

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2006 from Dorset Agenda 21. We are here to work with and promote to the Dorset community all areas of sustainable living.

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR...



Huge thanks to Tara for this wonderful cartoon

END OF YEAR THOUGHTS FROM THE HOT SEAT ...

... I can't say from the chair, because DA21 seems to have managed to get through most of this year without a chairman, or rather with a rotating chairmanship among the trustees. The seats in the office have however remained pretty warm, with John as Project Officer and me as Managing Trustee being supplemented, with a spot of hot-desking, by several volunteers to whom we're very grateful – especially Paul McIntosh, Mike Jones, Richard Toft, Rosemary Agg, Colin Dewsnap, Rosemary Lovegrove and Sheila Dawsey.

This has been a dramatic year for DA21, starting with our Community Choices conference for over 100 people and ending with a new office giving us at last the space to grow. More importantly it's been a huge year for sustainability – the year when, with help from the Attenborough programmes, the Al Gore film and the Stern report, climate change finally became mainstream in the UK.

DA21 has played its part at local level. John and our sterling team of volunteers have taken our eye-catching displays and renewable energy demonstrations around a dozen summer shows and held a 'Save Energy, Save Waste' event at Littlemoor, bringing sustainable living to the attention of 2000+ people. Similarly at the 'Healthy Futures' days for schools, held in Weymouth, Blandford and Sherborne, we spoke with 1200 school pupils.

We've fielded representatives at meetings of many of the community planning partnerships around the county, and written a chunky report on our research into closer working among local sustainability organisations. We've submitted comments on a number of planning issues, most notably the Weymouth Relief Road, and lobbied our MPs and the Dorset Strategic Partnership for stronger action on climate change.

As well as working at the policy level, we're helping local groups to develop renewable energy initiatives, running regular information meetings about renewable energy, and distributing fact sheets and advice. This year we took part in a national research project on improving performance in the voluntary sector. This has helped us to focus better, and to look at what difference we make – not just how active we are.

It feels as if we have achieved a lot this year, in fact a remarkable amount with just one member of staff. We look forward to working with many of our readers in the coming year, growing a little more, and seeing real progress towards a sustainable Dorset. In fact wouldn't a Zero Carbon, Zero Waste Dorset be something to aim for?! Happy Christmas everyone and good luck for 2007.

Sally Cooke - Managing Trustee

GETTING TOGETHER

SEE THE AL GORE FILM !

Monday 18th Dec - Christchurch

The Christchurch Environment & Energy Advice Centre - A Group of the Christchurch Community - present "The Inconvenient Truth" film by Al Gore (nearly the President of the United States of America) at 7.30pm on the 18th at the Regent Centre, Christchurch. The tickets are £4.50 and concessions £4 (pre-bookable via the Regent Centre on 01202 499148 or www.regentcentre.co.uk)

A GLOBAL WARNING - A FILM YOU MUST SEE. For the sake of your children and grandchildren

NEW YEAR SOCIAL

Saturday 13th Jan - Dorchester

On Saturday 13th January from 12.30 we will be hosting a lunch at our new offices, at the Dorset Youth Association HQ, Lubbecke Way, Dorchester DT1 1QL. We are especially keen to see and thank all of you who have volunteered your help over the last year. RSVP by 5 January so that we can plan the catering. In the afternoon you are very welcome to stay on for an hour or so to hear about our current work, see our slide shows and check out our displays and library ... and, if you wish, to hear how you can get involved in 2007. We very much look forward to seeing you!

(Some people have suggested that after this we try to run more social-cum-networking events, such as pub evenings, coffee mornings etc - please contact Perwina Whitmore on revision21@btinternet.com, if this would appeal to you.)

DA21 AGM

Saturday 3rd Feb - Dorchester

Our AGM will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday 3rd February at our new office, Dorset Youth Association HQ, Lubbecke Way, Dorchester DT1 1QL. We will be taking the opportunity to spotlight some of the work that sustainability groups have been doing around the county, so please put the date in your diary and come along. Also remember that only paid-up members will be able to vote - so if you receive a reminder with this newsletter asking for your subs, please send them back to us as soon as possible so that you keep your vote. And if you've recently paid, thank you!

