having a stall at the Quest Festival at Newton Abbott Racecourse on the 9th to 11th July along with 4 other Transition communities. We will be located in the Transition Town's marquee and have 2 free day tickets per day to share with supporters willing to help out on the stall over the three day period. There will be plenty of time to explore the festival.

If you'd like a free ticket you'd also be expected to help design our stall, a six foot table and display boards, prior to the event, which should not be too difficult.

Please contact either Charles Mossman on 01363 866106 or [info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk) if you'd like to help out. Details of the festival can be found here:

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<http://www.questuk.co.uk/index.php>

and the programme can be downloaded from here:

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<http://www.questuk.co.uk/2010programme.pdf>

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Why not visit our new website

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# 2. News from the Sustainable Crediton Action Groups

## 2.1 Energy Group News

### A Current Case Study : Part 3: Installation at the home of Charles & Paula Mossman

Our installation was planned for the 6th April. It did not go altogether smoothly. A few days before, Solarsense contacted us to arrange for the scaffolding to be erected. The scaffolding company they used (Castle Scaffolding) were not very domestic customer focussed. When they arrived, they started to treat our lovely flower and shrub border as a building site and were quite rude when asked to walk round a path instead of through the flower bed. Additionally the scaffolders also managed to break several tiles on the roof as they put the scaffold up. After complaining to Solarsense, Solarsense now say they won't be using Castle Scaffolding again, and as a gesture they have sent us some garden gift vouchers and will repair the damaged roof.

The second blip was just before Solarsense were due to install, when they advised us that they were short 5 panels (out of 22). They said their panel supplier, Romag, was very busy and had let them down. They wanted to delay until all 22 were in stock or alternatively put up 22 other panels of Taiwanese origin (Solarcentury make). However we had specifically ordered UK produced panels with a black frame to match our slate tiled roof and reduce the carbon footprint of our installation. Solarsense came on the contracted date and put up 17 panels and all the electrics within 8 hours using 2 electricians and 2 pv installers. It was very efficient and there were no problems. The other 5 panels were due to be installed two weeks later. As our system is two parallel strings of 11 panels, if they are not balanced electrically apparently the output is reduced, so it was only possible to have one string of 11 switched on. The 11 panels worked brilliantly during the lovely sunny weather and then on the 20th April the fitters came to attach the remaining 5 panels to the roof and they switched on all 22 panels.

The electrical equipment installed comprises an inverter, a total generation meter and an export meter. The inverter is in the roof space, the total generation meter is neatly placed in the house beside our fuse system and the export meter is outside in our electricity meter cupboard. With all 22 panels working we have been producing around 25 units a day during this current spell of sunny weather.

We are not yet signed up to receive the feed-in tariff as we have some paperwork to complete and send to our electricity supplier Ecotricity. We are unsure about how the combination of export meter, total generation meter and mains meter are working as our analogue electricity import meter which is over 20 years old is running backwards as we produce! Ecotricity have told us that they will get a digital import meter fitted in due course which will correct the situation.



Installation at the home of Charles & Paula Mossman

Part 4 will continue the story with an update on metering, getting signed up for the feed-in tariff and the performance of the panels during the spring and summer.

### Officials Wake up to the Reality of Peak Oil

Below is a link to a very illuminating article about how Governments and the oil companies are finally waking up to the reality of Peak Oil but are still running scared of telling the general public the truth. It is definitely worth reading!

<http://www.energyandcapital.com/articles/governments-peak-oil-part-2/1122>

Why not visit our new website

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## 2.2 Tree Group News

We continue to be in touch with MDDC about tree planting in public places, and have spoken to the new tree officer there.

We hope to meet her in a month or two, after she has caught up with the backlog which was awaiting her on her arrival. The small plantation at Southfields has now been tidied up in accordance with our request. The three small wild cherry saplings which we planted on the wide verge at the bottom of QE Drive have survived the winter and are thriving, and AT L:AST after well over a decade of effort, we have succeeded in getting an ornamental cherry tree planted on the corner of Barnfield and Cherry Gardens to replace the dead one. We have also had a new oak tree planted in Newcombes Meadow and Sandra Chalton initiated the planting of a Devon Sorb apple there.

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If anyone has ideas about where they would like to see trees planted in public areas they could contact us (01363 773518), or contact the new tree officer Kathy Lynch at MDDC on 01884 255255.

## 2.3 Food and Farming Group News

### Crediton Local Produce Guide

We now have a grant from Awards for All so we can get on with work on our Local Produce website.

It's an exciting project which will include all sorts of things - producers of all types, where to buy local produce, food prepared locally, restaurants and pubs using local produce, seasonal recipes, grow your own information and anything else we can think of!

We have made a good start on listing people who want to feature on the website. If you know of anyone who might be interested in being included, especially smallholders we might have missed, then mail Linda: lindaandcolin@phonecoop.coop or ring 777624

### Garden Share Scheme

We need gardeners! If you live somewhere without a garden, or don't have enough garden to grow vegetables, why not try our Garden Share. We have several gardens waiting for someone to turn them into a productive space. People are matched up carefully and insurance is arranged. Interested? Contact Anne: catucker@btinternet.com

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For news of our other projects come to our next planning meeting on 21st May. Directions from Linda, as above.

## 2.4 Waste Action Group News

Last year a lot of potentially recyclable waste got sent to landfill at the Crediton Food Festival, so this year the Waste Action Group have committed to recycling as much of the waste as possible.

