

# VALE ROYAL ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Spring/  
Summer  
2006

NEWSLETTER

## Ashton Hayes: Living within Limits

The thousand inhabitants of Ashton Hayes, just west of Kelsall, are opting to reduce their environmental footprint. They aim to reduce their energy use, invest in renewable energy, and plant lots of trees to absorb carbon dioxide and provide fuel for future generations. The scheme was launched on 26<sup>th</sup> January, with Garry Charnock as project co-ordinator, backed by council leader Naomi Dynem.

To get baseline information to track progress against, a team of students from the University of Chester have surveyed residents, to determine energy use. Also in May, a Renewable Technology Fair was held in the school.

As well as a roof-mounted Solartwin water heater, they have a wind turbine on the school roof. A second is planned, along with a biomass boiler. They hope to arrange a safe path from the village to Mouldsworth Station. Cubs and guides are counting and measuring trees to assess the carbon sink, and 2600 saplings have been added: they hope ultimately to have 16,000.

*Picture: affixing the sign saying "Aiming to become England's first **carbon neutral** village".*  
See [www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk/Press\\_releases.html](http://www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk/Press_releases.html). Contact Garry Charnock, 01829 752714, email [charnock@t-e-s.co.uk](mailto:charnock@t-e-s.co.uk)

### Anderton's Rise To Success

The Anderton Boat Lift was visited by a record 158,000 visitors last year, according to recently published data from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA). ALVA recorded a rise in visitor numbers of over 31% compared to the previous year, a jump of 37,000 people in 2005. For further info on Anderton Lift, inc opening times and ticket prices, see [www.andertonboatlift.co.uk](http://www.andertonboatlift.co.uk) or phone 01606 786777.



### Lion Salt Works gets Funding

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded Lion Salt Works £4.96m towards upgrading the historic industrial site. Andrew Fielding, Project Director is delighted, and has 12 months to find matched funding to release the HLF grant. If successful, they'll be able to demonstrate the making of various grades of salt, and the iron age techniques using ceramic pans. He also hopes to restart commercial salt production, using wood-firing under brine brought by canal from Middlewich, to produce a prestige coarse salt.

The Lion Salt Works would form part of a network of tourist attractions in the area. For more information see [www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk](http://www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk).

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. For more information contact Nicky Price, tel 020 7591 6046 or see [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

**Vale Royal Environment Network**

thanks its many sponsors, supporters and volunteers.

Registered Charity Number 1101585. Offices at:

Yarwoods Arm, Navigation Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1BE  
tel 01606 723160, email [vren@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:vren@groundwork.org.uk)

## Cheshire's Adopted Structure Plan – Cheshire 2016: Structure Plan Alteration

This is available from CCC Environmental Planning Service at Backford Hall, Backford, Cheshire CH1 6PZ for £15 plus P+P, or download as a pdf from [www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk) (click on S in the index, scroll down to Structure Plan). Alternatively, copies can be made available as a CDROM from Gill Phillips, tel 01244 602916, email [gill.phillips@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:gill.phillips@cheshire.gov.uk). It contains policies on the amount and general location of new homes, businesses, shops and leisure facilities, on waste and resources. It also sets out measures to protect and enhance Cheshire's environment and to improve its transport network.

## Transport

### Light on the Right Foot

If you consider speed limits do not need to be exceeded, you can register your opinion and get a car sticker. There are some small incentives too! See [www.cheshire.gov.uk/roadsafety/SetThePace.htm](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/roadsafety/SetThePace.htm) or contact Peter Gordon, Cheshire County Council's Senior Road Safety Officer on 01244 603602.

### Electric Cars

The G-Wiz costs from £7000, allegedly fits 2 adults and 2 children, has a range of 40 miles and top speed 40mph, costs about 1p per mile in electricity, and does not incur road tax. Tel 020 8574 3232 or see [www.goinggreen.co.uk/?PageID=NewGWiz](http://www.goinggreen.co.uk/?PageID=NewGWiz)

### New Mersey Crossing

Halton Friends of the Earth (HfoE) are concerned about the effects of a second planned Mersey crossing there.

On traffic, they believe it would be more cost effective to: remove signs on the M6 directing Liverpool traffic through Halton; promote cycling in Halton; use TravelSmart-type marketing campaigns; introduce a light rail service over Britannia Bridge; change road layouts and introduce speed restrictions.

Over 25 years, £1.2 bn has been invested in cleaning up the River Mersey, so it is now a job-creating asset; churning up the settled industrial sediment could jeopardise this.

"If future impacts of climate change require a drastic reduction in road and air traffic, a scheme of this size and nature would effectively be reduced to the status of a very costly white elephant."

For more details, or copies of HfoE's submissions to Government, contact Deni on 0151 424 2324 or email [deni.igloo@fish.co.uk](mailto:deni.igloo@fish.co.uk)

## Home Zones

A Home Zone is a street or group of streets where pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles share the space on equal terms, and the design makes drivers feel it is



normal to drive slowly and carefully. Through traffic calming, shared surfaces, trees, planters, benches and play areas, Home Zones challenge the traditional distinction between carriageway and footway in order to redefine the street as a valuable part of the local community's living space. People are safer, happier and healthier. When correctly designed, emergency vehicles are not impeded, the calming

doesn't result in tailbacks, and children are not encouraged to play on busy roads. They are based on residential street concepts developed in the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland.

See [www.homezonenews.org.uk](http://www.homezonenews.org.uk), [www.transport2000.org.uk/communityaction/HomeZoneTipsBriefing.htm](http://www.transport2000.org.uk/communityaction/HomeZoneTipsBriefing.htm).

## Eco-Driving

From 2008, the UK driving test is to include fuel efficiency - "eco-driving" as already required in the Netherlands where it is estimated that the changes can cut fuel use by as much as a third.

## Train News

- There is now a PM ticket available from Northwich Station. This offers a Manchester or Chester return for £5, or as far as Navigation Road or Mouldsworth for £2.50, only in the afternoons. Except for trips to Chester on race days. (Usual Cheap Day Return to Manchester £7.40, Chester £6.60, Altrincham £5.45, Mouldsworth £4.10, Cuddington £2.55, Plumley £2.35.)

- When the Northwich ticket office is closed (after 12noon weekdays), tickets can now be purchased from Café Arabica (the cyber café) in The Zone, the new facility in the station buildings, until 5pm weekdays.

- Duo fares (special prices for two people) are now available on the Mid-Cheshire Line from 9.30 rather than 10am.

- Lostock Station is to benefit from £150,000 of 'Section 106' money – gleaned from Lostock Triangle developers to improve transport links to their development.

- You can get from Manchester to London for £6 – but you have to book in advance, and the limited number soon go. If using the National Rail website ([www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)), specify London St Pancras and via Sheffield. It's offered by Midland Mainline.

**And buses**

- A new 2A service from Northwich town centre to Gadbrook Park has been launched.

- The No 44 Warrington bus service from Northwich via Weaverham, Acton Bridge and Bartington is to be discontinued from the end of July. This leaves the No 1 Northwich-Weaverham and No 48 Northwich-Frodsham (via Acton Bridge) services. Access to Warrington buses will be via Northwich or the non-pedestrian friendly A49. (*pic-[www.velorution.biz/?cat=2](http://www.velorution.biz/?cat=2)*)

**Advice for Cyclists**

Beware of lorries and other large vehicles. A gap between the vehicle and kerb, though inviting, can soon turn into an unhealthy kerb overhang as the vehicle turns. Lorries may well pull to the right before making a left turn – so hang back at junctions, etc, and generally avoid trying to undertake them.

