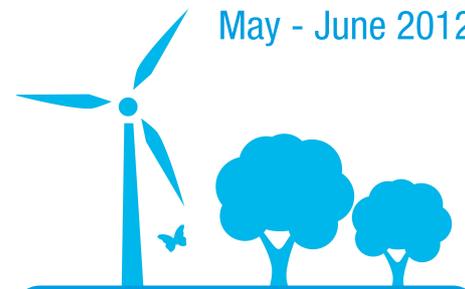


UpBEAT

Newsletter for Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)

May - June 2012



From the editor

You are invited to a celebration event on Saturday 23rd June at the New Delight Inn. A free buffet will be available from 7pm. We want to celebrate having:

- planted 1,400 trees given to us by the Woodland Trust as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, as wind breaks for one of our community orchards.
- grafted 100 fruit trees.
- helped the Charlestown allotment group to prepare their site and community orchard.
- received a grant of £9,855 from the Big Lottery Fund and a grant from Calderdale Council of £1,545

for the community orchards and the allotments.

- received a grant from Village SOS of £30,000 towards a community wind turbine.
- established Pennine Community Power as a community enterprise.
- received a grant of £2,000 from LEADER for insulation work at the local church/community centre.
- raised £1,636.30 through LocalGiving.com.
- held monthly public meetings.
- produced 19 newsletters.
- organised village clean-ups every April and October for over ten years.
- agreements with landowners for a hydro electric project.

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Unlike other BEAT gatherings there will not be an agenda for the event on 23rd June – just having a good time. BEAT's partners and funders will be invited along with our local MP, our local Calderdale and Parish councillors and the press.

BEAT also wants to say goodbye to Mila and Lars Hansen now that they are planning to move from the area and thank them for all their work for the community. They will be greatly missed. We do not know when they will be moving but hopefully not until after 23rd June.

We want to say special thanks to Tim Cole, who recently had to resign as chair of BEAT. At the event there will be an exhibition of BEAT's and Charlestown allotment group's work, including our future plans with a chance to speak to BEAT



members about this work. Blackshaw Food Network has also been invited to have an exhibition.

We will also hold a raffle as a fundraising for the Chapel's insulation work. There will be some amazing prizes to win in the raffle and we welcome further prizes to be donated to us.

We still need to raise £1,345 to be able to insulate the wall in the two downstairs rooms and to install four double glazed windows. All money raised on 23rd June will go to this work - see elsewhere in this newsletter.

We hope you will come and join us on 23rd June – whether you are a member of BEAT or not.

Grant win for village project

Blackshaw Head based Pennine Community Power (PCP) has won a grant of £30,000 from Village SOS, part of the Big Lottery Fund. The grant will partly fund a community wind turbine to be erected at Blackshaw Head. It recently received conditional planning permission from Calderdale Council.

“We are over the moon with this grant,” says Ashley Sharp, one of the founding directors of PCP. “For over two years we have worked on a sustainability plan for Blackshaw Parish – to produce more of our local energy and food. The community wind turbine is just one of several projects we are working on. The grant is a huge boost to our work and I would like to thank everyone who has helped making this possible.”

Village SOS has offered 62 projects a grant– Pennine Community Power is one of only two in Yorkshire.

As part of the grant scheme the BBC will follow some of the villages over a year to show how they are setting up community enterprises.

In the previous series on the BBC the programme had 3-4 million viewers, so Blackshaw Head could star on national television.

Pennine Community Power is an initiative of Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT) to develop community-based renewable energy.

All profits will be ploughed back into projects to make the



community more sustainable. The community enterprise will be democratically controlled and in the next few months residents will be encouraged to invest and participate in the company.

We have had a lot of press interest in our project and got coverage in Halifax Courier, Hebden Bridge Times, on Energy Royd, Hebden Bridge Transition Town and HebWeb's websites.

We also appeared in Village SOS's magazine.

We have registered Pennine Community Power (PCP) with the Financial Services Authority (FSA). This allows us to issue shares, open a bank account, etc.

