

VALE ROYAL ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Summer
2004

Dipping with the Professor

Professor David Bellamy was star guest at this year's Green Schools' Conference held at Hartford High School, designed to support and inspire teachers through workshops and networking opportunities.

Ceramicist Jean Crocker was producing "hands-on" (sometimes literally) work, while Hysterical Historical Players performed first as three man-fearing trees, then as David Beckham, David Bellamy and David Attenborough. The real Professor David Bellamy enthused over his experiences earlier that day helping children pond dipping at Marshall's Arm. A "cheque" was presented, representing INEOS Chlor's school grants scheme: £2000 to be made available for environmental projects in the coming year.

The workshops were:

Creative interpretation of Local Heritage (using creative arts and language to help children tell the story of their local heritage);

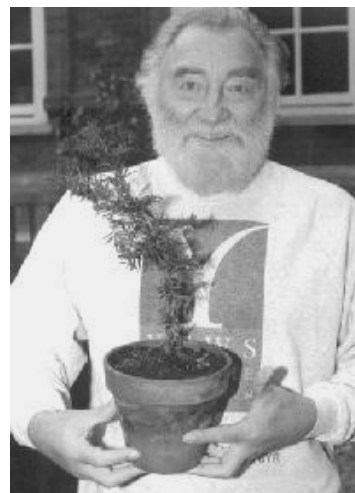
Eco -Days (sustainability and environmental education);

Education for Sustainable Development (Emma Robson presented the new Cheshire County Council resource);

Every photo tells a story;

Global Links (Sustainable eco-links with China and beyond);

Eco-schools (two schools describe what they got from going for their Green Flags); and School Grounds Development (to aid the curriculum and even behaviour).



VREN is a Registered Charity!

Number 1101585. Licensed to promote & encourage the protection, conservation and improvement of the Environment of Vale Royal and its surrounding areas for the benefit of the public, and to promote the advancement of education of the public concerning the environment, its conservation and protection and related subjects..

Many thanks to Anton who started the ball rolling and to Lynne who spent many hours on the paperwork.

With a New Leader...

Abi Johnson of Groundwork Macclesfield and Vale Royal is our new co-ordinator. We also have a new phone number (actually the Groundwork receptionist, a person rather than the frequently heard recorded message), and a new email address – see below.

A School Wildlife Watch Group at Charles Darwin Primary

The three banners shown were done by year 5, and represent fossils, land life and water life. Details are shown elsewhere in the newsletter. To set up a school Wildlife Watch group, contact Jan Shone at Cheshire



Wildlife Trust, Grebe House, Reaseheath, Nantwich CW5 6DG, tel 01270 610180

Vale Royal Environment Network

wishes to thank its many sponsors, supporters and volunteers.

Offices at:

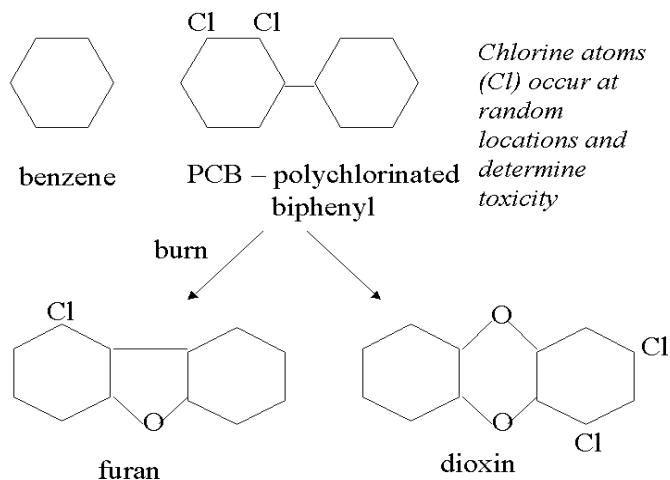
Yarwoods Arm, Navigation Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1BE
tel 01606 723160, email vren@groundwork.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

CHAIN meeting

CHAIN (Cheshire Against Incinerators) met at Wincham Community Centre on 25th May, with Dr Paul Connett, Alison Hunter, Cllr Malcolm Gaskill, Rachael Heaps and Ralph Ryder, to hear why proposals for an incinerator at Lostock, or elsewhere in Cheshire (as suggested by the Draft Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan, out for consultation at the time), should be fought.

