



THE GREEN NETWORK

The Environmental Network of North Somerset

Issue 3

Autumn 2008

Green Festival@The Quarry Weston Old Town Quarry, South Road



Bustling Main Arena

Weston super Mare's first Green Festival in the Old Town Quarry on Saturday 30th August was a great success not least because it was blessed with wonderful weather. Clearly Mother Nature was keen to support the event and all those trying hard to protect North Somerset's diverse and impressive landscape.

Tenons offered a programme of attractions to appeal to both those committed to green issues and those still sitting on the side lines. Over 30 stalls were on site to offer information and advice. There were expert presentations on owls and a detailed account of the carbon footprint on your dinner plate.



Weston Beekeepers

Close on 1500 adults and children came through the gate and the atmosphere was magical. So many visitors were heard to say that they had lived in Weston all their lives and yet, had never visited the Quarry although it is normally open all year from Wednesday to Sunday.

The children had a fun time, trying to spot the endangered animals and owls hidden around the quarry, building scarecrows in the Scarecrow Challenge along with other creative workshops. The youngsters from Weston's Barcode displayed their budding talents with live song and dance featuring OTT and the band 'The Overlooks'. The Bournville Rising Stars were also on stage to entertain the crowds, as were the Capoeira team of Brazilian Street dancers. These were followed by a Highland Piper and the Uphill Scottish



Produce from Brandon Trust with Tenons Stand in the background

Dancers, who led the public in a Ceilidh. The festival proved to be a special event that many would like to see happening again next year!

Positive comments included:

'Congratulations on a splendid event' *RSPB*

'The Green Festival was a huge success' *The Rangers*

'First time I had heard of this event..found it excellent. The variety was great, the setting was great, lots of people flowing through, very well organised' *Gorgeous George Skincare*

'Very much enjoyed the festival and felt I was talking to ordinary people I could influence, not the converted' *Chris Sperring*

'Just wanted to say well done you with the Green Festival. It will have taken a lot of hard work'
Greenpeace

WORKING TO THE 2020 VISION OF A LOW CARBON BRISTOL

Terry Smith

This meeting was held on 3rd June in the Watershed in Bristol and was sponsored by The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and Bristol City Council. 'The Bristol Hothouse' brought together experts in city planning and housing design to debate Bristol's ambition to be a low carbon community with a high quality of life, and to discuss how we are responding to the challenge of climate change. The Hothouse contributes to Bristol's Green Capital initiative. We heard from the Leader of Bristol City Council about the City's long-standing commitment to sustainable design and development. This meeting engaged 60 delegates, mainly architects and planners, on the problems associated with reducing the carbon footprints of houses and with living in urban areas.

Some important points emerging from this meeting included –

- 1) The need for accessible green areas in encouraging people to walk and cycle rather than use cars.
- 2) The need to reduce car usage by restricting parking facilities at work and by providing positive incentives to share cars and use sustainable transport.
- 3) Education of homeowners to realise the importance of energy conservation.
- 4) Compulsory water metering.
- 5) Metering to show rates of energy usage, as well as actual consumption
- 6) The need to locate water heaters close to the point of usage, usually kitchens.
- 7) The free insulation now provided for elderly homeowners.
- 8) The need for draught proofing of houses.
- 9) The facility to provide free thermal imaging to show heat leakage.
- 10) The need to encourage alternative forms of sustainable energy production in homes.

All of the speakers emphasised the importance of acting quickly, decisively, and forcefully on

these problems, not only for reasons of the greenhouse effect, which in itself is an issue of importance, but also to ensure our energy security as a Nation. Some speakers referred to the current enlightenment and tried to analyse the reasons for this. I believe that the recent run of warm winters has made us understand the reality of the dangers caused by our prodigal use of resources, though this is not the only reason for our concern, since elsewhere the expansion of the deserts and the loss of polar ice are now becoming significant news items.

Terry has submitted an appraisal of the document 'The Future of the Nuclear Industry in a Low Carbon UK Economy' (Consultation Document published by the Department of Trade and Industry, May 2007).

If you wish to read his contribution it can be found on <http://nuclearpower2007.direct.gov.uk/S1CSS/review.asp>.

CHOOSEDAYS

Chris Sunderland

'Tuesdays without cars' – the banners read, right on the front of Bristol's council house and on the Bristol Royal Infirmary. They heralded the start of a campaign known as Chooseday, which began in Bristol last October, but which hopes to spread across the South West. The idea is simple, one working day each week people are invited to 'choose' to leave their cars at home and find others ways to live and work. Major employers in Bristol have signed up to Chooseday and recruited Chooseday Champions within their organisation. They work among friends and colleagues to spread the word. Chooseday is about to launch in several neighbourhoods of the city.

Chooseday arose from a small charity and is independent of local authorities, business interests or political parties. Chris Sunderland, one of the Chooseday team says, "Everyone is now aware of climate change and many want to do something about it, but are not sure what to

do. Chooseday gives us a way of doing something significant, and doing something together with others. We would be delighted to work with TENONS on this project. Implementing Chooseday in North Somerset will be a particular challenge because public transport in rural areas is so patchy and many have their lives planned around the car. But we only have one planet and the time for action is now.” For more about Chooseday go to www.chooseday.org

BOTTLE GREENHOUSE

Helen Burge, Uphill E-Team, Uphill Village Society

Uphill Primary School is trying to go green! We have set up an Environment Club, which hosted a TENONS evening showing the film “Message in the Waves” back in June. We have recently achieved our Bronze Eco Schools Award and are now working towards our Silver Eco Schools Award. As part of our action plan to achieve our Silver Award we are going to build a plastic bottle greenhouse, this will be of use to our after school clubs - Environment Club, Nature Club and Gardening Club. It will also compliment our new outdoor classroom, which was built by the Royal Liver in May this year. The outdoor classroom includes a wildlife pond, marshland and vegetable patches, which the children and staff enjoy. We are asking the children to save their 2 litre plastic bottles, remove the labels and clean them and then bring them to school during the school’s Environmental Sciences Week. We need 1,500 approximately, but we are confident, if each child brings in 3, that we will have enough to create our greenhouse. We aren’t the first school in North Somerset to create a plastic bottle greenhouse, we know that St Andrews Junior School, Congresbury have created their own, so look out for local vegetables grown in local schools using old plastic bottles!