The Rules for PCP appears on BEAT's website, www.blackshaw.net/BEAT. We will be setting up a website for PCP where all the documents for PCP will appear.

For more information about Pennine Community Power please e-mail finn.jensen@rocketmail.com.

Village clean-up

19 people participated in the Blackshaw Head village clean-up on 21st April. Charlestown had their spring cleaning earlier. Thanks to everyone who helped and to Phil Knowles for organising it so well. Also thanks to the Chapel for letting us use the building and to Dorothy, Pat and Roger for the refreshments.



Greening the Chapel

The insulation work at the Chapel has to be completed by July to satisfy the LEADER/Rural Development Agency which has contributed £2,000.

BEAT is therefore running a campaign to ask for donations to cover the shortfall of £1,345. If you want to give a donation you can either give cash to BEAT's treasurer, Finn Jensen or pay through LocalGiving.com so it can be Gift Aided, which will give BEAT another 25%.

From 14th May all donations through LocalGiving.com will be doubled as well until the 'doubling-up' fund of £17,500 for Calderdale groups runs out. BEAT

New member of BEAT's committee

Donna Goodman has joined BEAT's committee which meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm.

Donna is very active setting up an allotment site and community orchard in Charlestown – see www.charlestownallotments.co.uk

If you are interested in joining BEAT's committee please contact Finn Jensen – contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Village fete

This years village fete will be held on Saturday 1st September.

BEAT will have an exhibition in the red tent. Please visit us.

Scything workshop

Lucy is organising a one day Scything Workshop in Blackshaw Head on Saturday June 23rd 2012. The course will be delivered by Paul Kingsnorth who will provide all the equipment needed. Drinks and lunch are provided.

Price: £50 per person, for a maximum of eight people. There may be some flexibility on this price for one or two people who are unwaged, provided we have at least five full fee participants to cover costs.

To find out more about Paul's courses, go to: <http://paulkingsnorth.net/scything>

If you'd like to find out more, or to book a place, please email Lucy at philandlucy@hotmail.com or phone 01422 843473.



can get up to £1,000 doubled up. So it is safest to pay online on 14th May or to pay Finn in cash before 14th May to ensure your donation will be doubled.

With a bit of luck we might have raised the £1,345 by midnight on 23rd June – after the event at the Newdy that evening!

Community orchards and allotments

Due to the warmer weather we will not be able to plant any more trees until the Autumn. Thanks to everyone who helped to plant 1,400 trees so far and graft the

