

UpBEAT

Newsletter from Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)



Issue 10 : November / December 2010

From the Editor

As December is a very busy month, particularly for parents, this is a double issue of **UpBEAT**. The BEAT team would like to take this opportunity to send you, in advance, our season's greetings for a Happy New Year!

You can find this **UpBEAT** newsletter on www.blackshaw.net/BEAT and previous issues on www.blackshaw.net/BEATArchives. Many thanks to Tony Burger for updating the BEAT website regularly.

UpBEAT circulation has also increased - see back page for details.

The BEAT team

Headlines

- Buy green electricity through BEAT, and save money
- BEAT AGM held on 13 Oct 2010
- The village clean-up went really well
- Reduce your carbon footprint : Blackshaw Optimistic Gardeners (BOGs)
- Latest on the Community Transport bus
- BEAT wins grant

Buy green electricity through BEAT and you could save money on your bills

The BEAT AGM held in October decided that BEAT should enter into a partnership with **Green Energy UK which provides renewable electricity** from wind turbines, photovoltaic panels, hydro projects, etc.

Green electricity is good for the environment, it is not polluting or in limited supply like coal, oil and gas and it is therefore healthier and more sustainable.

Green Energy UK offers 100% renewable electricity at a price that is lower than our regional electricity supplier (nPower). One of our group members found he could save £44 a year by switching to Green Energy UK's Deep Green tariff, taking advantage of our special reduced rate! Green Energy UK offers both Single Rate tariffs and Economy 7 tariff.

You can also enter your postcode on the *Green Energy UK* website to see how much you will be paying per kWh. For our area it will be:

Standard Tariff

Daily fixed charge: 13.50 pence
Price per Unit/kWh: 11.29 pence

Economy 7 Tariff

Daily fixed charge: 16.00 pence
Price per Unit/kWh: 13.81 pence (day)
Price per Unit/kWh: 5.59 pence (night)
These prices exclude VAT.

If a minimum of ten households sign up through BEAT, each quarter BEAT will receive 5% of the consumption of the customers' bills excluding the standing daily fixed charge.

The money will be managed by BEAT – to ensure openness and fairness – but it could be reserved for members to spend on energy efficiency measures or producing our own energy.

If ten households sign up and use on average 3,300 units/kWh per year BEAT could receive up to £200 per year from *Green Energy UK*, so the more house-

holds that sign up through BEAT the more money we will get to invest in the community. If you don't live in Blackshaw Parish but you're still interested in the scheme then get in touch to see if you are eligible.

If you are interested in exploring bulk buying of green electricity or signing up to Green Energy UK through BEAT please let us know on 01422 846863 or finn.jensen@rocketmail.com.

Sign-up

For more information, please ring Green Energy UK on **0800 954 0675** and speak to Liz Bell.

To sign-up to Green Energy UK through BEAT or to learn more go to :

<http://www.greenenergy.uk.com>
PARTNER_ID=560.

If you have problems entering this web link into your internet browser you can email help@greenenergyuk.com or finn.jensen@rocketmail.com and ask them to email you back with the link.



Another Successful Village Clean-Up

On Saturday 16th October BEAT organised our six-monthly village clean-up – with the support of the Parish Council.

Many thanks to everyone who participated; thanks to George for writing the guidelines for the participants and the risk assessment; and thanks to Phil Knowles for organising it.

As usual, a lot of litter was collected, although there are places where some locals pick up litter regularly. We encourage others to do the same and to report any incidents of fly tipping to 01422 392 373.

It is great to see how over ten years we have continued to be able to mobilise the community for these litter-picking events. After the village clean-up there was coffee, tea, juice and cakes for everyone involved.



Next Clean Up Date

To be confirmed in the New Year. Watch out for details!

BEAT AGM held on 13 October 2010

An outline of BEAT's activities since the last AGM a year ago was sent out in the **UpBEAT** newsletter no 9 - available on www.blackshaw.net/BEAT/BEAT Archives.