Paul Connett is an authority on the harmful effects of incinerators, and described their formation during



ombustion. In the US, notices on the perimeter fences of incinerators warn of hazardous chemicals both inside and outside the compound. Both he and Ralph Ryder, who has worked downwind of an incinerator and didn't enjoy it, remarked on some of the bad practice that goes on. A Dutch researcher found a standard 6 hour test, with advance notice, gave results far better than a two week monitor. Emissions include heavy metals and dioxins and furans. Dioxins and furans are carcinogenic and interfere with genes and hormones. Metals such as mercury are bioaccumulative. Paul stated that not only does recycling make more jobs, but energy is saved: the energy that goes into making a product is more than that released on incineration, which again is more than any usable energy due to stack losses etc. Incinerators also produce other wastes, in the form of fly ash and bottom ash, which will contain the nasties the stack emissions don't.

Alison Hunter, recycling officer for Vale Royal Borough Council, described the new recycling scheme and how well it was running, which almost started another debate!

Cllr Gaskill stated the Lib-Dem anti-incineration stance.

Rachael Heaps proposed that we ensure our workplaces cut their waste, for if domestic waste became unavailable due to recycling, the high quality and consistency of commercial waste would make a good feedstock. If local supplies fail, waste would have to be brought from afar to feed the incinerator.

Contacts: see www.no-burn.org on incinerators, and www.grrn.org on zero waste, the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 2003, 87, pp406-461 re birth defects, and Greenpeace's website for reports:

http://archive.greenpeace.org/toxics/html/content/incineration/wb_incineration.html, and <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>, click on environmental issues, twice, and select incineration

People moves

- Emma Robson returns to her post as Eco Audit Co-ordinator at Cheshire County Council, while stand-in Hannah Parish moves to Planning. Organisations applying for an eco-audit receive a short confidential survey and advice, which can lead to improved environmental sustainability and financial savings. Contact Emma on 01244 603125 or email emma.robson@cheshire.gov.uk
- Frodsham Forward have a part-time Project Assistant in Jane Berthels. Contact her at the Frodsham Forward office, 15 High Street, Frodsham, WA6 7AH; tel 01928 735967 (mob 07909 801779). Frodsham Forward has Environment, Transport, Community and Economy thematic groups meeting regularly – residents having a say.

Resources

Trafford Hall Courses

Trafford Hall offers pleasant surroundings for participants taking a range of short courses aimed at helping communities. Forthcoming courses (those with an environmental bent – there are more) include:

- Effective Questionnaires – 6-7th September (**Parish Planners note!**)
- Basic Book-Keeping – 16-17th September
- Presentation Skills – 20-22nd September
- Gardening as a Community Enterprise – 1-3 November

There's a suite of courses to involve people in planning – of urban areas, homes, community buildings, open spaces, and one involving 14-17 year olds.

Active Family Learning Breaks are for families from low income communities who want to set up small local events and projects that involve other families. The heavily subsidised courses include full board and lodging, and are free apart from a £6.50 administration fee, per individual or family. And a travel bursary is possible!

Refuse Not

In Kind Direct obtain surplus valuable and useful goods from companies themselves lacking the resources to find them a good home. Voluntary organisations pay an annual fee to receive a monthly list of items – office equipment and supplies, household appliances, sports goods, clothing, arts/crafts/educational materials, books....Ring 0207 860 5927, email info@inkinddirect.org, www.inkinddirect.org.

