

# sustainable YOULGRAVE news

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

No 3: August 2007

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AT HEART OF EMERGING VILLAGE PLAN PROCESS

Our aspirations for a vibrant and sustainable local community have been given a huge boost with the emergence of Youlgrave's new Village Plan group. From this summer, they are launching community-wide consultation over such issues as



*The successful Village Plan open day in Youlgrave Village Hall earlier in the summer.*

shops and housing, recycling and transport. A final document will hopefully be produced early next year that will chart where we want our community to go and how we might get there. Naturally, Sustainable Youlgrave is leading on the environmental angle, with our ongoing household energy survey and dialogue with the local authorities already well underway. If you would like to know more about the Village Plan and get involved in any way contact David Frederickson on 01629 636586 or email [mail@davidfrederickson.com](mailto:mail@davidfrederickson.com).

**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 combat climate change and at the same time make our rural community fully sustainable. We are exploring a range of initiatives which covers 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, Middleton & Smerrill, Harthill and Gratton. Sustainable Youlgrave is an independent and voluntary community group run by and for local people. If you want to get involved contact John Youatt (Chair) on 01629 636241, email [john@youatt.co.uk](mailto:john@youatt.co.uk) or Andrew McCloy (Secretary) on 01629 636125, email [andrew.mccloy@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.mccloy@btinternet.com).

### STOP PRESS

#### **Wind study - initial findings**

As this newsletter went to print, the report from our consultants on the feasibility of capturing wind energy from one or more locations around the Bradford valley was delivered to Sustainable Youlgrave. As expected (hoped?), several reasonably discreet locations away from habitation have been identified where the wind readings are encouraging - and which could possibly support a small or medium size turbine. We are now going to study the report in detail and seek a meeting with the National Park Authority to learn of their reaction. For more details contact Brian Mallalieu on 01629 636068 or email [mallalieu@connectfreee](mailto:mallalieu@connectfreee).

#### ***Youlgrave School acts on waste***

*A project run by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust called 'Waste Away' has helped Youlgrave Primary School reduce its waste sent to landfill by almost three quarters. Featuring 12 Derbyshire schools, the project is seeking to significantly reduce school waste by changing attitudes of everyone involved, including teachers and parents. It also aims to put in place a waste minimisation strategy for each school that will operate after the project ends. All Saints, Youlgrave, is one of the schools involved, and just in the first year alone it has made a staggering 71% cut in its overall waste, reducing the waste it sends to landfill from 5,830g to 1,765g. See [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) for more information.*

## SEEING THE WOODS FOR THE TREES

Following a visit from the Peak District National Park Forester and the local Forestry Commission officer in March, we learnt that there is a potential of 4 tons/hectare of local wood waste available annually, if woodlands are managed properly, for use as fuel. They encouraged us to contact landowners, so starting with the National Park, they have also spoken with Haddon and Stanton Estates on our behalf, to obtain details of their woodland size and interest. We plan to contact remaining private landowners via the farms survey.

The Director of the East Midlands Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS) has given us an estimated overall local woodlands figure of 196 hectares, which projects a maximum of 784 tons of woodfuel per year, equating to approximately 784,000 kWh of energy (and that's from electricity generation alone - heat recovery/hot water is an added bonus) which would result in an annual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of at least 19,600 kg. This assumes the woodfuel would be converted to producer gas in a gasifier, to fuel in turn a gas engine generating both electricity and heat (CHP), for use, say, in a local district heating scheme to offset existing energy supplies.

However, only a proportion of the potential wood waste will be recoverable (although local sawmill residues might swell that figure?) but even then this could offset a major part of our existing carbon footprint. When added to the potential from anaerobic digestion (and perhaps some energy crops?) biomass resources could well provide us with the means to go carbon neutral — and beyond.

*Brian Mallalieu*

A bright  
idea lights  
up Ilam



The Staffordshire village of Ilam, on the southern edge of the Peak District, is officially the first in Britain to rid itself of old-fashioned, energy-guzzling incandescent light bulbs. The impetus came from the local bellringers, whose initial plan was to resurrect an old mini-hydro scheme to heat the church. However, with help from the Marches Energy Agency, a much more ambitious and far-sighted approach was drawn up to transform Ilam. First, replace all the light bulbs; next, improve insulation and domestic heating systems; then move on to microgeneration and green electricity tariffs. Thanks to various grants, the entire 200-strong community has received free low-energy light bulbs and Ilam has already reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by four tons a year. Now there's a bright idea!

## Sheffield school insulated by recycled denim jeans!

*Pictured right is the new library of Anns Grove Primary School in Heeley, Sheffield. Its unusual insulation takes the form of recycled denim jeans, manufactured by Sheffield-based Recovery Insulation. This company was established by the Schools & Homes Energy Education Project in December 2002 with the aim of providing a durable and environmentally friendly insulation material made from recycled cotton textile fibres. For more information go to [www.recovery-insulation.co.uk/](http://www.recovery-insulation.co.uk/). Incidentally, the school also used recycled glulam beams from a demolished building in Hull. Thanks to Sustainable Youlgrave's Andrew Beard for this fascinating story.*



# TOP TABLE MEETINGS PUT SY ON THE MAP

*Sustainable Youlgrave officers brief Chief Execs of Peak District National Park, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Environment Agency (phew!)*

As our project gathers momentum and the surrounding publicity grows, we've been taking our message (and our 'shopping list') to more and more decision-makers and local authority bosses. In the last couple of months Sustainable Youlgrave's officers have had fruitful meetings with Jim Dixon (Peak District National Park Chief Executive), Nick Hodgson (Derbyshire County Council Chief Executive) and David Wheatcroft (Derbyshire Dales



District Council Chief Executive). We also hosted Barbara Young, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, during her fact-finding visit to the National Park earlier this month when her itinerary included a stop-off in Youlgrave to learn about our initiative (see photo left). Pictured L-R: Glenys Moore (SY), Richard Godley (Sustainable Development Fund), John Youatt (SY), Baroness Young (Chief Exec, EA), Jim Dixon (Chief Exec, PDNPA) and Fred Baker (SY). Not pictured: Toby Willison (EA), Andrew McCloy and Brian Mallalieu (SY).