Vote of Thanks : Thanks were given to Fiona Gale for her design and formatting of the BEAT newsletter, **UpBEAT** ; to Judith Appleton for proof reading the text for the newsletter; to Andy Clegg for the use of his projector every month at BEAT meetings; to Andy, Dale, Tim, Debbie, Paul, Jan and Steve for their work in BEAT's sustainability working group; to Steve Hall for being BEAT's 'official' photographer; and to the BEAT officers. The financial report was presented by Finn Jensen and the report was approved.

BEAT Officers : The following were elected as BEAT officers:

Tim Cole (chair)

George Tearne (secretary)

Finn Jensen (treasurer)

Diary : It was agreed to hold BEAT business meetings in 2011 on the following dates: **12 Jan**, **13 Apr**, **13 Jul** and **12 Oct**, which

are all on the second Wednesday of the month.

On all other months in 2011, except August, BEAT will have **film evenings**, also on the second Wednesday of the month.

All BEAT meetings will be held at the **Sportsman** in the meeting room **at 8pm**. All BEAT meetings are open to the public.

AGM Outcome : The AGM also decided that **BEAT should organise bulk buying of electricity from Green Energy UK** as outlined in a written proposal first outlined in **UpBEAT** no 8 and again at the AGM (see article on the front page of this newsletter for details of how you can sign up to this bulk buying).

AGM Speaker : After the AGM Steve Welsh spoke about community-owned hydro projects that his company, **h2oPE**, has been involved in. Many thanks to Steve for his interesting talk.

This was followed by a fantastic buffet - and some more drinks!



Bulb Planting

Last month BEAT bought 2,500 bulbs to plant along the roads in Blackshaw and encouraged members of the community to plant them.

The bulbs cost £50 and were paid for by garden vouchers donated to BEAT. Colden School has agreed to

plant 500 bulbs and thanks to Edith Bowman for organising bulb planting.

One person in particular, Steve Redmond, made the most tremendous effort, planting 1,500 bulbs on both sides of Long Causeway, all by himself - what a community spirit! We all look forward to seeing the flowers in the Spring.

BEAT is happy to buy more bulbs if

more volunteers want to plant the bulbs at public places in the Parish – including Charlestown. We can provide the volunteers with instructions and tools to do the job.

If you want us to buy more bulbs please let us know on 01422-846863 or finn.jensen@rocketmail.com.



Every Little Helps - Reduce Your Carbon Footprint with BOGS

If you are serious about looking after the world that our children and grandchildren will inherit, it can seem like a huge, and at times expensive, task.

Wind turbines, wood-burning boilers, ground source heating pumps - the list goes on - and even with the



government's lead in offering special tariffs, these can be out of the financial reach for most people. Yes, you can insulate your house, buy energy efficient appliances, turn off your appliances at night, but even that might not seem enough for you.

So my offer to you is something that will save you money, keep you healthy and help reduce your carbon footprint significantly :

Growing your own. Whether it's fruit, vegetables or flowers – you will help save this planet for the generations to come.

Just think of it: no packaging to dispose of; no air miles or road miles to get it to your table; no need for pesticides or herbicides; just wholesome fruit and vegetables and beautiful flowers, all from your own garden. All these benefits, plus you will be healthier for it.

And just half an hour's gardening a

day will help keep you fit.

If you've never done any fruit, vegetable or flower growing, don't worry, because

help is at hand here in

Blackshawhead, in the shape of **Blackshawhead Optimistic Gardeners (BOGs)**.

BOGs, also locally known as "gardeners with altitude," have been in existence for almost four years.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the New Delight, (apart from June to August when we visit members' gardens).

We are a very mixed group ranging from those brand new to gardening through to others with a variety of experiences. **The emphasis is on sharing** – ideas, seeds and plants, knowledge, successes and failures, and the odd glass of wine or beer!