Barclays Social Responsibility Programme

Offers, regionally, funding of £1000 to £25000 to community and voluntary groups; also its employees' skills via the employee volunteering scheme. The Environment is one of the five key areas it targets; the others are education, people with disabilities, social inclusion and the arts. See www.barclays.co.uk/socialresponsibility

Photovoltaic Tiles

Marley Building Materials, who have offices and works in Delamere, now sell photovoltaic roofing tiles. These are fitted in much the same way as their original concrete tiles, and can form an area within a roof surface. Due to the cost of inverter and other ancillary equipment, the economics are best on larger roofs, eg offices and schools. Government grants are available. Contact John Girdham, Business Development Director at Marley, 01606 884808, fax 01606 884819, johngirdham@mbm-marley.co.uk

If Starting a Waste Plastics Recycling Business...

Vale Royal's waste plastic is dealt with in the Midlands, so a local company or community enterprise may consider this opportunity. An Aberdeen plastics recycling company "died" in 2000, and a report detailing the lessons learnt and how difficult the business is is available. It describes how the use of plastics may change in the next decade, the equipment for recycling, and the caution that it may well prove unprofitable! The report costs £25 inc p+p from Janice Harris, tel 01224 711221 or free download from

www.sac.ac.uk/info/External/Publications/MiscellaneousReports.asp

Each chapter comes as a separate pdf file – chapter 4, and possibly 7, make interesting reading for keen recyclers.

Local Sustainability Grants

For details of these small grants, contact Laura Needham, 01606 867864 or visit www.valeroyal.gov.uk/local_sustainability_grants.htm

Eat Your Heart Out

Local Food gets more Local

Eddisbury Fruit Farm, the hosts for Vale Royal Farmers' Market (meets every third Saturday of the month), have opened a shop, name Eddisbury Deli, in Eddisbury Square, Frodsham. They stock their own home-made apple juice, along with other locally sourced (as far as possible) foods.

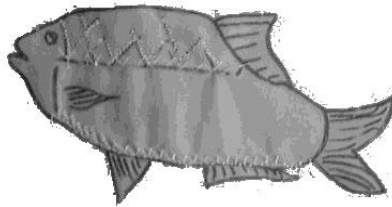
There's now Abbey Leys Farmers' Market, which meets every first Sunday of the month at Peacock Lane, High Legh, Knutsford; and another is planned for the second Friday each month in Northwich town

centre starting 10th September. Contact Laura Needham of VRBC, 01606 867864 for details.

Gardeners' Fun

April's meeting of Vale Royal Organic and Wildlife Gardeners, theme "Fruitful Fertility" saw fertility rites in the form of half the meeting learning belly dancing. May's meeting saw Peter Woollam enthusing on the usual and less than usual crops on his weedless holding in Alderley Edge. Among these are potato beans, whose boiled tubers taste like baked potatoes; the hardy Japanese Yam; the Madeira Vine, with succulent edible leaves but grown for its tubers; the annual, 8' high Tree Spinach; the gaudy flowers

of Amaranth, whose seeds can be ground for bread; and the Yellow Asphodel with the flowers tasting of peas. He also talked of Stevia, a plant whose leaves are so intensely sweet that care has to be taken if used for sweetening. His garden is open under the HDRA scheme on Sat 7th and Sun 8th August, noon to 5pm, at Hough Garden, Hough Lane, Alderley Edge; admission £1 for adults, children free. On show will be over 100 varieties of vegetables, with edible flowers, herbs and fruit. There'll be a plant stall, willow weavings (seats, tunnel, arbour, fedge [hedge x fence hybrid]..) and refreshments. Plans for future meetings (third Friday of the month) include "Extending the Growing Season", "Willow Weaving", "Wormeries", "Companion Planting", a social and a plant sale. More details from Liz Picken on 01606 860149.



Get the Blighters!

