

Llanidloes 2008 Green 4th and 5th October Fair

A focus on sustainable lifestyles
& Renewable Energy

Something for the whole family

Mick Bates AM to open the show at 10.30am outside Minerva Centre

Talks

Following on from the success of last year, this festival of events focuses on the positive and practical solutions available to communities and individuals to live more sustainable and carbon light lives.

Music

Film

Art

Outdoor Saturday Market

Party Cookery Demonstrations

Fashion Show

Exhibitions

Local Food

Workshops

Children's Activities

Renewable Energy Systems

Star-gazing and much more

A Fun, Family event

Tel: 01686 411131 www.lles.co.uk/greenfair



Summer 2008 Newsletter

Llanidloes
Energy
Solutions

working to make Llanidloes a carbon neutral community

Llanidloes Green Fair - 4th / 5th October 2008

Preparations are under way to stage the 2nd Llanidloes Green Fair, which will be bigger and better with even more action packed into the weekend.

The focus this year is on 'practical solutions', in particular for individuals and communities wanting to live more sustainable lives.

The exhibition space will be bigger, with the Community Centre being used in addition to the Minerva to house all the activities planned.

Workshops will be running throughout the weekend to enable traders, householders, community groups and others to promote the sustainability message and explain their methods, products, pitfalls, savings, experiences etc.

The Youth Club are writing another song, and will be staging a fashion show with outfits made from recycled cloth.

We have been fortunate to secure a line up of nationally renowned speakers, and the programme of talks will run from 11am – 5pm both days, with the Environmental Any Questions rounding off the weekend, with a panel including Tony Juniper and Lembit Opik MP.

Tickets are £12 / day, £10 concessions, or

weekend tickets £20 / £17 (for 10 talks plus the Environmental Any Questions – so good value!)

Details of the talks are on the LLES website. Speakers include Mark Edwards, with the Hard Rain Slideshow; Penney Poyzer, 'The Queen of Green' from the TV; Mark Lynas, winner of the Royal Society Award for his book 'Six Degrees'; Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment; Andy Klom, EU; Sir John Houghton; Peter Harper; George Monbiot; George Marshall; and Craig Sams, founder of Green & Blacks and author of several books.

Food and cooking demos, children's activities, therapies, art, music (including 'Seize The Day') and market will all be on again, so a good weekend out for all the family.

We will, of course, be needing lots of volunteers again, to make the weekend the success it was last year. We would also like to hear from anyone who can offer accommodation for visiting speakers.

If you are able to help, please let Diana know: call 01686 411131 or email diana@lles.co.uk. If you want to be involved, or have any ideas for this marvelous festival of events, then please get in touch.

Open House Day

On the afternoon of 25th May LLES organised 9 houses to open their doors to the public. The Open Day offered the opportunity to see what you could achieve in the way of reducing fossil fuel energy in your own home and obtain practical advice on systems, products and installers from the house owners; it was your chance to get an honest appraisal of what it was like to live with the systems that were on display.



Despite the fact that it rained hard all afternoon, over 150 people visited our Open Houses and were able to take the opportunity to share the techniques, and considerable knowledge of eco-renovation, providing a fantastic opportunity to learn from the real experiences of the home owners and see exciting ideas for the future in action.

The houses covered a remarkable range; from a purpose built low energy house, to a Victorian semi, to an old stone farmhouse, to a former country house converted into 7 dwellings. The variety of technologies on display were equally impressive; Hydro and wind, wood pellet, chip and log boilers, solar

thermal and solar pv, a range of internal and external insulation as well as an air sourced heat pump. Sorry I forgot to mention the mysterious Dursley neutralizer.

The feed back from the householders and visitors could not have been more



appreciative. Countless visitor feedback forms thanked LLES for the event, and said how much they had learnt. The householders said they were surprised at how energized they felt at the end of the afternoon and all were keen to repeat the event if there was enough interest. Infact the only negative comment from the whole day was that there was just not enough time to get round everywhere! Kevin Carey, LLES Trustee who came up with the idea of holding an Open House Day said 'Given that this event



Why not try some cheaper, more sustainable alternatives?