## "Renewable energy options in Youlgrave and Bradford Dale could help us go *beyond* carbon neutral"

*We're grateful to ADAS and a member of our supporters' group for the following information for our four parishes (Youlgrave, Harthill, Middleton & Smerrill and Gratton).*

- Beef cows plus followers at least 1750 head
- Dairy cows plus followers at least 1750 head
- Sheep at least 3800 head
- Crops at least 170 hectares, grassland at least 2300 hectares
- Woodland around 196 hectares
- There are 8 dairy and 18 beef/sheep enterprises.



Alongside this, we have assembled a contact list of most of the farms and other land ownership in the same area. Meanwhile, Haddon Estate has received a feasibility study for water power at Alport Mill from Derwent Hydro. SY has estimated the energy available elsewhere as 'flow of river'. To this we can add a figure for solar hot water, solar electric and ground heat.

This should enable our consultants (Dulas, Celtic Composting and the Forestry Commission) to help us to calculate the valley's potential for energy generation in kWh per year, and carbon savings in the form of tonnes carbon, CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> (methane). When we have the grand total, we will be able to offset it against the valley's total energy use/carbon emissions and discover whether, in theory at least, we can achieve our slogan "**beyond carbon neutral**", without *external* offsetting.

If we can, our project might well be unique. But (and it's a huge but), to get there will require levels of co-operation, commercial risk, capital grants and wholesale electricity tariffs that have not been achieved elsewhere in the UK. If Government wants to meet the targets accepted by most experts (except of course, Melanie Philips) and now set by the EU, we offer a new model way forward for us to set our hands to and for others to replicate.

*John Youatt, Chair, Sustainable Youlgrave*



*One frightening consequence of global warming...!*

## [www.sustainableyoulgrave.org](http://www.sustainableyoulgrave.org)

We are about to launch our own dedicated website, thanks to a grant of £1,000 from the Sustainable Development Fund (a defra fund administered by the Peak District National Park Authority). The site is currently under construction, but to see the early results go to [www.sustainableyoulgrave.org](http://www.sustainableyoulgrave.org). We also currently have a page on the Youlgrave village website at: [www.youlgrave.com/Sustainable\\_Youlgrave.htm](http://www.youlgrave.com/Sustainable_Youlgrave.htm)

[www.emra.gov.uk/what-we-do/regional-communities-policy/success-stories/derbyshire/sustainable-youlgrave](http://www.emra.gov.uk/what-we-do/regional-communities-policy/success-stories/derbyshire/sustainable-youlgrave) – SY on the regional stage  
[www.madcnf.blogspot.com](http://www.madcnf.blogspot.com) – Matlock Carbon Neutral Forum.  
[www.acre.org.uk/zPROJECT\\_casestudies.htm](http://www.acre.org.uk/zPROJECT_casestudies.htm) – go to 'Peak District' to see the SY case study under Action with Communities in Rural England  
[www.everybodys-talking.org/](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/) – make your pledge for the planet  
[www.sustainableyoulgrave.org](http://www.sustainableyoulgrave.org) – our fledgling website!

### In the next newsletter:

- The latest on our Anaerobic Digestion study
- Sustainable Youlgrave's new membership structure
- News from our local surveys
- Our new logo

*'Together the little things we do make a big difference - so make a pledge and show that you care.' This is the message from the Defra-supported campaign EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE, organised by the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities Energy Partnership (LAEP) that comprises all 19 local authorities in the two counties. Go to [www.everybodys-talking.org](http://www.everybodys-talking.org) to find out more...*

## Sustainable energy fair

### The 21st Century Village and Community Event:

**Action on Energy** is to be held on Saturday 29th September at Lady Manner's School in Bakewell.

It's open to everyone and will include displays, workshops, speakers and much more. Sustainable Youlgrave will have a stand and it promises to be a fascinating day. The event is being organised by the Peak District Sustainable Energy Group (PDSEG), which is led by the likes of the Peak National Park, Rural Community Council and CVS. Sustainable Youlgrave is also a member of PDSEG. Look out for more details in the local press nearer the time.

## 'Cut the Carbon' visits Youlgrave

'Cut the Carbon' is a Christian Aid backed march that started in Belfast on 14th July and, via Edinburgh and a number of other UK cities, is due to arrive in London on 2nd October. On the morning of Tuesday 21st August the walkers passed through Youlgrave, where members of Sustainable Youlgrave met them at the Village Hall with refreshments and words of encouragement (such as "only another 150 miles to go...!").

## Community environmental awards

Telecommunications giant O<sub>2</sub> has backed the 'It's Your Community' initiative to provide grants of £100 to £1,000 to individuals and groups seeking to improve their local environment - including tree planting, creating wildlife ponds, and providing water butts and recycling facilities in village halls. Awards are made monthly via the Conservation Foundation. Go to [www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/ActLocalAwards.php](http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/ActLocalAwards.php)

## National Climate March (another!)

An international day of protest is to be held on Saturday 8th December to coincide with the UN Climate Talks being held in Indonesia. In the UK the national focus will be a National Climate March in London - more details from [www.campaigncc.org](http://www.campaigncc.org)

Everybody's talking about  
**climate change**



A DEFRA supported local government  
**climate change**  
 public awareness campaign  
 throughout Nottinghamshire  
 and Derbyshire