Potato Blight is the scourge of potato and tomato growers, amateur and professional. It overwinters on infected tubers left in the ground, dumped, or erroneously planted. It spreads to the foliage, producing brown patches and spores which can travel miles, or wash into the soil to infect new tubers. The British Potato Council is requesting all growers to watch out for the disease, which forms black patches on the leaves. If infection is light, remove the affected leaves and those nearby, and bury them in the compost heap. Heavier infestations may require you to cut the tops off whole plants. If you want them, leave the potatoes underground for 3 weeks to prevent infection from surface spores, otherwise compost in black plastic until they rot. Current advice is that blighted material can be composted, provided it's buried to stop spore spread. Other tips: buy certified seed; try resistant varieties and "earlies"; earth up or mulch the crop, and extract all tubers.

Organic Food for All

The Henry Doubleday Research Association, promoters of organic gardening, are seeking to help everyone, especially those on low incomes, to grow organic food on any available land. Balconies and windowsills are useful, but gardens, allotments and wasteland are also sought. In addition, mentors – experienced vegetable growers, willing to be trained in organic ways, are required to lead projects. They'll get support and special benefits. They also want to establish a second-hand tool pool. Contact Jowanna Lewis or Tricia Wallen of OFfA, HDRA, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry CV8 3LG tel 024 7630 8209 or 0845 064 1164, email organicfoodforall@hdra.org.uk. For local support contact Laura Needham at Vale Royal: 01606 867864.

The above might be a chance for people to grow plants from HDRA's Heritage Seed Library – old varieties no longer available to buy, but which had attributes appreciated by our forefathers.

Macclesfield Borough Council plan showed some of them on their display at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park recently.

The Biodiversity Partnership Target Gardens

The Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership conference this year, titled "Tomorrow's Garden for Local Wildlife", includes notable gardening speakers, trade stands of wildlife-friendly products, and workshops on garden wildlife



recording, pond design, kitchen gardens, bee identification and making bug boxes. It's on the 9th October at Chester Racecourse. For tickets (£20, concessions available, includes parking) and further information, contact Fiona Mahon, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Grebe House, Reaseheath, Nantwich CW5 6DG, tel 01270 610180, email fmahon@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk



Nuisance Hedges

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act of 2003 includes hedges. An owner of a domestic property who can allege that a hedge that "his reasonable enjoyment of that property is being adversely affected by the height of a high hedge situated on land owned or occupied by another person" can make a complaint. The hedge must be mainly evergreen, a "barrier to light", at least 2 metres high and neither thin out significantly at 2m or have gaps in it. Full details of the act can be found at www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2003/30038--i.htm

Nice Hedges

Cheshire Landscape Trust had a bumper 2003/2004, donating 6000 trees and shrubs to their band of Tree Guardians and Tree Wardens, as well as community groups and schools. Projects included 60m of mixed hedge at St. Bede's Primary School, Weaverham, filling hedgerow gaps, and donating commemorative trees. In addition, 120 apple trees were donated, including to each school in Warrington as part of their "Healthy Eating" initiative. More plants will be available this autumn: contact Cheshire Landscape Trust, Fountains Building, Northgate Street, Chester CH1 4EF, 01244 376333, email cheshire@landscapetrust.fsnet.co.uk

Energy

Renewables in Cheshire: Where, When and How?

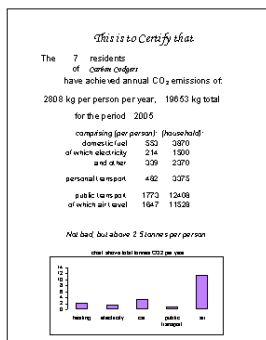
Wednesday 20th October sees the Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative's meeting to discuss how to take renewables forward. A short meeting on the current situation precedes workshops to see what the real potential is. Funding exists; there may be other obstacles; but some clear targets are sought. Things commence at 9.30am, at a venue to

be decided. Contact Angie Jukes if you (or your representative) would like to attend: tel 01606 594173 or email angie@epplus.org.uk.

Complete the Form, Get the Certificate

The up-to-date Carbon Challenge Calculator, for those wishing to find out what their family's climate change impact is, is now available. It's in Windows Excel format – does anyone fancy translating it into other formats? To receive a copy by email, email us at our new address – vren@groundwork.org.uk and we'll return you a copy. Free.

