

New Village Market gets thumbs up



Youlgrave's first 'Village Market', organised by Sustainable Youlgrave and held in the Reading Room in January, proved to be a big hit with an enthusiastic turn-out.

It was opened by Eddie Oldfield, chair of the Horticultural Society and Reading Room Committee, who said he was impressed with the wide variety of stalls. They included spinning and knitting, photography, woodturning, sewing, card making, art, pottery and jewellery, as well as cakes, buns, jams and chutneys. The room seemed to be crowded from the word go, and a steady stream of customers walked and talked their way round the impressive displays, ending up with welcome refreshments. All the stallholders said they would come back next time, and one or two newcomers agreed to offer their wares. There were only a couple of post-its put up on the Recycle Board but both received responses - so it is obviously worth remembering to note your swaps, wants and sales on the board next time.

The second Village Market has just been held (on 13 March), again in the Reading Room, with the plan to have one every couple of months to start with.

Apart from craft and home-

made produce, it is hoped that as the year progresses, surplus fruit and vegetables from gardens and allotments will be offered for sale. There was a query about allotment holders being able to sell their surplus, but Youlgrave Parish Council has confirmed that it is permissible so long as it is just that - i.e. surplus to domestic needs and not grown for trade or business. It's a shame to see good local food going to waste!

The Village Markets are an initiative of the Sustainable Youlgrave Community Group. We are only a small group at present and would welcome anyone who would like to join in. Alongside us is the new Bee Group, and we want to set up another small group to create a community orchard. It would also be great if a few people would like to assist in the organisation of future markets. Anyone interested in being involved should email Lucy Stirling at stirlinglucyb@hotmail.com or phone Jeni Edwards on 636550.



Sustainable Youlgrave AGM

Thursday 15 April, 7.30pm
Youlgrave Reading Room
All welcome

SY award for public buildings energy survey

Sustainable Youlgrave is delighted at the news that it has been awarded £8,350 to commission an energy survey of public buildings in Youlgrave and Middleton.

The money is from the Peak District National Park's Sustainable Development Fund and will pay for specialists to conduct a full energy survey on seven public buildings: the two parish churches, All Saints Primary School, Middleton Village Hall, Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Youlgrave Reading Room and Youlgrave Scout & Community Hall. The aim is to help identify ways in which the buildings can reduce their energy and water consumption, including the feasibility of using appropriate renewable energy resources.

"I'm delighted and very grateful that we have been awarded a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund," said SY Committee Member Dave Sharpe who is managing the

project. "This energy survey of public buildings in Youlgrave and Middleton is hopefully the first step towards making our community venues more energy efficient and cheaper to run. Introduction of the proposals from the survey will also reduce the village's overall carbon footprint."

Harry Bowell, who chairs the Peak District Sustainable Development Fund panel, said: "This project is what sustainable development in the Peak District is all about – improving energy efficiency and cutting costs for public buildings which are the life-blood of our village communities."

The survey is planned to take place over Spring 2010. It is hoped that even simple measures such as better insulation and draft proofing will be able to help these important community-run venues save money and contribute towards a greener Youlgrave, as well as delivering a wider educational message about energy saving.

New Chairman for Sustainable Youlgrave

Sustainable Youlgrave's first and so far only Chairman, John Youatt, has stood down after leading the group through its first four successful years. Over that time Sustainable Youlgrave has developed into an effective and dynamic group that has led the way on issues of community sustainability. Amongst other things, SY has:

- secured public funds for ground-breaking feasibility studies, especially into anaerobic digestion which involved consulting the entire local farming community
- initiated two domestic energy questionnaires to gauge energy use and attitudes in the Bradford Valley
- held well attended public workshops on composting and solar energy
- formed a new bee group
- organised a Climate Change awareness event that included an important input from village schoolchildren
- launched a successful village market
- won the 2008 Future Friendly Awards community section
- contributed to key consultations such as the Local Development Framework and Regional Plan
- hosted visits by top visiting officials from DEFRA, the Environment Agency and others

SY's Vice Chair, Fred Baker, who will chair the group until the AGM in April, paid tribute to John's effort and commitment, as well as his foresight. He said that Sustainable Youlgrave's invitation to a reception held by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street last year was in many ways a fitting tribute to John's hard work. John will remain on SY's Committee and continue to give expert advice on planning issues.