HOMES FOR GOOD FAIR

Friday 9th - Saturday 10th Feb - Weston-Super-Mare

The annual Homes for Good Fair goes from strength to strength. There are usually a series of excellent expert seminars on topics from eco-paints to wind turbines and all points between, as well as demonstrations and exhibits by manufacturers and suppliers, whom you can quiz about their products and techniques.

We are keen to encourage people to go along, and we can also broker lift sharing - please contact the office to be put in touch with others going from your area.

BARN DANCE

Saturday 3rd Mar - Bridport

Another set-the-floor-on-fire DA21 fund-raising Barn Dance Saturday 3rd March 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, South Street, Bridport. The band is Raggie Annie plus caller Chris Edmunds. There is a licensed bar and tickets are £5 in advance from the office or £6 on the door. Children half price, under 4s free.

Please pop these dates in your diaries and don't forget that most of them need booking with the office. Contact john@dorsetagenda21.org.uk, or 01305 213721, if other contact details have been listed please contact direct.

PAST DA21 VISITS REVISTED

On Sunday 1st Oct we visited **ABBEYFORD FARM** at Buckhorn Western, Near Gillingham where Jill and Steven Gosney has installed a 6kW wind turbine. Jill and Steve hosted a visit from 25 members on a very wet and windy day. Their wind turbine

came about after they had an estimate from their electricity supply company to connect their new house and farm to the grid, for £ 20,000. They found Proven would charge £ 25,000 to install a 6kW wind turbine, with a battery bank, controlling and monitoring equipment. Allowing for the Low Carbon Buildings Fund grant of £ 5000, this enabled them to install the Proven System to provide mains electricity for the same cost as grid linking, but using free energy from the wind.

The system was installed about a year ago and had provided about what Proven had estimated - roughly 8000 kWh (units) of electricity per year. This is nearly twice what the average household uses in a year. We found the big turbine - about 5m-rotor diameter - spinning fast in the strong breeze on an open site, with a few trees nearby. It was not very noisy, not much more than the sound of the wind rushing through the trees and at their house, about 100m away, could hardly be heard at all.

The battery bank, controller and monitoring equipment were housed in a farm building, near the house for ease of connection.

All of us found it a fascinating and inspiring site visit to see a farming family who had taken a big step towards more sustainable living. They generated about 95 % of their own electricity and only needed a small diesel generator for any long spells of windless days, when there might be a danger of the batteries becoming fully discharged.

After a pub lunch we visited the **THRESHOLD CO-HOUSING CENTRE** in Gillingham. This is a centre of about six members who have each purchased a fairly small dwelling/flat on site and share the communal facilities in the large old farm house - cooking, washing machines, office, dining facilities and meditation room for consensus decision making. They aim to live as sustainably as possible, through sharing these key facilities and reducing their individual resource use in their own small living spaces.

Three of the residents gave an outline of their progress so far and their plans for the future. They were trying to get planning permission for conversion of some of the buildings on the site and had plans to install some sources of renewable energy - a wood fuel boiler for communal heating and solar PV to provide some of their electricity.



After this introduction, we had a guided tour of the site and buildings, which helped us relate the development plans we had seen to the actual buildings on the ground. They clearly have a lot of work to do to bring about these changes, but have a clear



vision of where they want to go and the enthusiasm to bring it about.

We finished with tea and cakes and a final discussion in the comfort of their lovely old farmhouse. Our thanks to Alan

Heeks and the other residents for their hospitality and for hosting such an interesting site visit and to Jill and Steven for being such welcoming and inspiring hosts earlier in the day.

At the beginning of November we visited the **NATIONAL SAILING ACADEMY** on Portland to see, in particular, their 33kW Solar PV roof and their two Swift Residential wind Turbines, mounted on the roof. About 30 members came for a

lunch in the Spinnaker Restaurant, with fine views over Weymouth harbour and the bay.

