

UpBEAT



Newsletter from Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)

Issue 13 : May / June 2011

From the Editor

Spring has finally arrived in Blackshaw. The daffodils planted last year along our roads showed the way, followed by the opening of the campsite, the village clean-up, the village barbecue and the plant sale. If you would like to see more daffodils next Spring BEAT will be buying another load of bulbs this Autumn to be planted by volunteers.

Encouraged by the good weather BEAT invited local groups to organise a joint fundraising event. It will take place on Saturday 2nd July 10am to 4pm – see details below. If you want to open up your garden or your smallholding or if you have renewable technologies at your home you want to show, please contact Finn on 01422 846863 or finn.jensen@rocketmail.com so we can produce a map of all the places to visit.

The BEAT Team



Living with... A Wind Turbine
Our second feature from those who have alternative energy sources (page 2).



BEAT Activities (page 3)
Numerous activities are underway, including a hydro project, supporting Blackshaw Chapel consider options for reducing their carbon footprint and more...



BEAT Meeting : Weds 13 July
All members welcome to come and join the discussions about Our Vision and Our Plan for a Sustainable Blackshaw Parish (page 3).

Visit Your Neighbour!

**Saturday 2nd July 2011
10am – 4pm**

Visit gardens & smallholdings, see renewable technologies and get a preview of SHED's latest local history project!

To *Visit Your Neighbour!*

Come to The Chapel from 10am on 2nd July for the map and description of who's showing what, when. Alternatively go to www.blackshaw.net : copies of the map, etc. are available from 1st June along with an details of how you can take part if you would like to open up your garden, smallholding, etc.

It's free to *Visit Your Neighbour!*

but you're encouraged to pay a small entry fee to help local groups. Some homes will also provide refreshments for a donation.

For more information contact Finn on 01422 846863 or email finn.jensen@rocketmail.com

Blackshaw fundraising event for

*Blackshaw Optimistic Gardeners,
Blackshaw Food Network, SHED &
Blackshaw Environmental Action Team.*

Springing Into Action

On Saturday 16th April a record number of volunteers turned out to the Spring Village Clean Up at Blackshaw Head. "I was amazed when we had thirty four people to help out on the clean up" said Phil Knowles, organiser of the event. "The most pleasant aspect was the number of young people who came to help, it's great to see them taking pride in their environment as too often they get bad press".

Even though the village had already carried out a clean-up in January, they still collected a skip full of rubbish from the roadsides and grass verges. Pat Beechill, Parish Council Chairman said, "It's sad that we get so much rubbish thrown out of vehicles passing through the village. We have such a beautiful rural setting yet people just seem to want to ruin it; it's hard to understand".

The clean up was organised by Blackshaw Parish Council and Blackshaw Environmental Action Team and is one of three that will be carried out in the year. The next one will be held in October.



Blackshaw Food Network

The Blackshaw Food Network comes under the umbrella of BEAT. We are a group that meets together and arranges events, to bring those who want to buy local produce, together with those who produce local food.

We also want to promote local community activities around local food and growing food.

Last year, in celebration of local production, we had a get together, which



we called a **FOOD FEST** in the Old Chicken Sheds at the top of Davy Lane.

People either brought food they had grown or made, or we cooked produce in the sheds. We also had some activities for children, a real cook in! We had tables set up with camping stoves, a smoker and we lit the village barbecue. We all shared the food and sat round a bonfire as the evening drew to a close.

It was so good, that we are planning to repeat it on **Saturday JULY 23rd, early evening** – we hope that you will come, to sample or share. Put it on your calendar now!

FOOD FEST

23rd July 2011 at

The Sheds on Davy Lane!

Open Garden & Afternoon Tea

(smallholding, garden, alternative energy)
at

Steve and Liv Redmond's

Higher Earnshaw Water
Blackshaw Head, HX7 7JB

Sunday, July 3rd from 2pm

All donations to
Hope Community Village

For more details or directions
phone 01422 844117

Living with.... A Wind Turbine

For years we had intended to install some kind of alternative energy to reduce our bills and, more importantly, to cut down our carbon footprint. The alternatives were numerous: solar panels, heat pumps, wind turbines, and it was the latter that we opted for. It was a difficult economic decision as any outlay, we hoped, would have to be recouped within a reasonable timescale. As a retired couple, we couldn't contemplate spending a lot of money that would not cover the outlay within a few years.