Andrew McCloy and John Youatt at the reception at No 10 last year.

Can renewable energy be cost effective?

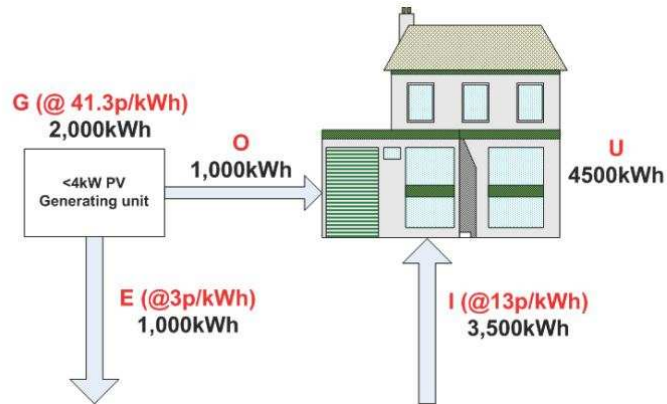
Changes to 'feed-in tariffs' this April are set to make a real difference

One of the main problems many householders have with renewable energy is that it simply has not been cost effective for them. This is about to change as the government has set out feed-in tariffs for renewable energy generation up to 5MW.

The feed-in tariff is effectively what a householder can expect to be paid for generating electricity from a renewable source and making it available to the national grid. Feed-in tariffs are due to come into force in April 2010 and comprise a 'generation tariff' plus an 'export tariff'. Both tariffs are linked to the retail price index and therefore maintain their value in real terms.

In the example shown here, the household generates 2,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per annum, such as from a solar photovoltaic (PV) panel. They use 1,000kWh of the electricity they generate and 1,000kWh is exported to the grid, because it is generated at times when the household does not need it. The household uses a total of 4,500kWh per annum and therefore they still import 3,500kWh from their current electricity supplier.

Under the new scheme, if the tariff for generation is, for example, 30p/kWh, the householder will receive a payment of £600 per annum (2000kWh x 30p) for the electricity they



(Source: Government Response on FIT Consultation)

generate. They will also receive a payment for the electricity they export; assuming a price of 3p/kWh this would be £30 (1000kWh x 3p). They also derive a benefit from the 1,000kWh they generate and use on-site as that will offset 1,000kWh they would otherwise have had to buy from their electricity supplier. Assuming an import price of 10p/kWh this would be a saving of £130 (1,000kWh x 13p). The total income for this household would be £760. This is only an example because different tariffs apply to different technologies. The cost of the energy used would be £455 so the scheme would provide you with free electricity and an annual income of £305!

Feed-in tariffs are available for a number of renewable energy technologies but for most households the most appropriate option will be PV panels. With the potential for low cost long term loans to fund the installation renewable energy now makes good economic as well as environmental sense.

So what do feed-in tariffs mean?

- Guaranteed payment per kilowatt hour generated
- Guaranteed minimum payment of 3p per kWh exported to the market
- Tariffs now index-linked so they increase in line with inflation
- FIT offered for 20-year period (25 years for solar PV)
- FIT income for domestic properties generating electricity mainly for their own use will not be taxable
- Overall aim of FIT is to offer standard renewable energy projects a 5-8% return on investments

LCCC bid unsuccessful

Sustainable Youlgrave's attempt to win through the Government's Low Carbon Communities Challenge has been unsuccessful, despite much hard work and by all accounts a strong application. Thank you to everyone who helped out, especially Rural Action Derbyshire and all the community groups who wrote letters of support. The comprehensive set of documents we prepared will at least be useful for future grant applications, as well as providing us with plenty of food for thought in terms of wider organisational development.