Join Llani Car Club for occasional journeys and save paying for a second car, or even save having a car altogether.

(www.llanicarclub.co.uk)

Short journeys (or even some longer ones) can be taken far more cheaply and sustainably by bicycle. (Contact Bicycle Repair man by email:

sando@fidory.freeserve.co.uk)

Act local, think global – that includes your shopping. How much does it cost to travel to Morrison's?

Learn to love public transport. Meet new people and share out the carbon emissions.

"Cars are the single most energy-intensive product we own." (George Marshall; Carbon Detox p203)

What better place to start if you want to save money, energy and carbon emissions?

Thanks for information go to: Martin Lewis at www.moneysavingexpert.com/tips and the RAC

Llanidloes 2020 project attracts APE funds

The Llanidloes 2020 project, a joint venture between LLES, LLANI Ltd and the charity COIN, has just received a £4,000 grant from a charity with the delightful name APE, which stands for Artists' Project Earth.

The project aims to create a sustainable upper Severn area, by seeking to:

Be the first in the UK using a locally controlled emissions reduction strategy, taking in all emissions sources

Be the first in the UK using a methodology for monitoring all energy use and emissions, including forest and land use

Develop local training, employment and confidence

Develop a highly innovative and replicable model for sustainability

The strategy will include housing renovation, CHP, development of community woods and a fuel wood economy, transport reduction, application of new energy generation technologies and progressive land use planning.

Those of you who have not yet caught up with L2020 will soon have plenty of opportunity as we develop and expand the project. We plan a series of presentations and discussions, so everyone can be part of the process. We will also need your help. This is a hugely ambitious project and if it is to succeed it will need strong support from LLES members.

APE, who gave the grant, are willing to invest in our vision for a sustainable Llanidloes and area. We hope they are the first of many.

APE (Artists' Planet Earth)

www.apeuk.org

Vision

Through music and the arts, APE aims to achieve permanent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to levels that minimise further degradation of ecological systems and human livelihood. APE recruits internationally known musicians and artists through albums, concerts, art exhibitions and art related projects to raise awareness of climate change and funds for campaigns and disaster relief.

Mission

We identify both the opportunities that enable people, especially in the world's richest countries, to reduce their emissions and the obstacles that hold people back. We devise innovative and effective ways of communication that encourage people to share this experience.

We recognise that individuals cannot make the required changes on their own. We aim to create a powerful and vocal community of people working together to move technology, government and business forward to reduce emissions and make real and lasting changes to the way we live.

All our projects will demonstrate that our vision of stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions is practically attainable. APE believes that the many of the solutions are within reach, if only we have the will.

20% off your car's fuel bills (and emissions)!

The car. It gobbles up expensive fuel and spews out carbon emissions. What can you do?

Fuel bills are high and they aren't coming down any time soon. It's quite likely that they are set to carry on spiralling up. In a rural area this is a serious expense, especially as we pay more for fuel anyway.

Less travel, walking, using bicycles and public transport all offer alternatives at times but the truth is that cars are going to be important in most people's lives for some time to come. So how can we cut down on carbon emissions and save money? Well, there are ways which many have found surprisingly effective. They are often referred to as 'hypermiling' and have a history going back over 60 years.

Easy ways to save up to 20% of your car's fuel bills, or even more!

Up to 3% fuel cut –keep your tyres correctly inflated.

Lower tyre pressures increase the drag on a car meaning you need more fuel, so ensure you know the correct pressures, check them regularly and save fuel (and save wear on your tyres).

Up to 2% fuel cut - declutter your car.

A heavy car needs more fuel to accelerate. The lighter your car is, the less fuel it needs to accelerate. Clear out all unnecessary clutter and weight and your fuel consumption will drop.

Up to 2% fuel cut -take your roof rack off.

Even when not being used a roof rack adds huge amounts of drag and so increases fuel consumption. Take it off! Even keeping the windows closed will cut some drag and therefore cut fuel consumption.