Remember, the driver may not have seen you. Driving a large vehicle on busy and crowded roads is difficult, and even with all the vehicle's mirrors, the driver may not spot a cyclist who is on the nearside of their vehicle.

If you arrive at the junction first, and a lorry pulls up alongside you, it's best to let it move off first, so you have time to see if it is going to turn.

Do not assume the vehicle is going straight ahead just because it is not signalling left.

Many junctions have Advanced Stop Lines for cyclists. These are very useful as they let you stop ahead of other vehicles so drivers can more easily see you.

However, even at junctions with an Advanced Stop Line, it is better to hang back if there is a lorry.

From [www.rospa.com/roadsafety/info/cyclists\\_and\\_lorries\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.rospa.com/roadsafety/info/cyclists_and_lorries_factsheet.pdf)

Someone's advice, (given the number of 'looked but didn't see' excuses by drivers): cyclists should assume they are invisible, and that any drivers are blind!



needs. Car stickers are available, with funds raised going to Rhyl CC Memorial Fund and others. They say: "Think for a moment before overtaking. Can you do it safely? Will it actually get you to your destination

This campaign aims to push for greater awareness of cyclists'

more quickly, or just allow you to catch up to the car in front? ... Treat a cyclist like a small car – give them plenty of room" See [www.givecyclistsroom.co.uk](http://www.givecyclistsroom.co.uk), or order stickers from Justin Beattie, 45 Drumfork Road, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, G84 7TN, price £1.75 each + 50p p+p  
 Meanwhile, another campaign, "Stop at Red" aims to improve the status of cycling by encouraging



"looked but didn't see..."

cyclists to heed traffic signals and treat motorists with courtesy. There's an on-line sign-up at [www.stopatred.org](http://www.stopatred.org)

**Your directions for cycling and walking**

The viamichelin website now includes the options of route planning for cycling or walking; formerly it only gave driving directions. But it's limited to distances up to 30 km (19 miles). See [www.viamichelin.co.uk](http://www.viamichelin.co.uk)

For longer distances, you can choose the "avoid motorways" option on [www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner\\_main.jsp](http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp). For maps of cycleways, see Sustrans' website, [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

If you know your route, or you want to plot a circular tour, or make a transect, you can find distances and plot elevations using [www.gmap-pedometer.com](http://www.gmap-pedometer.com). This works using the co-ordinates and elevations of each point you double-click on the map. Elevations may not work in all countries.

**Cycle hire** is available at Delamere Forest Park Visitor Centre, every weekend and Thursday to Sunday every school holiday. Group hire and cycle skills coaching is also available. For details or advance booking please contact WirralTracs on 07717 886832 or visit [www.wirraltracs.co.uk](http://www.wirraltracs.co.uk)

**Frodsham - Whitchurch 'Sandstone Rambler' bus**  
Due to funding difficulties, this will not run on Sundays this year – just Saturdays. They're expecting more custom as pensioners are now able to travel free off-peak. Contact Colin Kennington, [Colin.Kennington@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:Colin.Kennington@cheshire.gov.uk) (*pic – CCC*)

### **Cheshire's Local Transport Plan**

Cycling receives some mention in Cheshire's LTP for 2006 to 2011: they aim to complete the National Cycle Network within



Cheshire, and do pedestrian and cycling improvements in Congleton and Macclesfield. Discussions are ongoing with potential developers regarding the Middlewich Eastern Bypass (which will open up a development area east of Middlewich town centre).  
See [www.cheshire.gov.uk/ltp/home.htm](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/ltp/home.htm), chapter 7.

## **Energy and Climate Change**

### **Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change**

DEFRA has a report:

"While nuclear could avoid 300 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2100, biological sequestration could avoid 350, CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage could avoid 2,000, non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG reduction could avoid 500 and energy efficiency improvements could avoid the emission of 1,000 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e. Renewable energy technologies, on the other hand, are estimated to have the potential to avoid the emission of 3,000 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e." (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e = gigatonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, [gigatonne = 1,000,000,000 tonnes.])

Towards the back, in the conclusions, may be found: "While the technical and economic challenges of the emissions trajectory between 2005 and 2050 are daunting under the assumption of a 2.5°C climate sensitivity, they are far more modest than the challenges of the 2050 to 2095 period."

See the precis at [www.sparksdata.co.uk/refocus/redesign/showdoc.asp?docid=23531741&accnum=1](http://www.sparksdata.co.uk/refocus/redesign/showdoc.asp?docid=23531741&accnum=1)  
See the document at [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/international/pdf/avoid-dangercc.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/international/pdf/avoid-dangercc.pdf)  
It's also available as a book out from Cambridge University Press, price £70.

### **CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage; Ocean Acidification**

According to OSPAR, the intergovernmental cooperation to protect the North-East Atlantic, there's enough capacity in geological structures in the North East Atlantic to take centuries-worth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from local power stations. Evaluation would be required to assess the potential for leakage.

A second OSPAR report confirms that rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere is affecting the oceans – they're fast becoming more acidic. Over the past 200 years, they've dropped from pH 8.2 to 8.1, (it's been almost unchanged for at least the last 25 million years) and they're

expected to fall to pH 7.6 in the next 100 years. Although atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels have been higher in the distant past, ocean pH was steady – the present fall is attributed to the sudden man-made emissions rise. This will depress sea animals' activity, and can adversely affect both shelled and unshelled animals and corals.

The capacity of the oceans to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> will decrease with rising concentrations and water temperatures. [www.ospar.org/eng/html/welcome.html](http://www.ospar.org/eng/html/welcome.html)  
[www.royalsoc.ac.uk/news.asp?year=&ID=3250](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/news.asp?year=&ID=3250)

### **G8 to discuss Energy Security**

A 12-page document is available to view, with well-meaning phrases such as eradicating energy poverty and diversification of the energy mix, with more contentious expand hydrocarbon resource base in a way that would outpace its depletion, and development of efficient electric power facilities, including safe nuclear and hydropower plants. This is to be discussed at the G8 summit in St. Petersburg on 16<sup>th</sup> July. See

[http://reclaimthecommons.net/downloads/2nd\\_draft\\_of\\_G8\\_Summit\\_Communique\\_on\\_Energy\\_Security\\_1.pdf](http://reclaimthecommons.net/downloads/2nd_draft_of_G8_Summit_Communique_on_Energy_Security_1.pdf)

For more about the G8 meeting, see <http://en.g8russia.ru/news/>

## Playing with Electricity

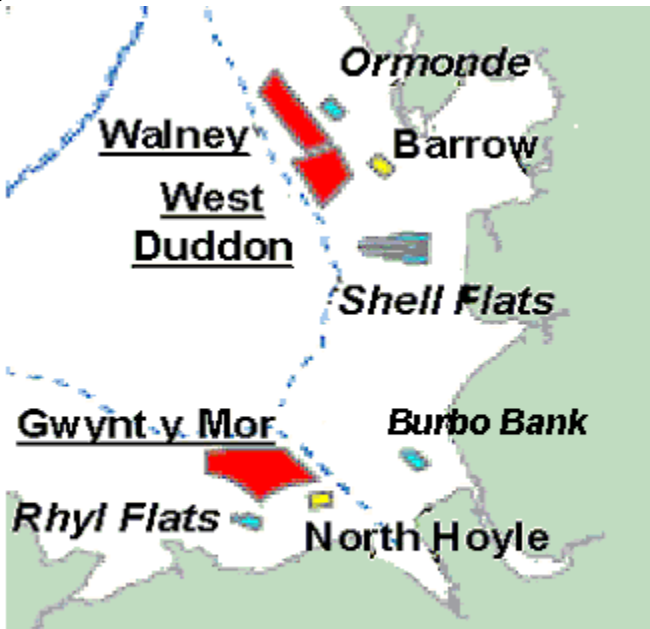
Try this for an exercise in manipulating the electricity grid: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/uk/06/electricity\\_calc/html/1.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/uk/06/electricity_calc/html/1.stm)

## Renewables and Intermittency

One of the concerns relating to the viability of renewable energy is its intermittency: the wind doesn't blow all the time, and tides come and go.

