

sustainable YOULGRAVE news

The valley of the River Bradford: Alport, Harthill, Youlgrave, Middleton, Gratton

No 2: April 2007

Grant allows for new study into local wind energy

Our second feasibility study into possible local renewable energy projects is now set to go ahead, thanks to a grant of £6,720 from the Community Renewables Initiative (CRI). The fund is administered by the East Midlands Regional Assembly, and will pay for a study into wind energy in and around the River Bradford valley. Consultants DULAS will be undertaking the work, which will first of all consist of gathering survey data such as detailed wind readings. This will help determine which locations, if any, are suitable for possible small-scale wind power schemes.

Our first feasibility study, looking into the possibility of generating electricity from the anaerobic digestion of farm waste and other organic matter, is also underway, beginning with questionnaires going out to all the local farms.

UK CASE STUDY

Community wind turbine in Dyfi valley

The 75 kW wind turbine pictured right is at Cilgwyn, Pantperthog, in the Dyfi Valley of Mid Wales. It's been developed and owned by a co-operative called Bro Dyfi Community, who sell the electricity to the Centre for Alternative Technology. The photo is of the shareholders at the launch party/gathering in 2003 - and by the following year they were already seeing returns on their investment. The name for the turbine is 'Pwer Pobl' or 'People Power'.



Sustainable Youlgrave began early in 2006 when a group of likeminded villagers in the Youlgrave area came together to discuss ways in which, by thinking globally but acting locally, we could do our bit to preserve this fragile planet and at the same time make our rural community fully sustainable. We are exploring a range of initiatives which cover specific renewable energy schemes, educational and energy-saving projects, plus related themes such as promoting local shops and services. We cover the parishes of Youlgrave & Harthill, and Middleton & Smerrill, including the settlements of Youlgrave, Alport and Middleton-by-Youlgrave. Sustainable Youlgrave is an independent and voluntary community group run by and for local people. Although we have a formal committee, we also have a growing base of supporters whose interest and expertise embraces farming and engineering through to planning and local government. If you would like to get involved in any way or simply know more about our plans please contact either John Youatt (Chair) on 01629 636241, email john@youatt.co.uk or Andrew McCloy (Secretary) on 01629 636125, email andrew.mccloy@btinternet.com.

Household survey aims to reveal energy picture

In May, Sustainable Youlgrave will be carrying out its comprehensive survey of domestic energy use throughout our community. The door to door surveys are being conducted by a team of local volunteers who will be asking a range of questions – including what sort of insulation, heating systems, water-saving and energy conservation measures people might have in place. The results will be analysed and published later in the summer.

Sustainable Youlgrave visits Vital Earth

A small group of Sustainable Youlgrave supporters was recently treated to a fascinating, private tour of the state-of-the-art composting facility at Ashbourne, run by Vital Earth. This is where all our green refuse (including cardboard, food and garden waste) is sent for processing. It's first sorted, then heat-treated in small mobile vessels before indoor maturation. It ends up as bagged green compost and specially formulated growbags - all, of course, sustainable and peat-free. The facility cost over £7 million and has been running since last September. Thank you to Vital Earth for their hospitality.



Members of Sustainable Youlgrave recently attended a 'Clean Heat' Conference. It was organised by the Forestry Commission, who are promoting the formation of clusters whereby local woodland (their own and privately owned) can be used in a sustainable way to produce clean heat through logs, wood chips and wood pellets. These can be used in bio-mass central heating boilers (the burning of wood is offset by the planting of trees). This is currently happening in South Yorkshire with bio-mass boilers providing heating for South Yorkshire Police, blocks of flats and schools. Some very effective, self-feeding boilers were on display. They can be used alone or connected to a thermal store and used alongside a solar collection system and/or geo-thermal heating.

Compost Awareness Week

Did you know that 6-12 May is 'Compost Awareness Week'? No, neither did we. Anyway, Derbyshire Dales District Council is holding an event in Ashbourne park between 11am and 3pm on Sunday 6 May with discount compost bins and staff on hand to answer any composting queries. How about one in these parts next time...?

Further funding success

Sustainable Youlgrave has been awarded £150 by Derbyshire Dales District Council Community Grants Scheme towards its day-to-day running costs (room hire, administration, etc). We have also been granted £490 by Rural Solutions to help with the household survey — see front page.

Mini hydro proposals for Alport

Sustainable Youlgrave has given its full backing to plans unveiled by Haddon Estate for a mini hydro scheme at Alport Mill. Using the redundant but still serviceable mill buildings, Haddon hopes to power up to 20 properties in Alport by this small and unobtrusive project that will harness the power of the River Bradford. Youlgrave Parish Council has also leant its support to Haddon's bid for funding.

Parish Council's green leanings

In case you haven't yet seen it, when you're next on the Alport Lane playing fields check out the unique safety surface of the junior play equipment - it's made out of recycled, shredded rubber. Youlgrave Parish Council has also been enhancing its green credentials in the choice of the design for the new bus stop for Grove Place. It will be illuminated via a small solar panel on its roof.

Logo and design

We are still looking for someone to design a logo and typography for Sustainable Youlgrave - if you can help please contact Andrew (details overleaf).

www.freecycle.org.uk

Go to this website to learn about the wonderful world of giving (and getting) stuff for free. It's a grassroots and non-profit movement that operates through local groups across the UK to allow people to 'recycle' unwanted items. Matlock has a Freecycle group, for instance, whereby members simply advertise things that they would rather give away than throw away. A simple but brilliant idea!

www.transitiontowns.org — adapting to post-peak-oil.

www.malhamdale.com — go to 'Malhamdale Initiative', then 'Renewable Energy', to learn about the approach a Yorkshire Dales village similar to Youlgrave is taking.

www.madcnf.blogspot.com — Matlock Carbon Neutral Forum.

www.stopclimatechaos.org — broad-based UK coalition.

www.wrap.org.uk — Waste and Resources Action Programme for consumers and businesses to combat landfill and boost recycling.