There is always something new to learn from each other, and from visiting each other's gardens.

So if you are interested, come along to one of our meetings or contact Phil Knowles on 01422 844871. Also look at www.blackshaw.net for more information about BOGs.



Help yourself and help the environment with BOGs

BEAT Wins Grant

The Society for Environmental Improvement Trust has given a grant of £250 to BEAT.

BEAT is grateful for this contribution to our work which helps us to get a projector and screen for our public meetings and film showings.

The Sportsman no longer has a screen and the Parish Council's projector is not working. BEAT has got big plans for the future and every pound received will help us in implementing these plans.

A Low Carbon Future

Calderdale Council's Cabinet agreed its policy about working towards a low carbon future - reducing the use of fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal. They are operating within the context of their pledge to reduce their energy use by 10% within one year and the new carbon tax coming in in 2012. They also clearly take into account *Friends of the Earth's* policy proposals.

The Council's approach is partly focussed on the most 'polluting' buildings that the Council runs, and involves an 'invest to save' fund where the capital expenditure can pay for itself over a period of years through savings generated. They may be able to afford up to two workers to manage this from the fund.

If you would like to read the Council's policy document we can email it to you if you contact finn.jensen@rocketmail.com.

Update on Our Local Buses

The new Community Transport bus called CT1 running between Blackshaw Head and Todmorden train station now has a variety of regulars and some occasional users. See [UpBEAT](#) no 9 or www.ctcalderdale.org.uk for details.

BEAT spoke to the co-ordinator of CT1, Paul, about the experience so far. This is what he had to say....

Community Transport Calderdale is delighted with the first stage of the Community Bus operating from Todmorden through Cross Stone and linking with Blackshaw Head. Although planning took so long to get this project off the ground due to legislative barriers, and with it being the first of its kind in West Yorkshire, CTC staff worked hard to get all systems in place, even finding we had problems with the authority knowing what to do!

Feedback from Metro is that of **excitement and congratulations about an impressive start** with more users than their forecast. Metro have even invited CTC to a PR event to spread the word about this success story, and this success is very timely as Metro like other public sector bodies are facing cutbacks in their budgets; and the rural fund is looking vulnerable. **CT1 can demonstrate the need for spending in rural areas like Blackshaw Head and Cross Stone.**

The drivers of CT1 have enjoyed working with such a strong

community and with 40% of the workforce driving your buses being volunteer drivers, trying to make a difference to other peoples lives, the benefits of this service are demonstrated to be growing. With ten of CTC's volunteers leaving due to getting employment as a career change due to experiences and qualifications gained through their volunteer work, more and more volunteers are coming forward. Around one hundred volunteers appear on CTC's books at any time, and the work of CTC is ever expanding.

CTC's aim, as a registered charity, is to provide transport for those residents of Calderdale that cannot access existing forms of transport provision for reasons of ill health, disability, isolation, poverty or social exclusion. CTC believe that the operation of CT1 is a great step forward for the charity to spread its operation across the borough.

*I would like to **thank the support** of Todmorden Town Council, Metro, Cross Stone and Blackshaw Head community groups, and many others for their support for the service and to the users who are making the service work.*

*Following a **recent meeting of the CT1 Steering Group**, a survey will be made available to users and potential users to get further feedback about the service and now that it is operating, if any changes are needed. The group already has a list of suggestions that it is looking at the survey to confirm a wider feeling of the route before any changes are put to the Traffic Commissioner."*

It is also worth pointing out that a return ticket on the CT1 bus acts as a day-pass on the CT1. This means **you can go to Todmorden as often as you wish during the day for £2.** Also, instead of leaving Todmorden train station at 0700, 0800, 0900, 1500, 1600, 1700 and 1800 the **driver now waits until after the train from Leeds has arrived** at 4 minutes past the hour.

Community Transport conducted a survey of the CT1 service with existing bus passengers and potential passengers to find out if the service can be improved (change the time the bus is running, the bus route, etc).