The UK Energy Research Centre (EKERC) has studied over 200 documents to assess the impact of intermittency. They found they generally agreed, while there were a few overly optimistic or pessimistic ones. Intermittent generation may well require other generators to adjust more frequently, some operating below their rating and optimum efficiency. At more than 20% intermittents, electricity may need to be 'spilled' when it can't be used – but overall, the effects are much smaller than the fuel and emissions savings due to the renewables. However, at 20% intermittents, the costs would add around 1% to domestic electricity costs.

To minimise the problems, we need a range of intermittent renewables, widely dispersed, with accurate forecasting, and with a flexible and reliable complement of other power plant – a modest amount of back-up will be required, not 100%. See [www.ukerc.ac.uk](http://www.ukerc.ac.uk) for the report or a summary; or phone 0207 594 1574



Offshore wind farms: normal text: developed, italics: incomplete; underlined: round 2.

## New Renewables

A new thirty 3MW turbine offshore windfarm has started producing electricity; it's located 7km off Walney Island, near Barrow-in-Furness. The first 8 turbines are commissioned. It's a joint venture between Centrica and the Danish company, DONG. DONG have also applied for consent to build a 600MW windfarm, also off Walney Island. See [www.dongenergy.com](http://www.dongenergy.com)

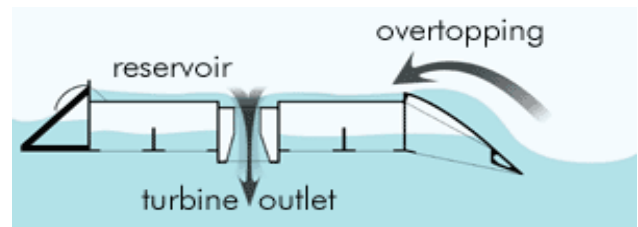
Eclipse Energy is proposing another wind farm nearby, of 108MW total capacity, and a gas platform, on two fields to be developed – Ormonde North and South. The platform will have an on-board 93MW gas turbine. The intention is to generate electricity from the gas when the windfarm isn't producing. See [www.eclipse-energy.com](http://www.eclipse-energy.com), or write to Eclipse Energy Company Ltd, Springfield House Springfield Road, Grantham Lincolnshire NG31 7BG

The Burbo offshore windfarm is being developed by Seascope Energy. There will be 25, 3.6MW turbines. It will be, at closest points, 6.4km from the Sefton coast, and 7.2km from North Wirral. Each turbine will stand 137m above mean high water level. At one nautical mile south of the shipping lane, used by an average of 34 vessels a day, problems are considered "minimal". Installation is expected during spring and summer 2007.

See <http://www.burbo.info/page.dsp?page=79>

Another proposed windfarm is Rhyll Flats, where npower is doing sea-bed tests.

The map is clipped from [http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/34\\_round\\_1and2\\_project\\_map.pdf](http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/34_round_1and2_project_map.pdf)



## Wave Dragon, near Milford Haven.

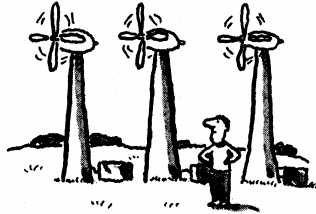
The Wave Dragon is an anchored, floating platform to harness wave energy. Waves slosh uphill over a ramp, into a pool, and drain past a turbine. Initially one 7MW unit will be assessed, 2-3 miles off Milford Haven. Then, a further 10 units, to total 70MW, will be located further offshore, at 18km. It's being developed by KP Renewables of the UK and Wave Dragon ApS of Denmark. See

[http://www.wavedragon.net/index.php?option=com\\_leterman&task=view&Itemid=55&id=5](http://www.wavedragon.net/index.php?option=com_leterman&task=view&Itemid=55&id=5)

### Domestic Photovoltaics

The Duggan family of Birmingham had their photovoltaic (PV) panels installed by Sunpowered Energy Systems for £6000, which they paid for using a £3000 grant and mortgage addition. To find out how you can do your bit, contact the Energy Saving Advice Centre (residential) on 0800 512012, [www.savenergy.org](http://www.savenergy.org), or the Carbon Trust (business) on 0800 085 2005, [www.thecarbontrust.co.uk](http://www.thecarbontrust.co.uk).

Good Energy reckon a typical 1kW peak system may cost £7000 (less above grant), and generate 750-950 kWh pa. Tel 0845 456 1640 or see [www.good-energy.co.uk/home/33\\_factfile.html](http://www.good-energy.co.uk/home/33_factfile.html).



### Desulphurisation at Fiddler's Ferry

Scottish and Southern Energy are to install flue gas desulphurisation equipment at Fiddler's Ferry Power Station. This will involve using a limestone slurry to absorb the sulphur oxides from the coal. (The limestone may be brought by rail through Cheshire.) They're also investing in equipment to enable them to increase their ability to 'co-fire' renewable fuels. See [www.scottish-southern.co.uk](http://www.scottish-southern.co.uk) >site map > new developments

### North West Regional Spatial Strategy

The North West Regional Assembly has produced a consultation document on how the North West will look. It covers renewable energy (in Cheshire, 7-10 onshore windfarms, 2 anaerobic digestion schemes, lots of PV and building-mounted turbines); transport corridors and proposed schemes, economy and employment, housing, wildlife (notably concerns over the coastline), casinos, See [www.nwra.gov.uk](http://www.nwra.gov.uk)  
The closing date for responses was 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

### Climate Change Petition

The World Wildlife Fund has an on-line petition running; you can ask Margaret Beckett for Emissions Trading, or Gordon Brown for carbon budgets for every sector of the economy, or Tony Blair to ensure the UK reduces its emissions and persuades other countries to do the same.