One logical sequel to this exercise are Carbon Quotas, or Domestic Tradable Quotas – a scheme whereby a slowly decreasing allowance of units is given annually to each citizen to permit the purchase of fuel. Want more, you pay; have spare, you sell. All done at the swipe of a card. Colin Challen MP will do a second reading of his bill on Domestic Tradable Quotas on 15th October. See www.colinchallen.org.uk, and www.dtqs.org



No Juice?

Friends of the Earth's (FoE) latest guide to renewable electricity suppliers lists four available in this area: Ecotricity Old Energy Tariff, Green Energy 100, Good Electricity (formerly unit[e]), and RSPB Energy.

Their ranking is based on how much they encourage new renewable energy generation additional to the statutory minimum, and on how much the company also relies on fossil or nuclear generation.

Each electricity supplier receives Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) when it purchases renewable electricity. They also have to hand in ROCs equivalent to 3% (rising to 10% in 2010) of the electricity they sell. FoE points out that a problem with traditional suppliers is that as long as their green tariff customers remain in small numbers, their green electricity counts towards the 3% of renewables that they are legally bound to supply. Their mainstream customers can receive more fossil power. (see www.foe.co.uk/pubsinfo/briefings/html/20020510181725.html, or PDF file with graphics www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/green_electricity_tariffs_2004.pdf.)

Suppliers of 100% renewable electricity receive ROCs for all that. 3% they have to hand in by law; the rest they could sell on to other companies to contribute to their 3%. With the shortage of renewable capacity, this is lucrative and helps to reduce the price for green customers. However, these four tariffs 'retire' a proportion, thus forcing the market. See the listing at www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/choose_green_energy/

Their recommendations are (these all supply 100% renewable electricity):

Ecotricity Old Energy Tariff: source: Wind. Hold onto 11% of the ROCs. www.ecotricity.co.uk/ or 08000 326 100.

Good Energy 75% wind, 25% hydro. Holds onto 7% of the ROCs. Good Energy was previously known as unit[e]. www.good-energy.co.uk/, enquiries@unit-e.co.uk, 0845 456 1640

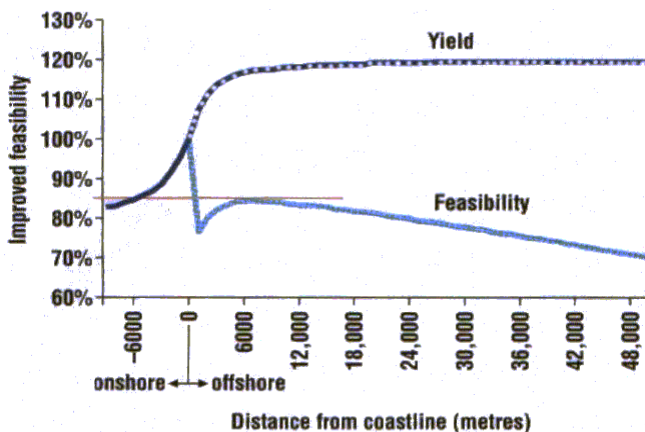
Green energy 100 50% wind, 49% hydro, 1% solar. Invest 50% of profits in green electricity generation and hold onto 6.8% of the certificates of proof from these projects. Subscribers also become shareholders. Green Energy UK, www.greenenergy.uk.com/ 01920 486156

RSPB Energy 90% hydro, 5% wind, 5% landfill gas. Holds onto 10% of the ROCs. For each customer, £30 in the first year and thereafter £5/year is spent on environmental schemes. Scottish and Southern Energy plc. www.southern-electric.co.uk/home/home_rspb_energy_welcome.asp, customerservice@southern-electric.co.uk, 0845 7444 555

Unfortunately these will generally cost (financially) more than your present supplier: for details visit www.greenprices.com/uk/pricesbox.asp. Schools, councils and other not large public organisations can purchase 100% renewable electricity at conventional prices through an OGCbuying solutions/British Gas deal – capitalising on bulk purchase.