Bus E

Unfortunately, it looks like our local bus routes are in danger of cuts. According to the *Hebden Bridge Times*, **Metro** is faced with cuts in grants of up to 40%. The BEAT AGM decided to **write to Metro to encourage them to conduct the widest possible community consultation** before making any decisions on what routes to cut or reduce.



Are you willing to reduce your energy use by 10%?

The team behind the film "The Age of Stupid" launched a campaign to encourage everyone (households, businesses, public institutions, the voluntary sector) to reduce the amount of energy they use by 10% over a 12 month period.

The campaign is called "10:10" and became an instant success, not only in the UK but also internationally.



The 10:10 campaign was launched in September 2009. In September 2010, 96,672 people in 128 countries had signed up pledging to save 10% in a year. Seven capitals around the world, including Mexico City with over 21 million inhabitants, have signed up.

All the main political parties in the UK signed up and the current coalition government has instructed all government departments to reduce their energy use by 10% over a 12 month period. That action alone will save 150,000 tons of greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere.

In the UK 155 local authorities representing 24 million people signed up as did more than 2,300 businesses, 1,500 school and

1,700 organisations.

Four medical associations, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and Great Ormond Street Hospital, have acknowledged that climate change pose the "biggest global threat of the 21st century".

On 10th October 2010 the 10:10 campaign teamed up with the 350.org campaign to organise "Do it" activities. This could be installing solar panels on your roof (as the president of one country did) or on a community building, it could be to grow local food for your community, etc. The 350.org campaign counted at least 7,347 such activities in 188 countries.

Take Action

If you want to reduce your energy use (for heating and electricity) by 10% during the next 12 months you can find many tips on www.energysavingtrust.org.uk.

And why not suggest to your workplace, your children's school, your church, etc to join the campaign? They may be interested as it would save them money - and help the environment.

For more information on the 10:10 campaign go to www.1010uk.org

Film Evenings

The next film showing will be on **Wednesday 8th December at 8pm at the Sportsman**. Our local Ashley Sharpe will introduce some short films on (un)sustainable fishing.

The November Film Evening featured "The Age of Stupid" with the actor Pete Postlethwaite (as mentioned in the article above). If you have been unable to come to one of the BEAT film evenings you **can borrow the DVD for £1 if you are a member of BEAT** (which costs £1 per year).

If you have suggestions for films you would like us to show please let us know.



BEAT Films

Available to Borrow

As you can see elsewhere in the newsletter BEAT shows films at the Sportsman, Kebs on the second Wednesday of the month at 8pm. If you are unable to attend you can **watch the DVDs in your home at the cost of £1 per DVD**. However, you will also have to be a BEAT member which costs £1 per year. The list below is a sample of those we can offer at the moment.

To view the full list, or if you have suggestions on films to be shown at the Sportsman we would like to hear from you. Please contact **Finn** on 01422 846863 or finn.jensen@rocketmail.com.

1. The Age of Stupid
2. The End of the Line, by Rupert Murray, 85 minutes plus 6 short films as extras. All about the depletion of fish stocks
3. An Inconvenient Truth, by Al Gore
4. Vanishing of the Bees, 96 mins plus special features
5. The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream
6. The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil
7. Beyond the Tipping Point?
8. Everything is Living, Everything is Linked, by Yann Arthus-Bertrand
9. Water is Life, by Yann Arthus-Bertrand
10. How to Encourage Wildlife in the Garden.
11. Addicted to Plastic.
12. Darwin's dangerous idea, Andrew Marr, BBC.
13. Prince Charles lecture, BBC.
14. Farming for the Future, BBC.
15. On the edge of the forest, E.F. Schumacher.
16. David Attenborough: The Truth about Climate Change, BBC.
17. The 11th Hour, produced and presented by Leonardo DiCaprio.