Also, if you've been affected by climate change, you're invited to contribute your story. See [www.wwf.org.uk/climatechangecampaign/action.asp](http://www.wwf.org.uk/climatechangecampaign/action.asp) or phone their main switchboard, 01483 426444

### Carbon Offsetting

Through ClimateCare you can compensate for your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by buying into projects that help to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>. Reforestation is one of them, but is limited to 20%. The others are projects that help to use wood and wastes effectively as fuels, such as efficient stoves and renewable energy. They aim to work in developing countries, rather than those that already have carbon reduction targets. See [www.climatecare.org](http://www.climatecare.org)

### Community Ownership

The share offer for Westmill Wind Farm Co-operative in Oxfordshire closed with approximately £4.4m having been raised in 3 months for what will be the UK's largest community-owned wind farm in Watchfield, Oxfordshire. This is for five 600kW turbines, each with 49 metre towers and 31m blades, to be located on a former airfield. The share offer being oversubscribed, local people were given priority. See [www.westmill.coop](http://www.westmill.coop).  
[www.cooperatives-uk.coop/live/welcome.asp?id=912](http://www.cooperatives-uk.coop/live/welcome.asp?id=912)  
(From SEC bulletin, 12 4 06)



COIN, the **Climate Outreach Information Network**, are a charity dedicated solely to educating the public about climate change. They run informative, fun and inspirational training sessions to all manner of groups, on climate change and other environmental and social issues. Their website has details for working out your emissions, events, excuses, and contacts. [www.coinet.org.uk](http://www.coinet.org.uk), tel 01865 727911

### Young Climate Change Championship

There were 4 hopefuls from our area amongst the 28 finalists selected from 600 entrants nationwide. Callum McLean (12), of Runcorn, a climate change video. Keely Bigland (15), of Malpas, climate change video clip. Stephanie Lynch (16), Prescott, television news report. Raghav Munjal (17), Rochdale, climate change radio report. Of these, Stephanie was selected as regional representative, to spread the word about climate change to our region through local activities, attending engagements, discussing the communication of climate change with senior ministers, and visiting the Gurschen glacier, Switzerland to witness the effects of climate change. The champion's and semi-finalists work are on display at [www.climatechallenge.gov.uk/](http://www.climatechallenge.gov.uk/).

## Social Change vs Climate Change

Some excerpts from

[www.headheritage.co.uk/uknow/features/?id=73](http://www.headheritage.co.uk/uknow/features/?id=73): "Of course, we are all responsible for climate change. If you don't fall short of your standards now and again it's because you haven't set them high enough. This is not a holier than thou thing. But there are vested interests trying to obscure the science and downplay the threat in order to keep their present position. This needs tackling head on."

"Climate change is an issue that unites so many people; all around the world people feel as concerned, furious, scared and daunted as we are. We've already waited way too long for someone else to start this off. If we want change, we have to make it ourselves. Positive social restructures were ever thus."

"It means doing without things that even those of us who know about it still use. But if we plan and enact this transition together we can build something that doesn't ruin us. If we just leave it, the dwindling resources will go to ever higher bidders while everyone else fights like cats in a sack for what's left over."

## Community

### Share your Community Project Experience

Cheshire County Council will be holding a Best Practise Swap-Meet at The Queen's Hotel in Chester on Sept 11<sup>th</sup> in order that community groups can hear your version of how a project was developed. For example: have you set up a community shop, produced an excellent parish plan, set up a Youth Club or organised a successful village event?

Anything that could help boost your village. The event will take the form of an exhibition with people manning stands and sharing information with interested parties, as well as a programme of presentations throughout the day. Successes and failures welcome!

There will be space available and help with display stands and literature etc.

It won't cost your community a penny, they just want to hear from you!!

To register an interest please email Gaynor Bowen-Jones, [gaynor.bowen-jones@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:gaynor.bowen-jones@cheshire.gov.uk) or tel 01244 603373

### Frodsham Forward Moves

The Frodsham Forward office moved in March to Castle Park House, and will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. It's

joined there by Weaver Vale Housing Trust (Friday mornings), Job Centre Plus (Tuesday mornings), Vale Royal Borough Council (information services, etc.), and a basement cyber café – all part of a 'one-stop-shop'. There are also community meeting facilities and business offices to rent.

Frodsham Forward's address is now Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SB; tel 01928 736651, fax 01928 739335, email -

Anne Boyd, Project Manager, can be contacted direct on 07909 801779

For information on Castle Park House and its facilities, call 01928 736551.

## Sustainable Living

One Planet Living is looking for prospective Community partners in the UK, including relevant national, regional or local government, developers, businesses, community groups and non-governmental organisations. One development already exists at BedZed.

OPL is also seeking to identify a small number of Founding Global Partners to support the core staff and organisation of the programme.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a partner in one of the planned OPL Communities, or are interested in supporting OPL as a Founding Global Partner, please contact:

Susanna Clasby (OPL Programme Co-ordinator), tel 020 8404 4889, email

[susannaclasby@bioregional.com](mailto:susannaclasby@bioregional.com), or see

[www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/opl\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/opl_brochure.pdf)

## At Home



### Chemicals in the Home:

Humans have manufactured up to 80,000 new chemicals which are in use in every area of life. However up to 300 of these have been detected in human tissue, and many have been identified as harmful in some way to humans

or animals. The EU is currently considering new legislation called REACH, due to enter into force in late 2006. For information and to take action see [www.chemicalreaction.org](http://www.chemicalreaction.org)

### Low Carbon Building Programme

This has just come out, and bids from domestic users are being accepted from 24<sup>th</sup> April; from non-profit organisations from May, and from industry from the end of June. There is an emphasis on ensuring that all necessary energy saving strategies are taken up before grants for renewables are passed.

Stream 1: for householders and small-to-medium enterprises for microgeneration. A 30-day turnaround from a £6.5m pot. Use for photovoltaics (max £3000 per kWp\*), wind turbines (£1000 per kWp\*), small hydro (as wind), solar thermal (£400 max\*) ground-source heat pumps (max £1200\*)

See [www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk) for details.

### Liverpool Researchers blame low levels of chemicals for increasing cancer incidence

Previously, low concentrations of chemicals (for example organochlorines, found in pesticides and plasticizers) were thought harmless in small quantities. New research by Prof Vyvyan Howard and John Newby found that infants and young adults are particularly susceptible, and that genetic variations can enhance the effect. Comparing non-industrialised with industrialised peoples revealed large differences in malignancy numbers. See

[www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13590847.asp](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13590847.asp)

The Soil Association is concerned about the report. They're calling for four additives to be banned, as the study found that the combined effect of E621 (MSG), E133 brilliant blue, E104 quinoline yellow and E951 aspartame can damage a child's developing nervous system. See [www.organix.com](http://www.organix.com) ([www.whyorganic.org](http://www.whyorganic.org))

### Fun in the sun with OXFAM

Apply now to become an Oxfam steward at one (or more!) music festivals this summer. Oxfam supporters have been stewarding at music festivals since 1993, and last year alone they raised more than £450,000! They'll give you full training and support, so you can both hear your favourite bands, and fight poverty. (Stewards must be over 18).

Choose your festival now – some are already booked-up. See [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk) > what you can do > volunteer > as an Oxfam festival steward, or try the general enquiries number, 0870 333 2700.

### On-line swapping

[www.swapitshop.com](http://www.swapitshop.com): for schoolchildren, to age 18. Swappits are awarded by schools for attendance, classwork, healthy eating etc. Children exchange them by bidding for goods offered by other children, or by companies keen to promote their products. Goods are sent via Swapitshop.

[www.studentswapshop.co.uk](http://www.studentswapshop.co.uk): for university students. Offers include housing, computers, bikes etc, usually for sale, no bidding system, sorted by university.

[www.swapz.co.uk](http://www.swapz.co.uk): nationwide, and beyond. All manner of swaps – cash not necessarily involved, but could involve travel/post to connect.

[www.myswap.co.uk](http://www.myswap.co.uk): similar.

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org): is international, currently with groups in Vale Royal, Nantwich and Warrington. Not so much swapping as finding users for the unused.

[www.gumtree.com](http://www.gumtree.com): also international, fixed price offers from private individuals. Click on "other gumtrees" then Manchester for local trading.