We had an illustrated presentation from John Tweed, Development Director, about the recent development and future plans for the sailing academy. About half of the building was an old naval hanger, which they had reused and linked to the new part of the building. With the Olympics in 2012, they had big plans to increase the sailing facilities on site, mainly involving more slipways into the harbour; they are planning to do this in ways sensitive to the unique ecology of the harbour. Which is the habitat of a very rare saltwater worm and must be protected in any building work.

During this presentation, John Tweed gave details of their renewable energy installations:

- 1 The 33kW Solar Photovoltaic roof, which had about 300 of 110W Sharp monocrystalline solar PV panels grid linked to the local grid and providing some of their electricity, at 240 V.
- 2 The two Swift grid linked wind turbines, each separately rated at 1.5 kW and providing electricity at 240 V. These were mounted on the roof and on a previous visit, I had seen them whizzing round in a strong breeze, even though the site looked quite turbulent. Unfortunately, when we visited they had been parked, due to an electrical fault, so we could not assess any noise levels.

After the presentation, we went on a guided tour and although the angle of the roof was quite shallow we could just see the large array of solar PV panels, and the meters for monitoring the output were sited prominently in the entrance hall. The current electricity being generated, in kilo watts (kW) and the cumulative total production in kilowatt hours (kWh) were shown. However the meters did not separate out the wind and solar PV output, but just gave the totals so we were unable to make simple comparisons. It was an interesting visit and extend our thanks to John and team.

DA21 OUTREACH WORK REPORT

By Rosemary Agg

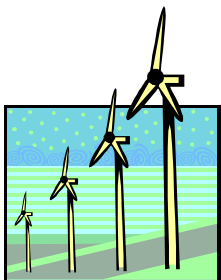
This has been a very good summer for the various shows around the county starting with the Gillingham Festival and ending with the Stapehill Abbey Food and Lifestyle Festival. The warm, sunny weather contributed to the success with many people visiting the events. It was my first time of coordinating a project for D.A.21 and although challenging at times also good fun and it was a great way to get to know the organisation and the people involved. One of the challenges was to find out how the newly acquired gazebo could be erected in a near gale! Providing details, map, badge, tickets, etc. for the shows and the helpers passed without too many hiccups. The Gillingham and Shaftsbury Show was as extensive and diverse as ever and huge amount of energy and interest was generated by John Tomblin's wind turbine and solar panel. A big thank you to Vanessa Cockerill for her stalwart and knowledgeable help on the day.

The Stock Gaylard Oak Fair, with rural crafts and activities, artisans and stand set in the beautiful Deer Park was a treat. The relentless sun and windy conditions were a challenge but the wind turbine and solar panel thrived if a little battered. So many visitors were

interested in sustainability that Brenda Tomblin had a hard time following up their requests. Thank you to everyone on the day that helped man the stand.

Pamela Shrubbs, Bill North, Jane Altounyan and Richard Agg visited the Stapehill Abbey Food Festival and Lifestyle Festival in September. The wonderful gardens provided a serene setting for the event. Unfortunately, the numbers of visitors was low.

All this wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous work that John Tomblin put in, with help from Brenda, to produce the display material and setting up at the venues to make the summer season an outstanding success. John has now completed the handouts on Bio Fuels, Residential Wind Power, Solar PV and Solar Water Heating. 100s of these packs went out to the visitors to the stands at their request. If you would like a copy of any of these please e-mail or phone the office for one.



If you would like to help at any of the 2007 events or are interested in visiting please contact John at the office. john@dorsetagenda21.org.uk, or 01305 213721

WELL WORTH A MENTION

CLIMATE CHANGE RALLY by Rosemary Lovegrove. As a member of DA21 and together with West Dorset Friends of the Earth we joined more than 25,000 other people on the 4th November for a climate change rally in London. Organisations as diverse as the Tear Fund, Green Peace and the RSPB where at a day of events in London calling for urgent action on climate change.