SHED

Blackshaw Local History Group



KEY FACTS

- **Founded in 2003, in the wake of The Vital Villages Initiative**
- **Aim : to record the history of Blackshaw Head and region**
- **Main activity : display at the annual Blackshaw Head Fete**
- **Group meet on the 2nd Monday of the month**
- **SHED is a weaving term describing the raised warp yarns in a loom through which the shuttle carries the weft.**

SHED, Blackshaw Local History Group was founded in 2003, one of the many groups **created in the wake of The Vital Villages Initiative**. Its aim is to record the history of Blackshaw Head and region through researching a variety of themes relevant to the area's past. Its main activity is putting together a presentation, displayed in the Chapel based on any one of these themes at the annual Blackshaw Head Fete. These presentations are composed of text (the fruits of our research) video, photos and artefacts.

The topics so far covered began in 2003 with the survey of the 19th century Directories (Walker's and Pigot's - a mine of information for the area in that period). In 2004 we researched the Early Mills of the Colden and the Jumble Hole Clough valleys, the development of the textile industry and the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution in the area.

We have taken a look at the History of Settlement and Farming, particularly in the upland area of the Parish. Beginning with the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar 13 very active months in the Life of Blackshaw Head were re-viewed in 2005/6.

In 2007 there was a presentation on the History of Blackshaw Head Chapel

followed in November by extensive exhibition on The First World War to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the end of the war in 2008. (Using research we carried out on the War Memorial in the churchyard)

In the last couple of years we have researched "Entertainment and Pastimes", and most recently "Education" with the evocative title of "Wild and Untamed" as the pupils of Colden School were described by the School Inspector in 1878.

Intermediate displays have been mounted including ones entitled "Winter Tales" and "The Life of Gordon Sutcliffe".

Although we have been very busy looking at the various aspects of the history of the area and life in the community, we have still much to research - very little has been written about the history of Blackshaw until the foundation of our group and we find that there is no shortage of subjects left to research. As the group covers each of these themes an archive is being built up which will form a body of knowledge about the rich history of the area for future generations

An overview of the History of the Parish was included in the last Parish Plan of 2010. The group also produces its own Christmas card based on images derived from its past history or featuring a local landmark.

The group is a **very informal one based on discussions and conversations at monthly meetings**, with a break for refreshments. These are held at Hoppins Farm on the **2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm** and all are welcome to attend - we are very keen to recruit members. Everyone who attends has a good time with discussions ranging far and wide. For this year's topic we are intending to record the inscriptions on the gravestones in the Chapel's graveyard and to try to link these with the 19th century census returns to find out where they lived and

a bit more about their lives. If anyone is interested in helping in this venture please get in touch Ged Haley 842484 gedhaley@yahoo.co.uk.

Perhaps also of interest to B E A T members is a survey we are wishing to carry out on springs, wells, and troughs etc. Water is of such vital importance to everyone's life that we almost take it for granted nowadays (except perhaps those are still relying on spring water!), but in the past there was no such thing as piped water. Every member of the household would have known exactly where to get their daily water from. Many members of the community would have had an intimate knowledge of their environment and some would have had expert knowledge of the track of hidden water courses and the whereabouts of natural springs.

SHED would be very grateful for any information that you can supply on the whereabouts of any of these water features (possibly with OS map reference). If you have photos, digital or otherwise, they would be very welcome. We are hoping to construct a collage of photos of these to be displayed in the future. Please email any information to steve@stevenorth.com

Why "SHED"? we have often been asked why our group has been called this name and what it means. A much loved inhabitant of our local community and early member of our group, Jennifer Waterhouse, suggested the name because it referred to where children used to play in the ruins of the old Blackshaw mill at the top of Davey Lane. Everyone also thought it was appropriate because it is a good nickname for the village itself. Later serendipity intervened and it was discovered that SHED is a weaving term describing the raised warp yarns in a loom through which the shuttle carries the weft. So it turned out to be a very appropriate name in more ways than one !