The Place for Wind Turbines

Wind speeds at sea are higher than on land, where the best speeds (assuming level terrain) are on the coast. Offshore installations are more expensive than onshore, and cabling costs rise with increasing distance from the shore. As a result, the feasibility, and hence electricity price, of turbines 6km at sea is the same as those 6km inland, but the best value is for those on the shore. (*Renewable Energy World, Mar/Apr 2004*)



Action Stations

Bus Stops on the M6?

The Highways Agency is conducting a series of public consultations on the various stretches of the M6, including that from Cannock (junction 11a) to Warrington (junction 20). They're interested in problems of congestion, safety, and useability, as well as pollution, litter and noise, with a view to setting a strategy plan for the next 10-15 years. The plan will identify where problems lie and where investment may be needed. They aim to make better use of existing roads rather than building anew. They hope to receive feedback from a wide spectrum of users, by 23rd August 2004. The Strategy Document can be viewed in Northwich, Winsford and other main libraries in Cheshire; or call the Highways Agency on 08457 50 40 30; or visit www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/motorways/m6/warrington_birmingham/index.htm.

(Bus stops? There's no mention of them!) (Article written before proposals for two-lanes-each-way toll motorway, parallel to M6, came out.)

The Future of Transport is a Government White Paper: order it from The Stationery Office, 0870 600 5522, email book.orders@tso.co.uk, or view at www.dft.gov.uk

And a New Mersey Crossing?

A new crossing between Runcorn and Widnes is proposed, comprising two lanes each way with hard shoulders, to ease the congestion on the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge. It would run to the east of that bridge, from the Central Expressway in Runcorn to the Eastern bypass in Widnes and ultimately Speke Road. More details at www.merseycrossing.co.uk



Defra Consultations

A number of consultations are running, including "Prior use exemption from plant breeders' rights for farm-saved seeds" (11/8/04); others on energy efficiency (13/8/04), movement of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) (16/8/04), and catchment sensitive farming (9/9/04) – and more (deadline dates in brackets). Find them on www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/current.htm (If you're not on the internet, visit a library. Staff or youngsters may be helpful.)

Competing for Votes

The Lion Salt Works is competing for £3.2m against 20 other heritage sites in the BBC2 "Restoration" programme. In the first round, it's up against locations in Sheffield and the Yorkshire Dales. Many of the buildings were not made to last, and are in a dangerous condition. This is one of only three locations worldwide where salt making by brine evaporation can be seen. Winning the prize will enable its restoration into a working museum, and they hope to heat the salt pans using local wood chips. The series starts soon – details from www.bbc.co.uk/history/programmes/restoration/profiles/?12 or the Lion Salt Works, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich CW9 6ES, tel 01606 41823, www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk

A Vale Royal Green Party?

Howard Thorp wishes to set up a local Green Party. Contact him at 94, Hartford Road, Davenham, CW9 8JF, 01606 330263, hgthorp@ntlworld.com

Transport

Pedal Away the Summer

Bike Events 2004 is a leaflet/website listing various opportunities for cycling through the countryside, both UK and Europe, for adults and families. There are various day trips for all sorts of charities.

Holidays include Kids Holland and Kids Germany (from £249 per child, £349 per adult excl bike hire). There are various summer dates and tour routes in France, (tour only £740 incl bike hire), and September sees two Irish tours (from £289 excl bike hire). All holidays are 1 week duration. For a free brochure write to Bike Events, PO box 2127, Bristol BS99 7LN, tel 0870 755 8519, email mail@bike-events.com, or see www.bike-events.com

The opening of the South Coast of England Route is to be marked with a trailblazing ride of 375 miles on the 11th-18th September. Contact David Grey, Sustrans, The National Cycle Network Centre, 2 Cathedral Square, College Green, Bristol BS1 5DD, tel 0845 113 0065, email rides@sustrans.org.uk