Up to 8% fuel cut -turn off the air conditioning

Air conditioning also uses an incredible amount of fuel, so make sure it's turned off

unless you really need it. The exact savings depend on the type you've got. The worst is manual air conditioning, but even climate control can use up to 4% of fuel.

Up to 1% fuel cut - don't fill it up.

Fuel is heavy, so by filling the car up you're adding quite a weight. The less fuel your car has in it, the more efficiently it drives. Thus filling up slightly more often and putting less in (to 1/2 or 3/4 full) will make the car run more efficiently.

That is up to 16% so far. How you drive can make a huge difference.

Be smooth!

Speed up smoothly. When you press harder on the pedal more fuel flows, but you could get to the same speed using much less power – a good rule is to stay under 3,000 revs. Some have claimed another 20% saving is possible by smooth driving!

Be gentle on that pedal

Tests have suggested that 0-60 in about 20 seconds is about optimum for fuel economy. As using a stopwatch is not wise while driving you can get close by not pressing on the accelerator by more than an inch

Drive in the correct gear.

Always drive in the highest gear possible without labouring the engine.

Slow naturally.

Rather than brake all the time, let your car slow naturally and use its stored momentum.

Think about road position.

To do all this takes road awareness, so the more alert you are, the better you can plan ahead and drive more smoothly.

Standing still? Turn it off!

Don't keep the engine running. Drive off as soon as you start up and switch off the engine as soon as you reach your destination.

Be careful - some hypermiling techniques are dangerous or illegal and are not to be recommended. Tail-gating, freewheeling and over-inflating tyres may save petrol at the cost of a life, maybe yours. Good hypermiling should improve driving and enhance safety.

was a bit of an experiment, to gauge interest in using alternatives to fossil fuels for heating and powering our homes, I think we can safely say that there is a lot of interest in this, especially with the costs of gas, electricity and oil rising all the time'.

Householder and LLES member Kevin Blockley, who opened up his home to visitors for the afternoon said ' we had a very busy afternoon – over 80 people came to Old Chapel Farm, both from the local area and further afield. We have a log boiler, pellet boiler, solar panels and wind turbine. I was in the boiler shed virtually all afternoon talking non stop to a steady stream of visi-



tors. People are obviously interested in the system we have here, where logs heat the underfloor heating system, and pellet and solar heat the water. They were asking loads of questions about how it works and how much it cost etc. I would not mind doing this again.'

We plan to make this a regular event, maybe twice a year, so if you missed it last time look out for the next one, or if you think you have something of interest to show please get in touch.

Beauty Queen promotes LLES

Local Beauty Queen Beverley Roberts is currently in the running for the title of Miss Earth UK, representing Wales.

To qualify for the title Beverley has to raise awareness of and take part in local green initiatives, as well as raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. So she has contacted LLES and is now helping with Energy Surveys to calculate household carbon footprints and help people save money and cut their energy bills. Beverley is a mobile hairdresser and beautician so when she visits clients in their homes she now asks them if they would like an Energy Survey. She has also changed to using organic, natural beauty products in her business.

Beverley is also helping to promote our forthcoming Green Fair to her clients and local businesses, and is supporting the local Fair Trade Town initiative.

"I am really pleased that LLES has given me a chance to raise awareness on green issues and spread the word to local people in Llani", she says.

We urgently need volunteers to help at the Green Fair on both days.

Could you help, even if it's only for half a day. The jobs are not arduous and are usually interesting. Please register with: Diana on 01686 411131 or David on 01686 411128

'Bicycle Repair Man' shows his powers

Saturday 21st June saw the first open workshop run by "Bicycle Repair Man." Ten people turned up for free bicycle healing, advice or mutual bicycle appreciation. Even better, three people turned up and generously offered to help in future events, with another offer coming later. After over 4 busy hours it was a big success.

Wheels on wheels

This little project, started so hesitantly, seems to have wheels! Bikes have been kindly donated and passed freely to future carbon-savers. Others have been inspired to get out their lonely bikes for the summer. And an open invitation from John Waters means that the Resource Centre is happy to accommodate another, perhaps a bigger, event. Thanks John (and by the way, there is a back wheel, with tyre, waiting to replace your rusty relic!)