### Earthship Tours

If holidaying in the Brighton area, try visiting an Earthship: an energy and water self-sufficient home of tyres, earth and conservatory. In 2006, tours of Earthship Brighton will be held on the 1st and the 3rd



Sunday of every month. To be taken, you'll need to turn up at Stanmer Church on the lawns in front of Stanmer House at 10:30 am. See [www.lowcarbon.co.uk/tours.htm](http://www.lowcarbon.co.uk/tours.htm)

### Resources

**NaturalMatters.net**  
Registered charities,

environmental, eco-friendly and green groups are invited to submit their information, events free of charge - also articles and competitions to highlight your work. A charity is selected each week to appear on the homepage and throughout the site. Visit [www.naturalmatters.net](http://www.naturalmatters.net) or email :

[info@naturalmatters.net](mailto:info@naturalmatters.net) for information.

GreenSpace Online is a recruitment website for park managers, project officers, planners, designers and other green space practitioners. See [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)



**Bringing Heritage to Life** - is an initiative which seeks to apply the Curiosity & Imagination approach to the heritage sector (including historic sites, countryside and parks, museum and gallery collections, oral history and so on). It aims to spread powerful new ways of engaging children with heritage, helping them to come to a clearer understanding of their local community and its place in the world, and to develop their own individual sense of identity. Visit [www.curiosityandimagination.org.uk](http://www.curiosityandimagination.org.uk)

### Grants Guide

Cheshire County Council have launched the second edition of their Funding Guide. This gives advice on preparing an application and details of funders and their grants. For a copy of The Cheshire Community Funding Guide, contact Gaynor Bowen-Jones on 01244 603373 or visit [www.cheshire.gov.uk/ruraldevelopment/rural\\_funding](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/ruraldevelopment/rural_funding)

### Exhibition for Sale

The Centre for Alternative Technology's touring hands-on interactive exhibition, Ourplan-it.com, is up for sale – according to their members' magazine, they need the space where it's currently stored! It's aimed at families and children. From looking at personal metabolism up to the Earth's, it demonstrates how individuals relate to the global picture. For more information, see [www.cat.org.uk/ourplan-it](http://www.cat.org.uk/ourplan-it), or tel Paul Allen, 01654 705958.



### The Ecologist

Magazine now comes in an on-line version for £18.95 (paper subscription £28), and you can view the April edition free at [www.exacteditions.com/exact/browse/307/308/1267/1/1](http://www.exacteditions.com/exact/browse/307/308/1267/1/1)

### Free Workshops

Four free workshops are being held at Gateway, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington:  
**Planning your Project:** a practical approach, suitable for those who are considering a medium to large community project, or who'd like to know how to plan on an operational or financial basis. 9.30 – 4, Tues 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Behind the Bid:** improve your chances with larger grants. 9.30 – 4, Wed 13<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Forms and Finance:** for those involved in a community group who have never applied for funding before. The workshop takes a practical look at tackling a form for a small grant. 9.30 – 4, Mon 18<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Financial and Funding Health Checks:** take better control of your finances, and assure funders you'll spend their money wisely. 9.30 – 1, Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> September.  
The £10 deposit for each place is refundable on attending.

To book, contact Roy Smith, Community Accountant, the Gateway, 89 Sankey St, Warrington, WA1 1SR, tel 01925 246827, email [roys@wha.org.uk](mailto:roys@wha.org.uk)

## Wildlife

### Logging Wildlife

rECOrd, the body logging wildlife in Cheshire (and liaising with others in the North-West) would like you to help them with records of what you see, in your garden and elsewhere. On their website is a downloadable spreadsheet, or you can log information straight in. There is also a calendar (no days on it, so it can start anytime) with illustrations, identification tips and distribution maps – and space for recording: it costs £7.50, inc p+p from rECOrd, Oakfield House, Chester Zoo, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH or phone 01244 383749. We've also seen a double-sided A4 sheet... See <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/lrc/records.htm>  
<http://www.record-lrc.co.uk/>

### Horse Chestnut Disease

A disease is spreading amongst Horse Chestnut trees: a bleeding canker. Reports of the disease around the country have risen in the past 4-5 years. A Phytophthora species was suspected (as causes a similar disease – Sudden Oak Death), but the wounds rarely showed this present. Instead, a fluorescent bacterium was regularly found; this is being tested for being the guilty agent.

The symptoms are a bleeding patch, exuding dark and clear in spring, becoming more copious and rust-coloured later, but drying up in dry weather to a dark, brittle crust. It may continue oozing in Autumn. Other diseases may take the opportunity of infecting. Die

back and death ensues in time; sooner for young trees, being faster girdled.

Of trees surveyed in Hampshire, there was more disease in towns and rural areas than in woodlands.



What to do? Be sure it is bleeding canker. Unless it is a hazard, a tree with light to moderate bleeding and a healthy crown may recover. If the disease has encircled the trunk, chop the tree down. If a branch, cut it off. Dispose of by burning or burial; shredding will disperse the infective agent. There are a number of other suggestions, all relating

to reducing the dispersal of the bacterium and the available open cuts.

For more details, see

<http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk>: under Research Themes, click Protecting Trees; scroll down to Bleeding Canker of Horse Chestnut.

### Cheshire Wildlife Trust Natural History Training Workshops

The following are for complete beginners through to more experienced learners, and open to CWT members and non-members.

**Bumblebee ID**, 1st July, 10-3pm, Astbury Visitors Centre: The ecology and biology of bumblebees, conservation and future. Indoors and out. Carl

**Wild flower ID** - Swettenham meadows in summer. 8th July, 10.30 to 4pm: Hand lens & guide useful. Indoors & out. Liz

**Water Voles Survey** workshop, 16th July, 10.30 to 4pm, Manor Park: The biology, ecology and habitats of water voles, and how to find them. Elizabeth

**Moth Workshop**, 8 – 10pm, 29th & 10-lpm, 30th July, Cholmondeley: The ecology, biology and habitat requirements of moths, how to catch and identify them. Shane

**Ferns And Fern Allies**, 5th Aug, 10.30 to 4pm, Delamere: Ecology, habitat & identification. Hand lens and guide useful. Martha

**Dragonfly and Damselfly ID**, 13th Aug, 10.30 to 4pm, Delamere: The ecology, biology and behaviour of dragonflies and damselflies. Paul

**Wildlife Photography/2**, 20th Aug, 10.30 to 4pm, Swettenham: Basic Principles. Bring all of your own photographic equipment. Ben

**Reptile Workshop**, 2nd Sept, 10.30 to 4pm, Risley Moss Nature Reserve: The ecology and biology of British reptiles. Paul

**Small Mammals**, 9th Sept, 5am to 2pm, Swettenham Meadows: The biology, ecology and habitats of native small mammals, how to trap and identify them. Katherine.

**Bats of Cheshire**, an Introduction, 23rd Sept, 4.30 to 9pm, Cholmondeley: The natural history of Cheshire's bats. Indoors, then walk after sunset. Elizabeth

**Mosses and Liverworts**, 30th Sept, 10.30 to 4pm, Holcroft Moss: The ecology, habitats and identification of mosses and liverworts. Hand lens and guide useful. Martha

**Willow Weaving** workshop, 7th Oct, 10.30 to 4pm, Cholmondeley: Introduction to willow weaving: make your own small piece. Peter

**Fungi Foray**, 15th Oct, 10.30 to 4pm, Black Moss Learn to identify the larger species of fungi in the field. Bruce

**Planning for Wildlife**, 4th Nov, 10 to 1.30pm, Cholmondeley: Seminars and workshops; how to use the planning system to include biodiversity benefits. Legislation, impact of development, advice for lobbyists. Fiona

Fees: Standard £20, Member discount £10, Environmental Professional £30, OAPs, students and unemployed £10.

