

NEWS UPDATE July 2010

Don't miss a day the Low Carbon Homes Trail

Special points of interest:

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LOW CARBON OPEN DAY, SATURDAY 21ST AUGUST

Most of you have enjoyed "open gardens" and now we have "low carbon homes open day". 7 homes in our area which are particularly interesting examples of how carbon emissions can be reduced will be open from 1.30—5.30pm. They will demonstrate solar hot water, photovoltaics, rainwater saving, a small wind turbine, bio mass heating, low carbon transport and lots of energy saving ideas their owners are kindly willing to share with you. The homes include a 13th century manor house and an off grid cottage.

You can buy the entry leaflet, which costs just £2 per family or household, (which enables you to visit any or all of the homes), from Plush Hill Cycle shop in the Market Place, Church Stretton from mid August, and on the day itself from a Stretton Climate Care stall in the Market Place or in any of the open homes. Look out for posters outside homes near you.

Parking is not easy at several of the homes and in the spirit of low carbon living, we would encourage you not to use your cars if possible. Walk, hop on a bike, book a bike for hire from Plush Hill Cycles, or share cars. You can also join a group cycling around together, leaving the Market Place at 2.15pm. We have also arranged for the community bus to leave the Market Place at 2.00pm to travel to Acton Scott Farm and homes in Little Stretton, returning around 3.45. It will depart again at 4pm from the Market Place towards Wall and Caradoc. All seats £1 per trip.

The leaflet has details of all the homes and a map to help you find them. Each home will have useful information sheets and a few will provide tea and cakes. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn, be inspired and have fun exploring the Strettons.

PRIDE OF SHROPSHIRE AWARDS

Well we didn't win the award but it was a fantastic recognition of the work Stretton Climate Care does to get to the finals. Helping folk reduce their carbon emissions and at the same time save money on their energy bills will never be headline grabbing. Did you know our volunteers gave 2848 hours of their time last year and on average our home energy visits and advice results in an average reduction of 15% in carbon emissions.

STRETTON CLIMATE CARE COOKBOOK

You should already have received a copy of the letter which comes with this news sheet. We do urge you all to respond to it. Contributions are slowly coming in but we need more and the great news is that the Ludlow Food Centre have offered to support the launch later in the year. The cookbook is just one of a number of fund raising ideas we have planned.

A.G.M. Please note the date so you can come

Wednesday 3rd November, 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Guest speaker Dr. Chris Endicott. Details to follow.



The U.K. is far behind Europe, especially Germany relating to small scale renewable energy. Something like one home in three has solar hot water or photovoltaic panels on the roof. There are fields of solar panels rather than potatoes, providing income for farmers and even the barns generate electricity.

RENEWABLE ENERGY REALLY DOES PAY

Chairman, Jon Cooke has just had a nice cheque from his electricity supplier. With 1078 kW of electricity exported back into the grid from his photovoltaic panels they have provided an income of £348.97 as well as providing much of the electricity needs of his home, resulting in much lower electricity bills and correspondingly lower carbon emissions. There are an increasing number of homes fitting either solar hot water or photovoltaic panels. Stretton Climate Care have developed links with several local firms who install these renewable energy systems and we can give initial advice on the technology. Jon and Ann are prepared to confess their carbon footprint for 2009/10 is **just 5.61 tonnes**—slightly up on the previous year due to the cold winter and a European train holiday but still more than half the national average for a home of their size. Have you thought about having a solar panel? There are generous government payments available for Solar Pv panels. Under the new scheme Jon's Pv income would be nearer £750.00

FINANCES

As an organisation we need a minimum of £14,000 p.a. to cover our costs. Sources of grant funding are drying up and in order to continue the work we do, a great deal of time is spent seeking new sources of income. Funding from a private sponsor will come to an end in the next 12 months and apart from two small grants, one for £500 for new publicity material from our LJC and the promise of some support from A.O.N.B. our only other income is a small amount of commission from installers, membership fees and donations from our clients. Though we are not yet facing a real crisis, more of our time will need to be directed towards fund raising. Please support our events and recommend your neighbours join in too.

The Strettons and the work of our organisation are nationally recognised as a good example of how a low carbon community can develop. There is no county or national funding to support the work of such groups as ourselves yet what we do is of vital importance and Central Government has pledged to achieve massive carbon reductions by 2020. There are a few high profile projects we could consider attempting and seeking grants for BUT to follow these would detract from the kind of unspectacular work we do. In the long term there is no guarantee they would be more effective in helping folk reduce their energy costs and cut their carbon emissions. Nationally our homes account for 27% of carbon emissions and our Trustees feel we should continue what we are good at. We hope you support this view.

News in Brief:

- 145 smart energy monitors have been fitted by the team over the past few months
- We are beginning the next group of revisits to clients to monitor the progress the community is making in carbon and energy reduction
- It has been discovered from a recent local survey that up to 29% of respondents were suffering from fuel poverty. This will get worse as energy costs rise.
- We will start a street by street campaign in the autumn and provide a mobile drop in advice service to the more isolated communities in our area.
- Duck Racing Day was a huge success in spite of torrential rain—at least the ducks liked it. Duck No. 19 escaped and was last seen in Bavaria.



A disturbing survey

From a recent survey by IT firm T-Systems amongst 200 top UK business executives

- 80% expected fuel & energy prices in Britain to rise rapidly
- 73% believed increasing nuclear energy would meet increasing energy demands in the medium future
- 50% expected a shortage of supplies within 5 years
- 91% agreed electricity suppliers should be required to promote energy efficiency and reduction
- 42% had plans to invest in micro-generation as a viable alternative to fossil fuels

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