The day began with a rally outside the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square, followed by a march to Trafalgar Square, where speakers from celebrities to Bishops called for Tony Blair take real political action in response to the millions of people worldwide already cutting their personal carbon counts.

This rally was part of the international global climate campaign that saw synchronised demonstrations in more than 40 countries demanding world leaders take urgent action at the United Nations talks on climate change, which begin in Nairobi on 6 November.



If you would like further information please contact Rosemary Lovegrove on 01935 891415

Please read the following and be inspired

POWER CUT by Michael & Robin Collins. In June 2004 there was a rare event. I was actually at home when the electricity meter reader came to call. So instead of the usual estimated bill that quarter, I had true figures as a base line. It must have been a wet week because, rather than getting out in the garden, I started to rummage through old files looking for past electricity bills to check our annual consumption in kilowatt hours (units).

I found that in the year to June 2004 the figure was 4298 units; this for a 4 bedroom detached house with oil fired central heating and electric shower and oven with only myself and wife in residence. The previous year the total was 5519 units and in the year to June 1999, when the children were at home during

university vacations, it was 6226 units. I wondered what had caused the drop to 4298 from 5519. Holidays away were roughly the same but we had, in November 2003, traded in our ancient fridge and chest freezer for new A+ rated Bosch and Miele models. Obviously this had achieved success and I became fired with enthusiasm to see if further cuts could be made.

From that day I have kept a regular log of the meter reading in the diary by the phone and monitored our energy conservation efforts. We started with simply trying to turn off unnecessary lights and making sure all DVD, Video, HiFi and Computer equipment was off standby and in Power save mode. The Kettle would only be filled with just the amount of water required and we started replacing failing light bulbs with low energy equivalents. A major drop resulted from only using the Power shower on alternate days (Little boys have known for centuries that too much washing was bad for you) and so far the public have not complained! Other in year changes included topping up our roof insulation to 350mm with sheep's wool and installing partial internal double-glazing both of which may have reduced the power needed to run the central heating pump. In June 2005 the moment of truth arrived and Eureka the years total had reduced to 3234 units.

In the year to June 2006 we completed the low energy light bulb installation and replaced our old broken washing machine with a new A+ Miele and this has amazingly brought this years figure to 2937 units.

The message is that by evolution rather than revolution, small actions can make a big difference to electricity consumption and thus to fossil fuel use and CO2 emissions. Our next step will have to be the roof top wind turbine and replacing the 23-year-old boiler. Or we could just cut the Showers to once a month and buy some joss sticks!

A SANE FUTURE by Michael Gill Like many others I should like to see a planet for my grandchildren where all life forms are respected, where they live together in co-operation and peace, and where wealth is distributed more evenly among all the different human cultures. I have just finished reading two books that are optimistic for this outcome from the present world troubles. They are 'The Chaos Point' by Ervin Laszlo and 'The Great Turning' by David Korton. They both say the future of the world will be decided by the choice of Humans, not by destiny. I would like to form a group of people interested in influencing the planets future; economically, ecologically and culturally. **Starting with these two books and widening our learning we could perhaps think of ways to set the earth on a path towards the kind of world we would like to be. If anyone is interested please phone 01935 816195 and come and see me to discuss ideas.**

SPONSOR A TREE FOR CHREG The Corscombe & Halstock Renewable Energy Group needs funds to pay for speakers, hall hire, and reserves to keep it going. What better way than to get sponsorship for planting trees which will be turned into carbon neutral heating fuel, and in the course of time be burnt as a substitute for carbon expensive fossil fuel? And what an ideal Christmas present! For each contribution received a willow slip will be planted in Corscombe or Halstock, which will be maintained until big enough to survive on its own. You will receive a receipt and a photograph of the new plantation when completed. Apart from the cost of this, all proceeds will be put to informing and assisting local people in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

For more information please contact CHREG, Comforts Orchard, Corscombe, Dorchester DT2 0NX 01935 891415

CCSL PROJECT NEWS

One new CCSL action group may be starting which is great news, in Chideock. This is a fledgling idea and need new members and support. Anyone interested in being involved please contact John in the office. Brief details of the more recent meetings, actions planned and dates and venues for the next meetings are listed below:

Dorchester group lays dormant awaiting plans for possible re-launch. If anyone is interested in being involved please contact the office.

