

NEWS FROM DORSET AGENDA 21

August/September 2004

getting together

Our next event is on **Saturday 11 September**. We will visit two sites in South Somerset, accessible by road or rail ; we plan to offer lifts from /to the nearest station. You are welcome to book for the whole day (both sites) or just for the morning or afternoon.

The themes of the day include renewable energy, waste, green building, wildlife and education (and tea and cakes) – a feast in all senses! Do come if you can!!

In the morning we visit **Carymoor**, an Eco centre set in 100 acres of reclaimed land. It has power generators running off methane from an active land fill site, wind pump, reed bed filtration etc. The visitors centre is a woodframe straw bale construction. The centre has a butterfly meadow, nature trail and ponds rich in amphibians and dragon flies.

We will meet for coffee at 10.00a.m and then start our two hour guided tour led by the education officer of the trust. We will return to the visitors centre at 12.30pm for a question and answer session, a look at displays and will eat our own packed lunches there. We depart at 1.15pm to drive the four miles to Gants Mill.

Gants Mill is mentioned in the Doomsday book. The successive mills have been used for fulling wool, silk production and as a mill for animal feed. A turbine was installed in 1888 to generate electricity and in 2003 a new turbine was added. This was under a South Somerset initiative which has led to ten mills adding to the national grid. We will meet in the car park to start our guided tour of the mill at 1.45 p.m. The mill has show gardens and a walk across a field to the river and weir which feeds the mill. Tea, coffee and cake is included in our entry fee.

Both sites have car parking, toilets and shelter. Wheel chair access is good for much of the mill and garden and to some of the Carymoor site. Sorry, no dogs. The cost for the full day is £9.50 for members; £10.50 for non members. If you only want to join in one of the visits the cost will be Carymoor £4.00/£4.50; Gants Mill £5.50/£6.00. (Pay on the day.)

If you're coming by train, the 8.36 from Weymouth gets to Castle Cary at 9.38 and the return from Bruton leaves at 15.50 getting to Weymouth at 16.55. The cost is £9.50 for a cheap day return.

N.B A few volunteers coming by car are requested to shuttle those coming from south Dorset by train. Please let Bob Messer know if you can help.

To book a place on the trip **contact** Bob on 01747 821269 or bobmesser@hotmail.com by 4 September. Please indicate whether you need a lift from the station and between sites.

Further events planned are a trip to Chesil Beach Centre near Portland, and our AGM which will be in November. More news in the next bulletin.

sustainability news

Dorchester Fair Trade Forum

A Fair Trade Forum has been set up to promote Dorchester as a Fair Trade Town . There are minimum standards set by the Fairtrade Foundation, including • fair trade goods widely available • regularly used by local organisations and businesses • media interest and popular support • active support of local councils. Please contact 01305 262416 or dorchester.fairtrade@tesco.net. to offer ideas or support, or for more information. Would anyone like to be the DA21 link to this initiative? - please let Sally know (see end panel).

This ties in nicely with some work that George Woolley did for DA21 before she moved to Sussex, starting a 'sustainable shopping guide'. If anyone fancies continuing with this, please contact Sally.

Greener building

DA21 has joined with Julian Brooks, formerly of the Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development, to study current sustainable building practice in Dorset and prepare an action plan to encourage more of it. The study is funded by several local authorities, housing associations and Poole Agenda 21. It will run until late autumn, and we hope a funded project will follow to pick up the actions.

Andy Lloyd of the Bridport self-build group is bidding to the Leader+ (Chalk and Cheese) fund for a study leading towards an eco-visitor centre / affordable housing scheme in West Dorset. If you live around Bridport and might want to be part of this, or benefit from it, Andy would like to hear from you - A.Lloyd@westdorset-dc.gov.uk , tel. 01305 252 447 (day).

Dorset Community Action is creating a new element to its web site to provide information and links on rural affordable housing issues, self-build housing, sustainable construction etc. This will include a noticeboard for news and discussion. Contact Andy (above) if * You would like to be informed about the new web site? * You would like to be in contact with other people with an interest in sustainable affordable lifestyles? Email? Postal? etc * You would be interested in a networking/social event where ideas and experiences could be shared? * You are willing to help administer any of the above?