### Volunteers are needed to help with this please.

It takes place on the weekend of June 19th and 20th and we need volunteers to help for a couple of hours at a time. It is simple and non messy and you can choose your slot from those available on either the Saturday or Sunday.

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Please contact Paula on 01363 866106 or paula.mossman@lineone.net to find out more information or volunteer to help.

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Why not visit our new website

[www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk](http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk)





## 2.5 Crediton Women's Environmental Network

We have been pretty quiet lately but we hope to pick up very soon. Look out for our allotment open day events, themed evenings based on a Climate Club for learning about One Planet Living and child friendly daytime meetings.

Did you know that 26 April – 2 May was Real Nappy Week?

A new website has been launched called [www.goreal.org.uk](http://www.goreal.org.uk)

Here parents can share experiences, ask advice, and make friends from all over the world. It is very interactive. The world's largest 'nappuccino' was held at the Eden Project



# GO REAL

**Real Nappy Week 2010  
online events**



(see the video clips) and there are special offers, news, and competitions. Please have a look.



Gender and the Climate Change Agenda launch

**On 2 March an in-depth report, 'Gender and the Climate Change Agenda'** was launched by WEN at the House of Commons. It examines the impacts of climate change on women in the UK and internationally and why it is crucial to involve women in climate change solutions. Download a copy from:

[www.wen.org.uk/resources](http://www.wen.org.uk/resources).

**Its key messages were that:**

- Globally, women are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to different and unequal social roles and status.
- Women contribute less to climate change, are impacted more by it, and have less say in decisions about the problem.
- WEN is campaigning for gender and climate justice.
- We believe that women need to be involved equally at all levels in order to achieve climate justice.

As ever, please contact me if you want to know more or get involved.

Kate Povey, [kate@littleemlett.co.uk](mailto:kate@littleemlett.co.uk), 01363 860208



**Women's  
Environmental  
Network**

Why not visit our new website  
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### 3. General Election Hustings 21st April

QE Sixth form hosted the Crediton general election hustings on the 21st April at the Upper School main hall with support from Sustainable Crediton.

There were only 4 or 5 spare chairs in the room as the proceedings commenced. Candidates from the Conservative, Labour, Lib Dems and UKIP parties were present to receive questions from the general public. The format was to allow the candidates 5 minutes to announce their local and national policies, then to field three "big" questions on local and national issues, next to take questions from the floor and finally to sum up in one minute. It was good to see many Sustainable Crediton supporters in the audience.

The "big" questions had been received in advance via a box at the Crediton Courier or by email/post to the QE organisers. Around 15 to 20 questions had been received and several of these were consolidated into three topics: education, the economy and the environment. The candidates were aware of the general topic but not the specifics of each question. The education topic included the need for a one site QE and student university fees. The economy question focussed on the large deficit and the banks, whilst the environment question quizzed the candidates policies on climate change and how encouraging the local economy could help the environment. Later there was time for four questions from the floor.

The candidates appeared to be quite well prepared, were good natured to one another and generally fielded the questions to the best of their abilities. This was the first hustings I had ever attended and found it very interesting and informative. I was most interested in their answers to the environmental question and was pleased to hear that all the parties, apart from UKIP, were basically in agreement with their policies to combat climate change and bring about a low carbon future for the UK.



Crediton General Election Hustings, 2010



Crediton General Election Hustings, 2010

UKIP appear to be sceptical about climate change and would act on the precautionary principle. Having said that, their candidate then went onto to say that we should start burning the 400 years worth of coal still available underground!

Why not visit our new website

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## 4. Three Bed House wanted to Rent in Crediton

We are looking for a 3 bed family home to rent in Crediton. Long let and garden needed. 2 working adults , 2 children and small well behaved dog.

Non smokers and good gardeners. Excellent refs and deposit no problem.

Please Contact: Gill Amos 07855117702 or Email [gillamoz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillamoz@hotmail.co.uk)

## 5. Website Updates

The new Sustainable Crediton website is now live at [www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk](http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk) . Some of the pages are still not complete so we are still maintaining the old [www.creditonclimateaction.org.uk](http://www.creditonclimateaction.org.uk) as well.

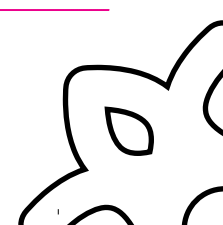
Please take a look at the new website as it develops and let me know what you think at [info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk)

Charles Mossman, Webmaster



Sustainable Crediton's new website.

Why not visit our new website  
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## 6. Campaign of the Month

This month's campaign is being run by the Fair Pensions organisation whose mission is to promote responsible investment in the pensions and investment industry.

Fair Pensions are running a campaign this spring on climate change and investments in the Canadian Tar Sands. Major investors get to vote on tar sands developments at the shareholder meeting of Shell on the 18th May, and will be making up their mind about how to vote anytime now. You can make your voice heard by expressing your concerns to your pension provider or to one of Shell's biggest shareholders.

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Go to this link to take action now <http://www.fairpensions.org.uk/climatechange>

## 7. From the BBC Website

### 7.1 Scheme to save ancient orchards

Dozens of orchards have been created and cultivated in a bid to protect traditional fruit trees and wildlife habitat.

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<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/uk/8641412.stm>

### 7.2 Will we switch to gas made from human waste?

As the UK faces the prospect of North Sea gas running out, could supply problems be eased by using gas made from human waste?

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<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/magazine/8501236.stm>

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For More Information,  
please contact us in the  
following ways

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### Telephone

Paula Mossman: 01363 866106

Linda Lever: 01363 777624

Gerald Conyngham: 01363 773000

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### Email

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