

News Update June 2011

Forthcoming events

Sat 9th July - Low Carbon Homes Trail and Renewable Technology Exhibition

Sat 1st October - 40's Dance Evening

Friday 7th October Photo competition prize giving and our AGM

Tue 8th November. The Nuclear Debate, joint meeting with "Engaging Issues"

Special points of interest:

Battlefield Energy Challenge

40's dance - new date

News from Shropshire County

News in brief

The Giving Machine

Editorial

It's been a busy time for your committee since the last newsletter. With some grant funding from Shropshire Council we have set up **The Battlefield Energy Challenge**. Over the next two years the three roads on this estate have been challenged to see which of them can make the greatest carbon reductions. Already 37% of the estate have had a Home Energy Survey which is an excellent start. We have seen several homes improving insulation, others are exploring the possibility of solar hot water or photo voltaic panels and a video camera is available for residents to film their energy saving activities. We have negotiated some special deals for them and the three roads also have their own section on our website. We have commissioned a special survey from **Red Box Research** to gain a greater understanding of residents attitudes to Energy Saving and the results will shortly be available for all to see.

SATURDAY 9TH JULY

Low Carbon Homes Day.

An exhibition at the Parish Centre of

Low Carbon Technologies

Renewable Energy

and the start of our third annual

Low Carbon Homes Trail. A chance to see how others have made their homes lower carbon. Entry leaflets (£2.50) with map of the homes will be available from the Parish Centre from. 9.30am. Lunches also available.

Greenearth Energy, Llani Solar and Salop Energy will be there to advise on renewable technologies. There will be information on water saving from Severn Trent and insulation advice from L & C Insulation and Shropshire Insulation.

Our own home energy volunteers will also be on hand to offer advice and take bookings for a free home energy survey.

Our

40's Style Dance at

Silvester Horne Institute

has been postponed until

SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER

7.30pm

Dancing to the Little Big Band



Some of the team on duty at this years Summerfest

HOT OFF THE PRESS from Shropshire Council

Cabinet members have approved a £5.2million investment in:

- Up to 400 solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on Council owned buildings, each producing around 3600 – 3800 KW of electricity per year, generating a total income in excess of £700,000 a year by 2018.
- The principle of investing in wind turbines on Council sites, which could generate income of £40,000 a year by 2018.
- Further Investigations for the feasibility of a potential hydro project on Shrewsbury Weir, which could produce power for 8-9 months a year, generating an income of £229,000 by 2018.

This investment is possible due to the revenue that will be generated from the Feed-In-Tariffs now available for renewable energy generation.

This will compliment Shropshire's work to achieve its Carbon Management target of 35% by 2014. It will also help meet the National Target of providing 15% of the total energy demand from renewable sources by 2020.

The Sustainability Team at Shropshire Council have recently published "A Climate Change Guide for Communities." A copy can be downloaded from the Sustainability Team's pages on the County Website.
<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/sustainability.nsf>

This is a quote from the pages of their website "We are now working to encourage the many community groups in Shropshire who are working on climate change and creating low carbon communities to try and achieve the common goal of **responding to climate change, and enhancing our natural and built environment.**"

It is VERY encouraging to see the County becoming more active in community carbon reduction and they are very supportive of the work we do. It is with their financial help that we have been able to develop the Battlefield Energy Challenge.

Do you ever order from the major online stores such as Amazon, Argos, Tesco's, M & S, and Ebay. If so please consider registering with "**The Giving Machine**". Purchases you make via "The Giving Machine" trigger retailer donations to your good causes. It costs you nothing! You shop, they give. It really is as simple as that. It's a free service and is helping us. A Google search will find them and you can nominate up to three charities. To date we have 9 supporters and they have raised £33.11 for our funds. **Thank you.**

Co-op Energy are about to become providers of both gas and electricity. Customers will receive Co-op membership points just as with purchases at the local store. Just one price / tariff, simplified bills and by next year they aim for the carbon content of their electricity to be less than half the national average. Particularly for low consumption dual fuel users their prices look very competitive. £50.00 cash back if you sign up before end of June. No green tariff or P.V. users.
See www.cooperativeenergy.coop/store for more information.

News in brief.

You might not think it after the past few days but parts of the U.K. have had the **driest and warmest Spring for more than a century** and locally a number of vital bore holes are running dry. A great worry for those who rely on them for their water supply. Do everything you can to save water.

The Government's **Green Deal** has been announced. A scheme where from next year you can borrow up to £10,000 for energy saving work on your home, to be repaid from the savings you will make. The loan will be attached to your home rather than to a person.

On 17th May Chris Huhne, Minister of State for the Environment set out proposals for the Fourth Carbon Budget which will see Britain's emissions reduce 50% from 1990 levels by 2025, keeping us on course to reach our 80% target by 2050. These are the toughest reduction targets anywhere in the world.

Last year, a record 30.6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide poured into the atmosphere, mainly from burning fossil fuel – a rise of 1.6Gt on 2009, according to estimates from the IEA regarded as the gold standard for emissions data. Most of the rise – about three-quarters – has come from developing countries, as rapidly emerging economies have weathered the financial crisis and the recession that has gripped most of the developed world.

At the recent Summerfest we took on seven more requests for a home energy survey and talked to dozens of folk about energy saving.

Starting next month we shall be working particularly in Little Stretton to encourage more residents to have a home energy survey. Every home will be leafleted and then followed up by a call from one of our volunteers. We have done well over 300 free surveys now and on average have helped clients reduce their carbon emission by some 13%. This also means they are saving money. **Have we surveyed you? Have you encouraged your neighbour to have a visit from one of our friendly volunteers?**

In conjunction with The Long Mynd Camera Club we are running a photo competition. The theme is "**How is Shropshire responding to Climate Change**" There are adult and children's classes and the prize money is coming from the Geoff Hamby Memorial Fund + a prize put up by The National Trust. Geoff was our first vice chair and a keen photographer. Our website has full details and entries must be in by 30th September. If you require a paper copy give us a call on 01694 723205 and we will get one to you. The competition is open to anyone living in Shropshire.

Church Stretton Secondary School are working towards Eco Schools Status and we are represented on their Eco school action team. We hear they have obtained a grant to install some photo voltaic panels.