Schools wanted

Last term DA21's team of Jill Strawbridge, Mandy Marshall and Dorothy Woods ran pilot workshops on food miles in schools in West Dorset and Bournemouth, working with DEED, Dorset's Development Education Centre. There is room for up to 10 more schools to take part next term, so if you know of any which might be interested please contact Jill at jill@dorsetagenda21.org.uk or 01305 213 721 (she's usually in on Tuesdays and Wednesdays). Schools must have Year 5 and 6 pupils.

GM

We joined in the general sense of relief at the government's decision in February not to allow the commercial cultivation of GM crops yet in the UK. However, in May the EC authorised a GM variety of sweetcorn to be imported and sold, so you may want to check labels when you're shopping.

Some good news: Sainsbury's have decided to trial a new line of non-GM milk (i.e. from cows that have not had GM feed) at selected stores. Bad news: it costs 5p more. If you shop at Sainsbury's you might like to ring their customer line 0800 636 262 to ask if your nearest store is participating – and query the price ??

On the international stage, the challenge at the World Trade Organisation to the EU's *de facto* moratorium on GM comes to a head in September. More info at www.fiveyearfreeze.org.

organisation news

24/7 ...

... not a sign that DA21 is joining the non-stop urban lifestyle (though it sometimes feels like it), but shorthand for our members' workshop held at Winterborne Whitechurch on 24th July ☺. It was very well received by the 30 members who came. As well as the working time, we enjoyed a shared lunch in the sun, and a fast and furious game of Sustainability-bingo, courtesy of Jill.

Five topic groups looked at the actions proposed in our 1999 plan, the 'orange book', and considered our next steps, e.g. up to date briefing papers on sustainability topics; improving the Quality of Life indicators; planning more awareness-raising events. Four of the groups are keen to carry on, and the fifth wanted to explore options at a future event.

We were pleased to re-connect with Malcolm Macleod, one of our past chairmen, and to hear how the Dorset Strategic Partnership is approaching sustainability. Basically, not re-inventing wheels, and getting on with it, was the gist!

Topic groups

We now have groups working on agendas they developed on 24/7 for education, energy, sustainable building and waste. They welcome new members who wish to contribute. If you would like to know more please contact:

education	Bob Messer	01747 821269	bobmesser@hotmail.com
energy	Dave Bloomfield	02380 282 172	davebloomfield@msn.com
sustainable building	Tess Green / Sally Cooke	01305 213721	m.s.green@dorsetcc.gov.uk
waste	Jill Strawbridge	01305 213721	jill@dorsetagenda21.org.uk

Newsgroup

Following the item in our July news bulletin, several people expressed interest in a DA21 chatroom, and we now have one. Apparently the proper name is a newsgroup, not a chatroom (I'm told 'newsgroup' is more respectable!) Already there is a lively debate about energy policy, and you can also view the workshop notes from 24th July and some photos of our events. Many thanks to Dave Bloomfield for making it all happen, and to Philip Jordan for the idea.

DO PLEASE JOIN!! at least try it, even if you are not normally very IT-friendly. It is a really good way for a far-flung network like ours to keep in touch. Send an email to Dave (davebloomfield@msn.com) for details of how to join.

Information resources

A reminder that Jill is collecting any sustainability-related books, magazines, etc. that you may wish to give or lend to DA21. They are a big help when we have students or volunteers, and for taking to talks etc. to show members of the public. If you can help, please contact Jill (jill@dorsetagenda21.org.uk or 01305 213 721).

People

We're delighted to report that Richard Burden our vice-chair has had a successful liver transplant and is recuperating at home, after a gruelling 13-week wait in hospital in London. Jacky, his wife, wrote "There are about 7,000 people awaiting transplants but only 3,000 are conducted each year." Thank goodness Richard is one of the lucky ones. We wish him well in completing his recovery.

We also congratulate Mike and Liz Guilmant-Cush on the arrival of their son Henry John on 25 June, three weeks early. A keen green baby, then!

Help!

If you would like to help with our displays at the Dorchester Show and the Broadmayne Ceilidh on the weekend of 4/5 September, please contact Jill (jill@dorsetagenda21.org.uk or 01305 213 721). It will be fun, promise!

Also, any offers of help arranging the AGM please? – contact Sally for further info.

Hope you all enjoy a little more summer, and look forward to seeing you soon.

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