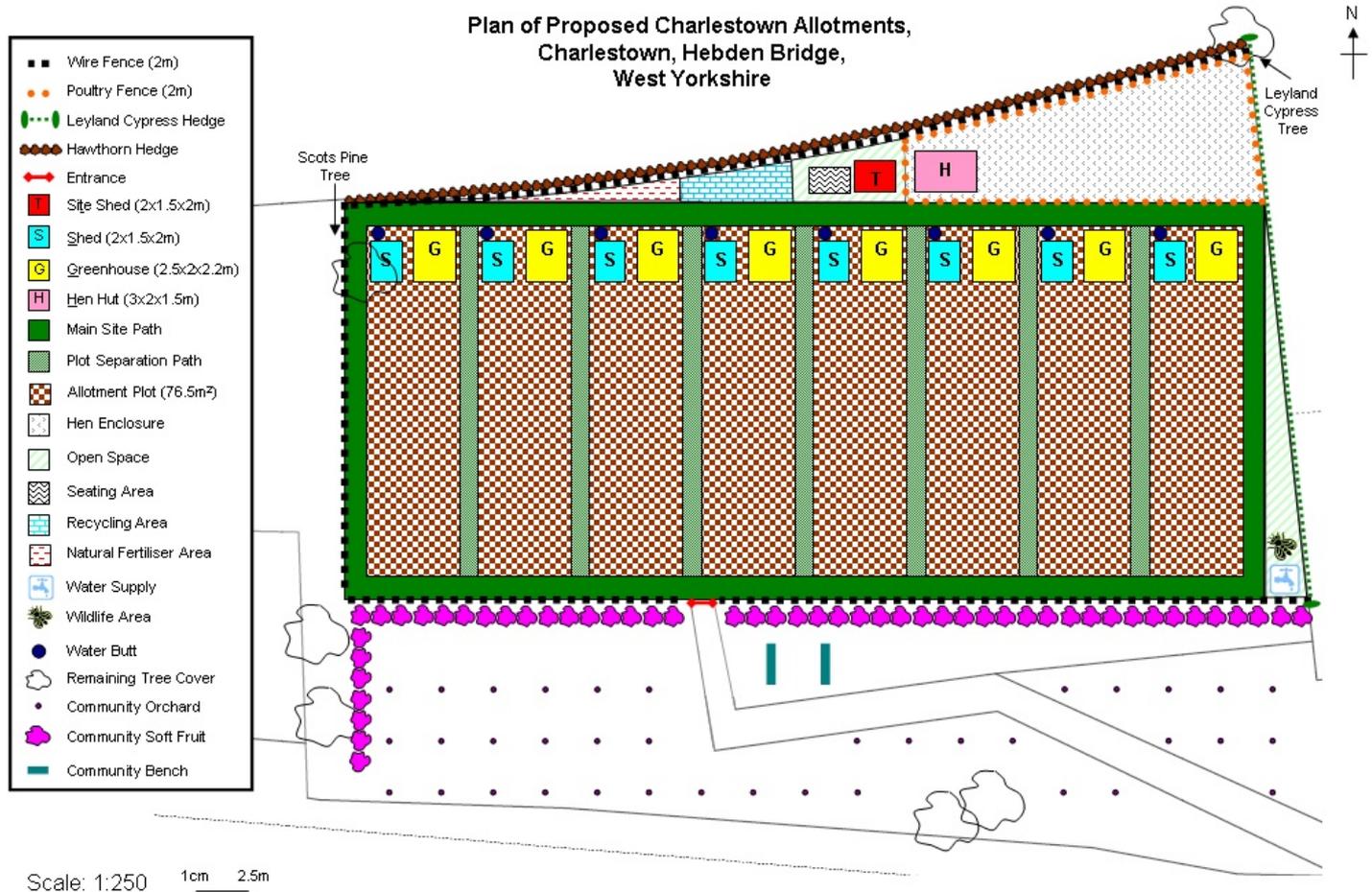
100 fruit trees.

BEAT has agreed to pay to have the tree stumps removed at the allotment site in Charlestown and for a chipper to make tree branches into wood chips.

Members of BEAT participated in workdays on the site. The site has

now been cleared apart from the tree stumps.

Now that BEAT has received the grant from the Big Lottery Fund all fencing will be done by local farmers on the allotment and community orchard sites over the next month or two along with installing gates and stiles.



BEAT meetings

On 11th April we had a meeting with our local MP, Craig Whittaker, who spoke about the government's green agenda – followed by a lively debate. Many thanks to Craig for coming.

On 9th May we had Mark Simmonds from Calderdale Local Orchard Group (CLOG) speaking. Mark is also one of the founding directors of Pennine Community Power and an expert in setting up community enterprises. Many

thanks to Mark for coming.

On Wednesday **13th June** we have Blackbark (www.blackbark.co.uk) coming to speak. Blackbark introduces themselves on their website as "Blackbark is a workers' co-operative committed to the health of woodlands in Calderdale."

We will also have Doreen Clare and Mike Warr speaking about their experiences with their air sourced heat pumps.

On Wednesday **11th July** we have Treesponsibility and Steve Welsh speaking. Treesponsibility plants around 10,000 trees each year. Steve Welsh is speaking about his 5kW wind turbine and biomass heating system. If time permits we also have Phil Knowles and Finn Jensen speaking about their experiences with thermal solar panels (making hot water).

All BEAT's public meetings are held at the Blackshaw Head Methodist Church at 7.45pm. Tea and coffee will be served.

Contact BEAT; Ashley Sharp, tel. 07855746295, email: secretary@blackshawbeat.info Finn Jensen, treasurer, tel. 01422 846863, email: treasurer@blackshawbeat.info