Road Engineering for Cyclists

The spring 2004 Sustrans Supporters' Newsletter includes hints to help cyclists, and others:

1. Continue cycle tracks across side roads, entrances, etc
2. Allow contra-flow cycling on one-way streets
3. Allow cycling where motor vehicles are forbidden
4. Combine a zebra crossing with cycle crossing, preferable raised
5. Sinusoidal ups and downs on road humps, and flush kerbs at crossings
6. Special roundabout design
7. 20 mph zones
8. Cycle lanes on narrow roads can calm traffic speed
9. Adjust traffic signs to change when pedestrians or cyclists arrive, not when there is a traffic gap

Contact Sustrans, The National Cycle Network Centre, 2 Cathedral Square, College Green, Bristol BS1 5DD, tel 0845 113 0065.

Inspirations

The National Trust has done a minor modification to its handbook. When listing ways to get to its properties, they now come in the order of by foot, bike, bus, train, ferry and finally road.

Pedal Back the Years (PBTY), an initiative between Sustrans, the Cornwall Local Health Action Zone and many other partners, helps sedentary inactive adults, at risk from future health problems, to become active. It boosts confidence, broadens social worlds, and teaches new skills. It offers three cycle rides weekly, of 5 to 10 miles, on mostly traffic-free routes in Cornwall.

Bracknell Vision: in redeveloping Bracknell town centre, the council, with support from a CONCERTO grant, plan to install district heating, cooling and power, possibly run on thinnings from local woodlands. They're also aiming for highest possible building energy efficiencies, and may include wind and solar installations.

Seattle has ordered 230 **hybrid (diesel/electric) buses**, which offer 60% greater fuel efficiency than conventional buses.

Forest Fever

Wed 4th August, 2-4pm
Marbury Country Park **Butterfly Safari**, an afternoon for all the family Meet at the Rangers' cabin. Steph Hefferan 01606 77741

Fri 6th August, 10am – 12 noon
Family **Pond Dip**, with Delamere Forest rangers, £2 each, children must be with an adult. Whitehead car park, opposite Blakemere Water (north of station) Delamere. Tel 01606 889792

Thursday, 29th July, 10am - noon
Collecting Bluebell Seeds in Marbury Park, for Landlife. tel 01606 42667

Fri 6th August
MIDAS Driver Training, Pex Hill Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk



Fri 6th
August
Flower Festival:
anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki bombings.

Readings.
You may bring white flowers to drop on the river. 8pm, the bandstand, the Groves, Chester.

Sat 7th August
Peace Café, fair-traded light refreshments and goods/information. 10am – 1pm, Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham St, Chester; also: An Evening of **Words and Music for Peace**, 7.30-9.30pm, same venue, free admission. Details: tel 01244 316554, email chesterwarden@lineone.net

7th & 8th August
Organic Gardens Open Days: see "Gardeners' Fun"

Wed 25th August
Summer Games, Marbury Country Park: for children aged 7 - 11. Booking essential: tel Chris Moseley, 01606 77741



Fri 27th August
Sand Dune Ecology and Management, Merseyside Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Sat 28th August
Bat & Moth Evening, Marbury Country Park: bring a torch and a bat detector if you have one. The Rangers on 01606 77741 or Paul Hill on 01565 658422

9, 10 Sept
Green Woodworking Production - Hurdles Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Sun 12th Sept 10am
Victorian Trail from Anderton: fields, woods and industrial heritage. 6 miles. Stout footwear, lunch and drinks needed. Meet Anderton Nature Park car park The Rangers on 01606 77741

15, 16, 17 Sept
Pond Creation and Management Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Sat 25th Sept

Salt Line Hawk Walk: short stroll, getting close to birds, learning their lives and maybe seeing hawks and owls. OK for wheelchairs and pushchairs
Booking essential: phone Alistair Wright on 01270 768835

Sun 26th Sept, 10.00am – 3.00pm
Food for Free, Marbury Country Park. Rich pickings in the park, with expert identifiers and tasting round an open fire.