More info and booking details: Cheshire Wildlife Trust head office, tel: 01270 610180, email: [cheshirewt@cix.co.uk](mailto:cheshirewt@cix.co.uk)

### Freshwater Swimming

For local outdoor swimming advice (and temptation!) - includes the Weaver Estuary, Pickmere Lake, Hatchmere and the River Dane - see the website <http://hometown.aol.co.uk/wildswimmer007/home.htm>

### Bumble Bee ID

See a brief key of six main *Bombus* species, or a thorough key of 25 British species, at [www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/projects/bombus/bumblebeeid.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/projects/bombus/bumblebeeid.html).

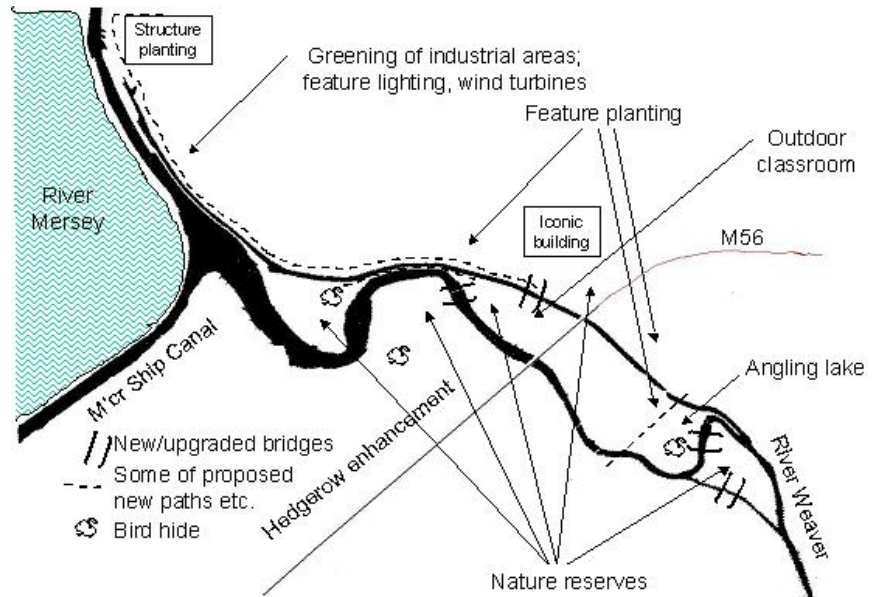


## Mouth of the Weaver

Regeneration of the Mouth of the Weaver, between Frodsham and Runcorn, is part of a collection of works under the £23 million Newlands 1 Scheme: transforming 9 large areas of derelict, underused and neglected land in Merseyside, Lancashire and Cheshire. It comprises 25 hectares of land on the Runcorn side of the Weaver, in four main areas between the M56 and the Mersey Bridge. Apart from assisting social and environmental regeneration through community woodland creation, it will form a screen between industry, housing, roads and rural areas. The map shows some of the proposals.

Another Newlands scheme is 15 hectares within the Stanlow Oil Refinery area.

For further information regarding Newlands 1, contact the Forestry Commission, on 01606 889912 or [fc.nweng.delamere@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fc.nweng.delamere@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) (from <http://nwda-cms.amaze.co.uk/DocumentUploads/Newlandsleaflet.pdf> <http://nwda-cms.amaze.co.uk/DocumentUploads/NewlandsMapA3.pdf>)



habitats and species. The pack was researched by Virginia Hunt, with historical aspects by the WHS, and funded by Ineos Chlor and Awards for All. A copy was given to each Weaverham school, a further two copies are to be held by for use by other schools. Contact him on 01606 852960. Virginia welcomes enquiries on 01606 42667.

## Trees Lopped in Nesting Season

Wildlife lovers are upset that a number of mature leylandii were felled by housing developers on Bridge Lane, Frodsham in mid-April, complete with nests and eggs of greenfinches, collared doves and wood pigeons. Apparently they'd had all winter to fell them. (Andy Harmer)

## Bovine TB Report

Following the recent consultation, for which DEFRA received 47,474 responses, there will be a report – date to be announced – available at [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/index.htm). Meanwhile, it's reported that bTB is less a problem on farms with good hedges, and that DEFRA have been trialling various methods of badger killing to determine the level of suffering incurred.

## Education Pack for Owley Wood

Following the education pack for Marshall's Arm, one for Owley Wood was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Representatives from the local schools, together with members of Friends of Owley Wood and the Weaverham History Society (WHS) toured the woods after the presentation, taking in the vast range of

## A Guide to School Grounds Development

Produced by Groundwork Macclesfield & Vale Royal, on behalf of the Cheshire School Grounds Action Group.



This covers the why, who and how of developing your school grounds to make them child and wildlife (what's the difference?) friendly. Ideas

include wildlife areas, outdoor classroom, quiet, shade, seating, active area, and growing things. [www.cheshire.gov.uk/ecoschools/Eco\\_schoolgroundsdevelopment.htm](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/ecoschools/Eco_schoolgroundsdevelopment.htm)

If you've done a school grounds improvement project, Cheshire County Council would like a picture and a few words for their website to inspire others. See [www.cheshire.gov.uk/ecoschools/Eco\\_gallery.htm](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/ecoschools/Eco_gallery.htm)

## Bird Flu Updates

The progress of avian flu and other infectious diseases is reported on [www.promedmail.org/pls/promed](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/promed)

## Food and Gardening

### Fordhall Community Land Initiative

Tenant farmers Ben and Charlotte Hollins of Fordhall farm, near Market Drayton, Shropshire, are hoping to remain tenants, but change their landlord to being the community – locals and any other supporters. This will help them to continue farming the land, as previous Hollins generations, without fear of development (there's sprawling industry nearby). They hope that Fordhall will



be owned by the public and opened as an educational and social resource promoting sustainable farming and healthy living, whilst allowing the farm to stay as a working farm with farm shop. They aim to raise £800,000 by July, in order to purchase the 140 acre farm into trust. Money raised will go into the Fordhall Community Land Initiative, an Industrial and Provident Society, which by law means that it is a 'society for the benefit of the community'. You can buy £50 shares, make a donation (Gift Aidable), or make an interest-free 5-year loan. You can also volunteer, become a 'Friend of Fordhall' for £15pa (£30 family), or donate equipment.

For more details see [www.fordhallfarm.com](http://www.fordhallfarm.com), contact the farm on 01630 638696 or email them on [project@fordhallfarm.com](mailto:project@fordhallfarm.com)

### Supplies for Gardeners

Wiggly Wigglers, renowned for their wormeries, now supply a host of other items. Wild flower plants, garden tools, nest boxes, books, bird food (including live), and other composting kit are offered. A catalogue is available: tel 01981 500391, or see [www.wigglywigglers.co.uk](http://www.wigglywigglers.co.uk)

If it's seeds you're after, you could also try the National Wildflower Centre, Court Hey Park, Roby

Road, Liverpool, L16 3NA Tel 0151 738 1913, [www.nwc.org.uk](http://www.nwc.org.uk).

They supply packets of single species and collections, for small and large areas, and some helpful books, from their separate website, [www.wildflower.org.uk](http://www.wildflower.org.uk). For a posted catalogue, tel 0151 737 1819.

A host of native plants, in the form bare-rooted woody plants, plugs or seed collections of herbaceous species, can be bought from BTCV; along with tools, books, training and even holidays (that's working holidays!). See [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk), go to Shop. Or tel their HQ on 01302 57 22 44.