Sherborne group has joined hands with SWEP (Sherborne Wind Energy Project). More information about SWEP later in this newsletter.

Wareham group is becoming self-sufficient with Beryl Ezzard in the Chair and Lida Mutton as secretary. The group is enthusiastically developing "Ban the (plastic) Bag" campaign Wareham CCSL has renamed itself Purbeck Environmental Action Team (PEAT) to reflect members from Wareham and Swanage. The next meeting will be on the 7th Feb, at 7 pm at The Duke Of Wellington pub in Wareham, all welcome. Please contact Lida on 01929 557273 for details.

Weymouth group held a Save Energy Save Waste Event in the Littlemoor church on the 11th Nov. The day was busy in the morning, but quiet in the afternoon, with 8 stalls. An estimated 400 people visited over the day and quite detailed discussion with many – Kate Bagshaw on the WRAP stall called this "quality time". Time to give people plenty of info and advice, unlike some very busy summer shows, where people were queuing up to talk! The next meeting in January planned to feature DA 21 slide show and bring in more Weymouth & Littlemoor contacts – venue probably in a Weymouth Church/Church Hall. Please contact the office for final information.

Sherborne Wind Energy Project (SWEP) group meet regularly and John Tomblin attends from DA21 to offer support. The group went public at Sherborne Area Action Plan launch, on the 1st Nov, when group members shared and helped run DA 21 stand and had their own publicity material on display. They have good support from Keith Wheaton-Green. Plans are for a 2 MW (BIG!) Wind Turbine on a hill just outside Sherborne, to produce around 25% of Sherborne's electricity, community owned, with a % of the profits going to local projects. They have a prospective site, with a keen landowner, where they will need planning permission and will want to monitor wind speeds. Next group meeting is Wednesday 24th Jan, please contact Mike Keatinge at michaelkeatinge@supanet.com or phone the office. This is an exciting project and please get involved if you can.

As well as the fledgling idea in Chideock it would be great to establish other action groups by March next year. It would be wonderful to have groups in Bournemouth, Bridport and Wimborne. Does anyone want to help establish an action group in their own town or village? If so, please get in touch with John in the office to share ideas as to how to start a group. john@dorsetagenda21.org.uk, or phone 01305 213721

IN HOUSE NEWS

CAN CLIMATE CHANGE Climate Change is the biggest issue of our time, one that concerns our very survival as a species. The trustees feel that DA21 can provide some local leadership and inspiration here, and want to build a Dorset Climate Change Coalition. This will take a bit of organising - not too much we hope, as the aim is for all the coalition partners to contribute some effort. A small amount of seed funding (£500) has been offered by Dorset County Council but we need to match this to get things moving more quickly. If you would like to make a donation please send a cheque made out to Dorset Agenda 21, to us at P O Box 5789, Dorchester DT2 8ZR, marking your envelope "Climate Change". Thank you.

ARTICLES REQUIRED PLEASE I should introduce myself as new editor, hello. This is my second bash and I hope my skills are improving? All feedback is gratefully received, well most feedback...

...and we are looking for more real experience articles for the newsletter. Would you consider writing a small piece on the work you are doing or maybe undertake a diary over a period of time? We are interested in promoting all areas of sustainability and first hand experience gets the message across loud and clear. Next year will see the newsletter evolve and expand and it would be great to have more of you involved. Please contact the office with any ideas or email me direct; amanda@wble.co.uk,

For further information about Dorset Agenda 21 please contact Sally Cook, P O Box 5789, Dorchester DT2 8ZR. sally@dorsetagenda21.org.uk, 01305 213721.