Blackshaw Parish Emergency Plan

We need volunteers to assist other members of the community during times of emergency.

- This could be people with specialist skills such as doctors, nurses, electricians, plumbers, builders, mechanics.
- Also members of the community who have useful resources to use during emergencies such as four wheel drive or towing vehicles, tractors, chainsaws, portable lighting or heaters, radio communications equipment.
- People who would be willing to help with welfare arrangements such as making cups of tea and offering reassurance if people were evacuated from their homes into temporary shelter (e.g. the church hall)

Emergencies rarely happen but your help will be valuable when they do.

If you would be willing to help your neighbours during emergencies, please complete the section below and **return to Lars Hansen, Clerk to Blackshaw Parish Council, 1 Cally Cottages, Blackshaw Head, Hebden Bridge, HX7 7JN, phone 01422 842133, email info@blackshaw.net.**

Name	
Address & contact number	
Skill/resources/willingness to help	

All information provided will be confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

Did you know?

Bottled water generates thousands of tonnes of plastic waste, most of which is not recycled; uses dwindling energy supplies in production and distribution; and it is estimated that 2 gallons of water are used for every gallon of water purified to put into the bottle.

Tap water in the UK is one of the highest quality tap waters in the world and is great value for money, providing 50 glasses for a penny.

Ref: <http://www.sustainweb.org/foodfacts/>

The **UK food system** accounts for over a third of all road freight making it responsible for 2.3% of the food supply chain carbon emissions.

References:

1) Maynard, R. (2009) *An inconvenient truth about food*, Soil Association, Bristol

2) Pretty, J.N., Ball, A.S., Lang, T., & Morison, J.I.L. (2005) *Farm costs and food miles: An assessment of the full cost of the UK weekly food basket*. *Food Policy*. 30: pp1 – 19

Every £1 spent with a **local supplier** is worth £1.76 to the local economy, but only 36p if it is spent with a chain.

Ref: Sacks, J. (2002) *The Money Trail*. New Economics Foundation, London/

Become a Member of BEAT

Become a member of BEAT for only £1 per year by contacting George (01422 844636 / george@arbolution.co.uk).

We meet on the **second Wednesday each month** (see **Diary** for specific dates) and all of them are at The Sportsman pub at Kebcote at 8pm.

In support of our aims, our start time fits in with the local bus (Bus E arrives at the pub at 7.35pm and leaves at 9.50pm).

In October, January, April and July we have speakers and business to deal with. All other months (except August) there will be a film showing.

As a member of BEAT, a copy of **UpBEAT** will be e-mailed to you automatically.



Diary

Important dates for your diary:

08 Dec : Film Evening with Ashley Sharpe

2011

12 Jan : **Meeting** with Peter Hill, Alternative Technology Centre, talking about possible hydro projects in our area producing green electricity.

09 Feb : Film Evening

09 Mar : Film Evening

13 Apr : **Meeting including guest speaker**

04 May : Film Evening

08 June : Film Evening

13 July : **Meeting including guest speaker**

07 Sept : Film Evening

12 Oct : **AGM**

Location : Sportsman Inn, Kebcote

Time : 8pm

UpBEAT Circulation

If you would like a paper copy of the latest issue of **UpBEAT** it is available the following places:

Blackshaw Head: The New Delight pub, The Sportsman pub, the Chapel and May's Shop.

Hebden Bridge: Train station, Library, Organic House and Tourist Information Office.

Heptonstall : Post Office and Towngate Tearoom

Todmorden: Train station, Library and Bear Cafe.

BEAT : Contact Us

To find out more about BEAT, or any of the articles in this newsletter; to join, or contribute your ideas, you are welcome to contact

Tim : 01706 813800 or dargancole@btinternet.com

George : 01422 844636 or george@arbolution.co.uk

Finn : 01422 846863 or finn.jensen@rocketmail.com