A list of Wild Plant suppliers is available from Flora Locale: it includes Cheshire based: Mike Handyside Wild Flowers, 15 The Old Paddock, Main Road, Goostrey, Crewe, Cheshire, CW4 8QZ; Tel: 01477 549 336, who sell trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, ferns, in plugs, 7cm pots, as bulbs and seed. See [www.floralocale.org/suppliers.html](http://www.floralocale.org/suppliers.html) for suppliers in other areas.



### Fuchsias and Cream

Fuchsias usually set fruit, and although these are edible (and fuchsia societies often run a fuchsia jam section in their shows), they're bred for flowers. Well-known organic gardener Bob Flowerdew would like to see this put right, and invites anyone with large fruits on their fuchsias to send him a well-packaged sample, with variety name, your name and address, to him in Diss, Norfolk, IP21 4NL by 30th September. Members of Vale Royal Organic and Wildlife Gardeners would also like a go at breeding productive and tasty fuchsias. Contact them via Nickki, 01606 556420



CURRENT CLEARWING MOTH - caterpillars feed inside currant branches

## GM and Health

The EU has admitted having serious concerns over the safety and environmental impact of GM crops in a dossier of scientific evidence sent to World Trade Organisation investigators.

MEPs and green groups have called for an immediate suspension of the use and sale of any GM crops after the report admitted there were 'large areas of uncertainty' as to the effects of GMOs on both human health and the environment, and that 'there simply is no way of ascertaining whether the introduction of GM crops has had any... ..effect on human health'.

Though the documents were presented to the WTO by EU officials in defence of their now-defunct de facto GM-ban, the EU has since approved seven new GM foods and 31 further varieties of Monsanto's GM maize.

The dossier was obtained following a Freedom of Information Act request by Friends of the Earth and can be viewed at [www.foeeurope.org/biteback/EC\\_case.htm](http://www.foeeurope.org/biteback/EC_case.htm)

## Open Organic Gardens

Organic Gardens open this summer (nominally weekend 8/9 July) are listed on <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/events/opengardens/index.php>. There are none listed for Cheshire at the time of writing.

## Waste & Recycling

### Computer Equipment Repair and Recycle

ASM Technology of Meridian House, Winsford Industrial Estate:-

Supply refurbished and second-user computer equipment (and new);

Repair PCs, Notebooks, Monitors, Printers & PCBs;

Reclaim and recycle redundant IT equipment, and can sell on or use for scrap;

They also supply other computer services, including training.

Contact them on 01606 863707, or see [www.asmttech.com](http://www.asmttech.com)

**Junk Leaflet Opt-Out:** phone 08457 950950

## Diary Dates

See also p10, CWT training

Sat 1st July

### Salt Making

demonstrations and Saxon Re-enactments at the Salt Museum, London Road, Northwich. Lion Salt Works Trust Tel: 01606 41823, [www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk](http://www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk)

Sun 2nd July

### Arts in the Forest Day -

something for everyone including music, drama, dance, spoken word, drumming, sculpture as well as the visual arts. 11am – 4pm, Trentabank Visitor Centre area, Macclesfield. Tel Hazel Winder 01260 252832 or [Trentabank@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Trentabank@hotmail.co.uk)

Sun 2nd July

**Herbal Walk** - the medicinal properties of trees, and more. 2pm, Marbury Country Park. Tel Natalia Kerkham 01925 860664



Thurs 6th July

**Pond Skaters and Water Scorpions** – pond dipping at Weaver Parkway. Over 8's only please. Booking essential: tel Tony

Blackledge/Richard Snow 01606 593133

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> July

**Understanding Your Constitution** – training for trustees. 10am – 4pm, Chester (inc lunch). Tel Debbie Roper, 01244 603059, [debbie.roper@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.roper@cheshire.gov.uk)

Sun 9th July

**Only One Earth**, 11am – 5pm, Grosvenor Park, Chester. Free: music & environment people. Contact Virginia, 01606 42667

Wed 12th July

**Establishment of Wild bird Cover, Game Mixes and Set Aside**, Union Bank Farm, Bold, Widnes. Helen Broughton, FWAG, Tel:01270 627938 to book. £10 for non-members, £5 members.

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> July

**Cheshire Water Forum:** Mouth of the Weaver, diffuse pollution, Bollin invasive plants. 9.30, Crewe Alexandre FC. See [www.merseybasin.org.uk](http://www.merseybasin.org.uk) or tel Bev Mitchell, 0161 242 8212 –by 6<sup>th</sup> July

Sun 16th July

Marbury Swimming Pool **Summer Festival** – swim in glorious surroundings, +BBQ. Tel Jeni Doull 01606 782957 [www.marburypool.info](http://www.marburypool.info)

Sun 16th July

**Explore Northwich Community Woodlands:** guided walk as part of Sport Relief with flora, fauna and site management explained Meet: 2pm, Marbury Country Park. Tel Chris Moseley 01606 77741

22 July – 6 August

**Forest Fever** - over 100 different activities, leaflet available June 2006. Tel Jo Sayers 01925 816217 [www.merseyforest.org.uk](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk)

Sat 22nd July  
Little Budworth Country Park  
**Guided Walk.** Gentle stroll, see flora, fauna and rare lowland heathland habitat. Booking essential: tel Lee Thompson, 01606 301484

Sat 22nd July  
**VREN Networking Event**, (5-8pm) at St Wilfrids primary school, Hartford. Bring your own food and drink – there'll be a BBQ to cook it on, and live music from Crossroads. Social: Stuart, 07788 570 628; Networking: Nick Rowles, 01606 723160

22 July – 4 Sept  
Reaseheath **Maize Maze.** 11am – 6pm (last entry 4.30). With zoo animals. 2 mazes – one 5 acres, other smaller. Adult £4, child £3, under 3 free. Group & evening bookings on request.  
Tel 01270 625131

Sun 23rd July  
**Post 2 Post** – orienteering at Marbury Country Park under guidance. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Booking essential: tel Pete Schofield, 01606 77741

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> July  
**What is Community Engagement?** for those keen to improve community engagement. 10am – 4pm, Chester (inc lunch). Tel Debbie Roper, 01244 603059, debbie.roper@cheshire.gov.uk

Wed 26th July  
**Ragwort Wonders** – Lots more to learn about ragwort and get involved with practical conservation around Ashton's & Neumann's Flash, Northwich. Over 12s only please. Booking essential: please contact Steph Hefferan on 01606 77741

Sat 29th July  
**Herbal Walk** - Medicine or Magic? Superstition or genuine cure? 2pm Anderton Nature Park. Tel Natalia Kerkham 01925 860664

Thurs 3rd Aug  
**Pond Skaters and Water Scorpions** (details as 6th July)

Sat 5th Aug  
**Living off the Land** – bush craft for beginners. Over 16s only please. Booking essential: tel Richard Snow, 01606 593133

Sat 19th Aug  
**Bat Talk and Walk:** learn about the different bats of Marbury Country Park, then guided walk. 8pm Marbury Country Park. Tel Chris Moseley 01606 77741

Thurs 24th Aug  
**Pond Skaters and Water Scorpions** (details as 6th July)



Sun 27th Aug  
Marbury Swimming Pool  
**Gala Day:** races & BBQ.  
Jeni Doull 01606 782957, www.marburypool.info

Sat 12th Aug  
Wildlife Watch:  
**Butterflies & Bikes**, 10am-noon, Whitegate Station. Contact Ken, 01606 883013



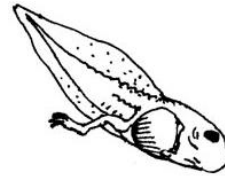
26 Aug – 4 Sept  
**Camp for Climate Action**, near Drax Power Station, Leeds. See www.climatecamp.org.uk, write to Box 10, c/o Oxford Action Resource Centre, E.O.C.C., 44b Princes Street, Oxford OX4 1HU

Tues 5th Sept  
**Planning your Project.** See Free Workshops article

Wed 6th Sept  
**Pond Creation and Management**, site tba. Helen Broughton, FWAG,

Tel:01270 627938 to book. £10 for non-members, £5 members.