So we chose to install a wind turbine. As the promise was that it would pay for itself within 4-5 years and would have a life span of maybe 20 years, we went ahead and invested the equivalent of two new medium sized cars in the project.

We chose the Evoco 10kW turbine. This is capable of producing the electricity needs of 3-4 households so, in effect, we could be saving the output of carbon from fossil fuels from our own house and those of our neighbours. With the feed-in tariff and the reduction in our own electricity and oil bills, we were convinced that it should pay for itself within the 4-5 years we hoped. This would not have been the case with solar panels or heat pumps.

The installation went smoothly. We were able to save some expense by getting local contractors to do the excavations for the foundations and to dig the trench and lay the cable. The contractors for the rest of the installation had to be specially accredited and were very efficient. They were responsible for the casting of the concrete base incorporating the steel reinforcements, assembling the turbine working parts, erecting the tower and installing the array of inverters,

switches and control equipment in the garage.

Since its installation and commissioning last August, the turbine seems to be on track to fulfil its promised payback time.



There have been some teething problems with the equipment. The blade furling mechanism, designed to protect the machine in gale force winds, has needed to be modified and there is a further upgrade planned to the chassis layout. There has necessarily been some down time while these modifications are installed but Evoco have been very good at incorporating the upgrades under the warranty and compensating us for any loss of production.

Visually, we don't feel that the turbine impacts too greatly on the surrounding views of the countryside. We tried to position it so that it was not on many people's horizons. The design is more elegant than some of the others to be seen around. Recent modifications have cut down on the level of noise to the extent that it is not a problem to us, or our neighbours.

Overall, we are pleased with our decision to install an Evoco wind turbine. Many of our like-minded neighbours also appreciate that a reduction in the reliance on fossil fuels is, in our own small way, achievable.

If you would like to learn more about our experience, why not visit us on the fundraising day for BEAT and other local groups, on the 2nd July between 10am and 12 noon.

Steve and Liv Redmond

Higher Earnshaw Water, Blackshaw Head



BEAT Offers Help To The Chapel

Blackshaw Head Chapel is not only a place for worship and 'the spiritual heart of the village'; the building also serves as a community centre. Various local groups, like two Parent and Toddler groups, the Art and Craft Group and the Parish Council, meet there regularly and various public events. Recent large events include Gardeners' Question Time, the Talent Show Contest and the Gospel Choir Concert. Birthday parties, weddings and elections (polling station) also use the facility.

A large upstairs room has just been refurbished following the refurbishment of the kitchen. The kitchen is used as a cafe at the village fete and other events. **The upstairs room and two downstairs rooms can be used by any local group.**

The chapel is mainly heated by electricity, and **the church, who manages it, is committed to good stewardship of the environment and reducing its own carbon footprint.**

BEAT and the church have now started a conversation to **investigate the possibility of getting renewable technologies for the building at no cost to the church.** This will not only reduce the chapel's emission of greenhouse gases but could also save a substantial amount of money. Producing green electricity and heating at the chapel will also help raise awareness in the community about the potential of renewable technologies.

There is, of course, no guarantee that an acceptable scheme can be agreed or that the necessary funds to make this possible can be raised, but we will have a go at it. We will

BEAT Working

Jointly with Hebden Bridge Transition Town (HBTT) and *Powerfromthelandscape* at the Alternative Technology Centre (ATC) in Hebden Bridge, **BEAT is working to get a hydro project up at Dog Bottom, near the cricket ground, and Lee Mill Road in Hebden Bridge.** We are currently negotiating with the landowners regarding the terms but they are very sympathetic to us having a community-owned hydro scheme.

Peter Hill at *Powerfromthelandscape* has done a survey of the site and produced a detailed report, which you can find at www.blackshaw.net/BEAT

archives.

The project is likely to cost around £100,000,

which is a lot of money for a community group to raise. We had applied for a Performance Review Grant from Calderdale Council but did not get it. If we can raise the money in other ways we could **generate an income of over £10,000 per year for over 20 years,** which can then be invested in other energy projects to the benefit of the community.