Announced at the Waste Week Event on Friday Sept 19th : NSC plastic collection now includes types 5 ‘PP’ & 6 ‘PS’ which include items such as yoghurt pots/meal trays/hamburger boxes/ egg cartons & plastic cutlery

NORTH SOMERSET WILDLIFE WARDENS

Terry Smith

Many valuable services are undertaken by The Wildlife Wardens and these include surveying dormice in Towerhouse Wood and giving presentations on wildlife in North Somerset, both in talks and displays. We have appeared in television and radio programmes to publicise our work in promoting biodiversity. We have organised many educational visits for schools, scouts and playgroups, and taken our displays to numerous public events, in particular those for example, at Slader’s Leigh a site run by the Mendip Society and Jubilee Stone Wood managed by the Backwell Environment Trust. We have set up displays illustrating biodiversity, the importance of hedges, sustainability and global warming in various libraries, schools and other venues across the area.

In addition we have helped in monitoring owls and other birds, small terrestrial mammals, invertebrates and plants and have mapped veteran trees, and these and other records have been submitted to BRERC.

We would welcome any offers of help with our work in conserving wildlife. Further information can be found on our website www.nsw.w.btik.com

APPLE DAY

Make a date for Tuesday 21st October for a celebration of Apple Day organised by Taste of North Somerset at Tickenham Village Hall where light refreshments will be provided.

The day starts at 12.00 and will include a visit to Peter Dart’s Farm to view apple making processes, to be followed by a discussion. If you are interested please contact Simon Hutchings, Chairman of ToNS, on 07980067083

Views expressed by individuals or other organisations are their own and not necessarily those of TENONS

TRANSITION VILLAGE UPDATES

Wrington

Food: Wrington are setting up a community agriculture group to produce organic food and Wrington Greens have offered to set aside an area of one of their main fields for a community allotment. The allotment will not be divided into individual plots but will be cultivated by all of them as a group and the produce shared.

Car Club: Following discussions with Dragonflyer mobility who support and administer the car clubs in Chew Magna and Stowey Sutton they hope to have a car (a very fuel efficient Citroen C1) based in Wrington. Members of the club will be able to book and use this car for an hourly fee (possibly about £5.00 per hour; eligibility aged between 21 and 75 with no more than 3 points on the licence.). There are no other charges but insurance claim criteria are being investigated.

Winscombe

The Winscombe and Sandford Transition Steering Group is working steadily towards the Villages' registration as a Transition community. Many more people are now aware of the aims of the Transition Network. Activities to date include:-
An information and recycling point at Winscombe Market (Thursdays 8.00am – 12.00pm)

- Waste Plastic Collection, (all plastic items from water butts to plastic bags), from Oct 2006 – August 2007: yield 17 tonnes = 500 cubic metres.
- Plastic Bag Elimination Campaign in Sept 2007 involving the sale of our village bag, a showing of the film "Message in the Waves and a project involving local schools and play groups.
- An "Environmental Day" on June 7th which included talks by John Penrose MP and Adrian Porter from Transition Totnes, stalls by local transition communities and environmental groups, three showings of the film "the Power of Community" and opportunities for discussion.
- An "Open Discussion" on 16th July concerning possible projects for our community. This led to the beginnings of three Transition Groups:-

- FOOD. Co-ordinators : Claire 843402 and John: 843302
- ENERGY. Co-ordinator: Alan 843147
- TRANSPORT. Co-ordinator: Ann 843140

ZERO WASTE WEEK

North Somerset Council are urging residents to take part in the award-winning Zero Waste Challenge Week to make it the biggest yet.

The challenge, which will run from Monday 29 September to Sunday 5 October, is to see how little waste residents can throw away in their rubbish bins over the course of one week aiming to recycle and compost as much as possible as well as trying to reuse things, like shopping bags, and avoid or reduce disposable items when possible.

Most people who have taken part are pleasantly surprised by how little they threw away during the week - overall those who recorded their waste threw away a quarter of what they normally would, helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill as well as saving resources and energy.

Residents can register to take part by downloading the information pack from www.n-somerset.gov.uk/zerowaste or by calling 01934 888 802 and will be eligible for a £50 prize if they participate and send the monitoring form back.

DIARY DATES:

- ENVEC Conference 2 October, Winter Gardens
- See www.oursouthwest.com/envec
- Winscombe Horticultural Society 13 Nov talk on Permaculture – Community Centre
- Winscombe Energy Day: see www.transitionwinscombe.org for more details
- Dormouse Conference, Bath Guildhall 21 Oct 10.00 – 3.30
- Weston Rotary Charities Christmas Fayre: Sat 22 November Winter Gardens 10.00 – 3.30 e&oe

TENONS' MEETINGS 2008

8th October: **Dr Lawrence Matthews** 'Why should I do my bit unless everyone else does too?'

5th November: **Mike Birkin** : Mike is South West Regional Campaigner for Friends of the Earth

26th November: AGM

Venue: The Victoria Methodist Hall, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare

Time: 7.30 p.m. (unless otherwise stipulated)