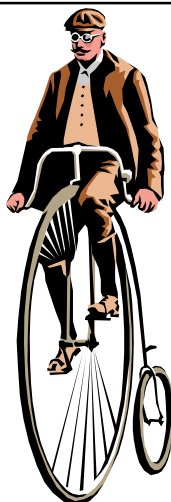
Yesterday's toy

Beyond the silliness of the 'Bicycle Repair Man' (it's Monty Python, in case you didn't realise) there is a very serious point. The motor car as a ubiquitous, carry-all method of personal transport has its days numbered. It is polluting, resource heavy, over-complex, increasingly expensive and, most dangerously, very high on carbon emissions. Let's face it, cars are 20th century technology. They just don't meet our greater needs. We can't afford them for much longer. Many say the planet can't afford them now.

What we need.....

What we need is a sustainable, low resource, no carbon emissions, very

cheap method of personal transport. It should be fairly easy to maintain and fix and must run on 100% renewable energy. And if possible it should help keep you fit and be great fun. Now where can we find such an amazing, thoroughly 21st century piece of technology?



Answers, please, to 'Bicycle Repair Man' (sando@fidory.freesevice.co.uk) Happy cycling!

Llani Car Club

We now have three cars for use by our members, the most recent one is a Renault Clio. It is a small car and will hopefully widen the appeal of the car club. Our thanks go to Anna Jenkins for loaning it to us. Currently we have 12 members, 6 of whom rely solely on the club for a car. If you are serious about reducing your emissions, then joining the car club is a great way to do it as well as saving you money. My wife and I now drive only one third of what we used to and no longer have any surprise bills to deal with. That's what I call having your cake and eating it.

Andrew Capel

Our Home Energy Survey - now more important than ever!

Now household bills are soaring our free Home Energy Service is even more important to tackle fuel poverty and help people cut their fuel costs as well as their carbon footprint.

We have now surveyed approximately 18% of homes in Llanidloes, giving out two free energy saving bulbs and a water-saving device to each household. In February this year some households were revisited to find out if they had managed to reduce their carbon footprint. On average each household had managed to cut their CO₂ emissions by one tonne per year. The greatest reduction was 4.5 tonnes p.a. – 50% of the previous usage!

This was achieved with a new boiler, replacing light bulbs, and more careful energy use.

Frances Browne, another householder who asked LLES to survey her new home and give advice shortly after moving in, says:

"I think our bills would have been twice as high if we had not had LLES' thorough, helpful and encouraging advice. We put in cavity wall insulation and good insulation in the loft, draught-proofed the whole house and fitted a new boiler and energy-saving bulbs everywhere. We also changed to a green energy supplier, so our carbon-footprint is much reduced."

It is difficult to find out how much carbon we have saved in Llanidloes so far, as we do not have a record of how many people have taken advantage of the CO₂i (Cosy) scheme to insulate

lofts and cavity walls which we have promoted, nor can we know how many people have taken our advice on simple energy-saving measures. However, we estimate that we have saved a minimum of 244 tonnes of CO₂, not counting all the low-energy bulbs we have sold from the LLES office.

The average household in Llanidloes is currently responsible for emitting 8 tonnes of CO₂ per year, including transport (but not air travel). This is divided by the number of people per household to arrive at the individual carbon footprint. We all need to reduce our carbon emissions to 1.2 tonnes per person by 2050 to avert dangerous climate change.

We have a long way to go, but we have made a start.

Do promote our Home Energy Service to help your friends and neighbours by encouraging them to ring Diana on 01686 411131 to book a survey. If you would like to help us with surveys, phone Diana and she can arrange training.

Gwen Prince

Royal Welsh Show

There were some innovative displays at this year's Royal Welsh, including a display of imported supermarket produce with a sign on each bag saying "I could be Welsh" along with research on varieties of crops including potatoes and barley as well as more exotic ones which could thrive here. Crops for fuel also featured - willow coppice and miscanthus grass - and other stands showed small scale wind and solar power. It was great to see these topics at a mainstream event.

Beck Woodrow