This and other possible projects will be discussed at the BEAT meeting on 13 July.



BEAT Meetings



All BEAT meetings are open to the public and take place at the Sportsman Pub, Kebs at 8pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13th July

Our Vision and Our Plan for a Sustainable Blackshaw Parish.

Both documents (*Our Vision and Our Plan*) have been prepared by BEAT's working group and are available on www.blackshaw.net/BEAT or from finn.jensen@rocketmail.com.

There is no BEAT meeting in August.

Big Thank You's

Wednesday 11th May : we showed video clips - all on unsustainable fishing. Thanks to Dr Ashley Sharp for an interesting talk. Ash also gave us some useful websites to help you choose which fish to buy, in shops and restaurants, that are not under threat:

www.msc.org/

www.mcsuk.org/

www.sharktrust.org/default.asp

www.fish2fork.com (good restaurant guide)



Wednesday 8th June



Thank you to Clare Woulds, lecturer in Water, Soil and Carbon interaction at Leeds University's School of Geography, who gave a fascinating talk on her recent Antarctic research cruise.

BEAT Offers Colden School Environmental Awareness

BEAT has offered to run some practical and fun awareness raising sessions at Colden School for the pupils.

The head teacher is considering whether to run an after-school club for the pupils interested.

Buy Your Green Electricity Through BEAT

BEAT has teamed up with Green Energy UK to offer local residents the opportunity to get their electricity from 100% renewable sources thus reducing damaging greenhouse gases.

If you buy your electricity through BEAT you will get a 10% discount and once ten households have signed up, BEAT will receive a small payment as well.

If you currently get your electricity from E.On you could save around £44 per year by switching to Green Energy UK – and you will help the environment.

For more information please contact 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 accessing the information you can email help@greenenergyuk.com or finn.jensen@rocketmail.com and ask them to email you back with the link.

Remember to tell Green Energy UK that you want to sign up through BEAT.



Green News!

Government announce binding targets on carbon emissions :

After some well documented Cabinet wranglings, the Coalition finally agreed to the Committee on Climate Change's recommendation that the UK cut its carbon emissions by 60% by 2030. Despite objections from several government departments, the decision will legally bind each successive government to cut the UK's emissions of greenhouse gases. The decision will mean that the UK will have to virtually 'decarbonise' the generation of electricity over the next 20 years.

Tidal power comes to the Thames :

Tidal energy company *Nautricity* have begun work on installing a 20kW tidal energy device in the Thames in central London. The free-floating device is to be tethered to a buoy where it will harness the tidal flows within the river. If the trial is successful it is hoped that larger units can be deployed throughout the estuary to provide enough electricity for up to 35,000 homes.

New fish species discovered in Bali :

After a two week survey of the coral reefs surrounding Bali, scientists working with *Conservation International* discovered up to 8 new species of

Blackshaw Art & Craft Group

The Art and Craft group meet every Wednesday 11.30am - 1.30pm at the Chapel. We are a vibrant, caring group of fifteen people with many skills in art, beadwork, knitting, tatting, card making and much more. Two of our members do lace making.

All our work is for fundraising to support charities. In the past we have supported Shelter, Help the Aged, Methodist Homes, Save the Family, hospitals, the village fete and the Chapel.

Our next sale will be at the village fete in September.



Our group also discuss current affairs and how they affect our communities, what is happening in the Parish and other issues raised by the members of the group.

If you are interested and would like to know more about the group and the community please contact Dot Sutcliffe on 01422-844893.

fish and a new species of coral. The bad news from this expedition was that certain familiar species such as the Napoleon Wrasse were in decline from overfishing.

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/gallery/2011/may/16/fish-species-bali?INTCMP=SRCH



The Warm Front 2011 / 2012

£110 Million Available for Home Energy Efficiency Improvements

The Warm Front scheme provides grants for energy efficiency improvements to the home, and energy advice for people most in need. The scheme now has a new set of eligibility criteria and is once again accepting new applications. For details see

www.fundingcentral.org.uk/newsview.aspxWCU=DSCODE|OTSSCLIVE,NEWSITEMID=248-N38394

or

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn11_37/pn11_37.aspx

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

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Or visit our website on www.blackshaw.net/BEAT