Thurs 7th Sept  
**Mystery Salt Cycle**, Weaver Parkway. A gentle 25 mile mystery cycle around local sites of interest. Optional pub lunch. Booking essential: tel Tony Blackledge, 01606 593133



Sat 9th Sept  
Have a go at **dry stone walling**, for

all the family. 2pm, Tegg's Nose Country Park. Tel Cheshire Landscape Trust 01244 376333  
9/10 Sept and 3 weekends after **Cheshire Open Studios 2006:** artists open doors. Tel Emma on 01565 621156, www.artistsatwork.org.uk

Wed 13th Sept  
**Behind the Bid.** See Free Workshops article

Wed 13th Sept  
Potential for **Environmental Stewardship** on the Estate focusing on Parkland, Woodland and the River Dee, The Long Room, Eaton Hall, Eccleston By kind permission of the Duke of Westminster. Helen Broughton, FWAG, Tel:01270 627938 to book. £10 for non-members, £5 members.

15<sup>th</sup> Sept  
**VROWG** 7.30pm, Comberbach Memorial Hall: tel Nickki, 01606 556420

**FOAM:** Friends of Anderton and Marbury  
**FWAG:** Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group  
**VROWG:** Vale Royal Organic and Wildlife Gardeners (all dates provisional)  
**Wildlife Watch:** Cheshire Wildlife Trust's junior branch

16 – 24 Sept

**Step into Cheshire:** a festival of walks, rides and outdoor activities. See

<http://www.stepintocheshire.org.uk/> or phone 01606 541825

Sun 17th Sept

**Sandstone Trail** with a difference: a full day walking an alternative southern route for the Sandstone Trail (19km/12 miles) from Whitchurch to Bickerton via Malpas. Booking essential: tel John Street 01270 611610, email: [sandstonetrail@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:sandstonetrail@cheshire.gov.uk)

Sun 17th Sept

**Herbal Walk:** prepare yourself for the cold season as our medical herbalist finds remedies that grow around us. 2pm, Marbury Country Park. Tel Natalia Kerkham 01925 860664

Mon 18th Sept

**Forms and Finance.** See Free Workshops article

Wed 20th Sept

**Weaver Wander:** see local and natural history in Weaver Parkway. Booking essential: tel Tony Blackledge, 01606 593133

22nd September

**In Town Without My Car Day,** as every 22nd Sept. [www.22september.org/](http://www.22september.org/), click Themes

Sat 23rd Sept

**Food for Free:** 2 hour walk gathering, then prepare, cook and taste. Own food optional... 10am – 3pm, Marbury Country Park. Tel Chris Moseley 01606 77741

Sat 23rd Sept

Wildlife Watch: Step into **Food For Free**, 11am-2pm, Marbury Country Park – meet by the Rangers' Hut. Contact Yvonne, 01606 77741 / Ken 01606 883013

Sun 24th Sept

**Moths for Breakfast!** See what was caught during National Moth Night. Breakfast available. 9am, Marbury Country Park. tel Paul Hill 01565 722928

Sun 24th Sept

Walk the **Baker Way:** morning train from Chester to Delamere, walk back via Roman Bridges at Hockenhull Platts and canal. 13 miles. Booking essential: tel John Street, 01270 611 610 email: [sandstonetrail@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:sandstonetrail@cheshire.gov.uk)

Sun 24th Sept

**Memory Walk:** 8km walk exploring Marbury and Anderton Parks; finish with refreshments. . Details and sponsor forms from Vale Royal Alzheimer's Society, 01606 351112



Thurs 28th Sept

**Financial and Funding Health Checks.** See Free Workshops article

Sun ?? October

**Seed Gathering Sunday.** Jo

Sayers, 01925 816217 <http://www.merseyforest.org.uk>

Date to be decided (Late Sept)

**Fungal Foray** – identify them, learn how they live. 2 hours walk with Mycologist Rita Cooke in Marbury Country Park. Booking essential: Chris Moseley 01606 77741

Wed 4th Oct

**Habitat Management** using the Capesthorpe Estate as an example, Capesthorpe Hall, Nr. Alderley Edge. Helen Broughton, FWAG, Tel:01270 627938 to book. £10 for non-members, £5 members.

Sat 7th Oct

**Quince Day:** activities and guided walk through quince collection. Normal entry charges apply. 2pm, Norton Priory Walled Garden. Tel Norton Priory on 01928 569895

(VROWG visit: tel Nickki, 01606 556420)

Thurs 12th Oct

**Marbury Hall:** history talk with new material. £1.50 to non FOAM members. 7.40pm, Comberbach Memorial Hall. Tel Peter Schofield 01606 77741

Sat 14th Oct

Wildlife Watch: **The Big Draw**, 10am – noon, and 1-3pm, Owley Wood Scout Hut, Weaverham. Contact Virginia, 01606 42667, Bev, 01606 882770

Sun 15th Oct

**Apple Day:** activities and traditional games. 1pm Norton Priory Walled Garden; normal entry charges apply. Tel Cheshire Landscape Trust, 01244 376333

Sun 22nd Oct

**Landscape, Trees and Water:** guided walk and fruit tasting from the Cheshire Federation of Womens' Institute's orchard. 2pm, Ranger's Office, Marbury Country Park. Tel Cheshire Landscape Trust, 01244 376333

Wed 25th Oct

**Hedgerow** Planting, Restoration & Management, Gore Farm, Ashton By Budworth, Northwich. Helen Broughton, FWAG, Tel:01270 627938 to book. £10 for non-members, £5 members.

Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

**History and Natural History of a Cheshire Meadow**, David Cummings, warden of Hockenhall Platts. +AGM. Weaverham & Dist Gardeners, 7.30pm Wallerscote School, Weaverham. Joy Brain, 01606 853197

Thurs 2nd Nov

**Weaver Valley Watersides:** Ann Bates talks about the Weaver, particularly about water quality. £1.50 to non FOAM members. 7.40pm, Comberbach Memorial

Hall. tel Brian Jaques 01606  
891242

Sat 11th Nov, +Sun if sleeping over  
Wildlife Watch: **Autumn Sleepover**  
at Fox Howl, Ashton Road,  
Delamere Forest. Packed lunch  
required. 10am – 6pm Sat; or to  
11am Sun. Contact Ken, 01606  
883013

**Cucurbits** (pumpkins, melons,  
cukes etc) VROWG 7.30pm,  
Comberbach Memorial Hall: tel  
Nickki, 01606 556420

22nd Nov – 3rd Dec  
**National Tree Week:** tree planting,  
walks, talks, songs, story-telling  
and tree dressing. Register your  
event with Jo Sayers, 01925  
816217

Sat 9th Dec  
Wildlife Watch: **Christmas Crafts.**  
Weaver Parkway (off road opposite  
side of roundabout to Morrisons,  
Winsford, 10am-noon. Contact  
Ken, 01606 883013