You may need a packed lunch! The Rangers 01606 77741



Mon 27th Sept

Care, Maintenance and Repair of **Hand Tools**, Chester Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Sat 2nd Oct, 2pm

Quince Day - Norton Priory. Activities and a guided walk through the Quince collection
Cheshire Landscape Trust on 01244 376333

Mon 4 - Fri 8 Oct

Mersey Basin Week:

Sustainability. Workshops and activities on sustainability, at various locations in the Bollin Valley. Places limited, so first come, first served. Mrs Andy Collins on 01625 534790

Sat 9th October

Tomorrow's Garden for Local Wildlife see article

Sun 10th Oct, 2pm

Landscape, Trees and Water, Marbury Country Park. Guided walk with fruit tasting from the Cheshire Landscape Trust/CFWI Orchard. Meet Rangers' Office Cheshire Landscape Trust 01244 376333

Thurs 14th Oct, 8pm

Badgers - an illustrated talk. Free to members of Friends of Anderton & Marbury, £1.50 to non-members. Comberbach Memorial Hall Marbury Country Park Rangers 01606 77741

Fri 15th Oct, 11am

Parkgate **High Tide Birdwatch:** huge flocks of waders and waterfowl are pushed in by the incoming tide. Meet: Old Baths car park, Parkgate RSPB 0151 336 7681

Sun 17th Oct, 2pm

Apple Day - Norton Priory: activities and traditional games
Cheshire Landscape Trust 01244 376333

Wed 20th Oct

Renewables in Cheshire: see article

22, 23, 24 Oct

Hedgelaying - Level 1, Cheshire (simple accommodation available)
Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Sat 23rd Oct

Plant That Tree & Help it Grow: a free day workshop for advice and practical experience on tree selection, planting and aftercare.
Booking essential: please phone Cheshire Landscape Trust on 01244 376333

Fri 29th Oct

Seed Gathering and Propagation, Merseyside
Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Sat 30th Oct

Myths & Magic, Marbury Country Park. Screams and howls in the haunted woodland. Not suitable for the under 5's, weak hearts or nervous dispositions.
Refreshments available. Booking essential: please phone Chris Moseley on 01606 77741

Sun 7th Nov

Ince - Fields, Bikes and Dykes: an **off road bike ride** along the boundary of Helsby and Ellesmere Port. Mountain bikes only.
Booking essential: please phone Tim Lloyd on 0151 357 1991

Fri 12th Nov

MIDAS Driver Training, Bury
Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Sat 13th Nov, 10am

Parkgate **High Tide Birdwatch:** huge flocks of waders and waterfowl are pushed in by the incoming tide. Meet: Old Baths car park, Parkgate RSPB 0151 336 7681

Fri 19th Nov

Introduction to **Tree Felling** with Hand tools, Manchester Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Wed 24 Nov – Sun 5 Dec

National Tree Week 2004 Further details from Cheshire Landscape Trust on 01244 376333

Mon 6th Dec

Introduction to **Coppicing**, Cumbria Rowena Maslaczky, BTCV, 01772 204651 e-mail: nw-training@btcv.org.uk

Thurs 16th Dec

Find Santa on the Whitegate Way: a torch lit ride on the Whitegate Way to find Santa in his grotto with presents for children.
Cost £8.00 per head Booking essential: Oak Tree Riding Centre on 01606 888543

Sun 19th Dec

Ride with Santa on the Whitegate Way: a pony ride with Santa on the Way with presents for the children.
Cost £8.00 per head. Booking

essential: Oak Tree Riding Centre on 01606 888543

Sun 19th Dec

Christmas Crafts: make your own (free) decorations helped by the Rangers and Friends of Anderton and Marbury. Bring children, materials provided.
10.00am - 3.30pm by Marbury Rangers cabins. Marbury Rangers 01606 77741.

