

# ALTERNATIVE TIMES

News from the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

Spring 2000 No. 2

## Bring me sunshine . . .

### ATC launches Solar Club

How would you like to reduce pollution and massively reduce your water heating bills? Yes – well, now's your chance!

The ATC is launching an exciting new scheme called the Solar Club. The club will assist people who want to install solar water heating with the necessary skills, equipment and support. Getting a commercial company to install it for you will cost between £2500 - £4000. The Solar Club will help cut installation costs to less than half that price - around £1300.

Following the success of a pilot project, Solar Clubs are now being formed across Britain including here in Hebden Bridge. We will cover the surrounding area from Burnley and Rochdale to Bradford and Huddersfield.

In the UK, solar water heating can provide about 50% of a household's hot water requirements. There are currently more than 42,000 domestic solar water heating systems installed in Britain.

Solar systems involve a heat collector, usually mounted on a roof. The solar



panels are not obtrusive and can either sit on an existing roof or can be built into it. Heat is then transferred from these panels to water stored in an indoor tank.

Installing solar water heating means that you will use less conventional energy, which comes mainly from burning fossil fuels such as gas, coal or oil. These produce pollutants when burnt including carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide, which cause major environmental problems like global warming and acid rain.

Annual hot water bills should be cut by half and nearly all of the hot water required during the summer should be

provided. Solar systems usually give 20 years useful service. The money saved more than repays the initial cost.

The Solar Club is easy to join and members have the benefit of:

- \* Professional training, advice and support
- \* An independent home visit to assess if solar water heating would be suitable for your home
- \* Discounted solar panels and other components
- \* Sharing skills, labour and tools.

If you have basic DIY skills, the practical work involved will be well within your capability - expert training and assistance will be on hand if needed. What's more, if you don't like the idea of DIY installation, we can install the entire system for you (with your help) and the system will still be a lot cheaper than those commercially available.

**For more information email the ATC at [info@alternativetechnology.org.uk](mailto:info@alternativetechnology.org.uk) or telephone (01422) 84 21 21**

**..... and here's another way to cut your bills....** How would you like to reduce your phone bills at the same time as helping the ATC? See page 3 for a special offer from **The Phone Co-op**....



### Big Green Weekend

The recent Big Green Weekend was a huge success all round. As well as hordes of local people, we had visitors from all over the North – from Lancaster to Leeds, from Wales to Norfolk. The displays and stalls were buzzing all day, hundreds of interested people visited the Centre, children had a brilliant time making masks at the workshops and floating candles on the canal at the finale.....local businesses joined in with a 'shop local' promotion (reporting a very positive response) .....the two green walks were blessed with glorious sunshine and the most amazing fruit cake at Jennie's barn (guided tour of straw bale building with compost toilets included – see page 2 for more on this front...)..... and it all culminated in a masked ball with Junk Funk Percussion and the Peace Artistes – a night to remember!

A huge thanks to all those who put in such hard work to make it possible. Next year it will be even bigger!



Solar power panels being demonstrated in St George's Square during the Big Green Weekend

## ATC PROJECTS: Update

### Primrose Garden:

At last, all our frustrated gardeners have somewhere to go and actually garden! Work has now begun on turning this patch of land into a community garden. Watch this space...

### Bill's Secret Garden:

Next to Primrose Garden, just along and across the canal from the ATC, is this area of woodland and derelict walls. Here we aim to create a sculpture garden combining gardening and art. We plan to clear the wooded area and replant indigenous plants and herbs, combining them with environmental sculptures sympathetic to the land. Recycled materials will be used wherever possible. Ideas being explored include: a performance area, woven willow hedging and structures, a pond and a maze.

### Canal-side Linear Park:

Work will be starting soon on the stretch of canal towpath near to the ATC: clearing and tidying up, planting flowers in beds and containers, solving the dog-mess problem, providing solar lighting to make it safer at night and possibly attempting to solve the problem of the huge puddles which have appeared (any ideas out there?).

### At the Centre:

We have been inundated with people wanting information, with people offering everything from computers to bricks and people wanting to become involved - to lay hedges, build a play trail, refurbish old hydroelectric equipment in the valley or make bio-diesel from old chip fat..... (we'll keep you posted!)

We are getting a huge amount of help and encouragement and the all-important funding is slowly starting to come in.

A £5000 grant from Millenium Awards for All has enabled us to buy demonstration 'alternative technology' such as solar water heating panels, a reed bed, photo-voltaic cells, a small wind-turbine (now installed on the roof and generating electricity for the Centre), a sunpipe and more.... Soon we hope to have the library and databases / information areas up and running. We are busy making connections with both local and national organisations - so if your organisation hasn't come across us before - please get in touch.

# ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY IN THE CALDER VALLEY

## Valley Garden Organics

If you get your vegetables from Valley Garden Organics, not only will they be organic (and largely locally grown - depending on the season), but they will now also be packed in a shed with lights powered by the wind and sun. (Wow, just how green can you get?!)

Two years ago, VGO commissioned a feasibility study from the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth in Wales into the potential at Valley Garden (situated between Sowerby Bridge & Copley) for the use of renewable energy. The study indicated that they would be able to generate wind and solar power but not hydro-electric power from the stream. A combined wind / solar system has now been installed by Andy Hodchild from EcoHeat in Hebden Bridge. The system provides enough energy to power 11 (low energy) light bulbs in the kitchen, packing shed and tool shed. This has replaced their former environmentally unfriendly propane gas system. The project was jointly funded by the Shell Better Britain Campaign, the Pennine Green Business Network and VGO and cost about £4000.

A wind turbine and a solar panel feed power through a control panel to three batteries, which store the energy ensuring a consistent supply of electricity. During the winter months, most of the power is generated by the wind. In the summer, it comes largely from the sun. Throughout autumn and spring a more even combination of the two is expected.

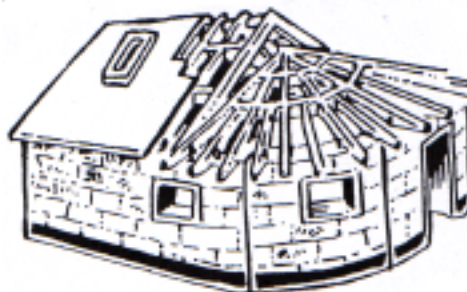
The wind turbine is quiet and visually unobtrusive. The solar panel sits well secured to the top of the packing shed. And the workers at VGO smile as they pack the vegetables, happy in the fact that their lights are powered directly by the wind and sun!

\* **More information about VGO from Mary-Ann on (01422) 886032 & about EcoHeat from Andy on (01422) 843414 (e-mail: [ecoheat@gn.apc.org](mailto:ecoheat@gn.apc.org))**

## Straw Bales and Human Compost at Latham Farm.

Jennie Slaughter is in the process of creating a camping barn at her home, Latham Farm, on the edge of the moors above Old Town. The toilet block is being constructed from straw bales as a less expensive option than stone. Construction with strawbales, a natural building material, also provides greater insulation, saving on heating bills and gives an aesthetically pleasing finish, thick walls and solid appearance

The solids and liquids from the toilets are to be composted using techniques pioneered by the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales.



**Here in the Calder Valley** people are already using many different forms of alternative technology. In the first of what will be a regular feature in AT here are some examples of what people are up to.

### Chris and Eric Emerson's Solar Water Heating

When Chris and Eric Emerson moved into their large Victorian house in Hebden Bridge ten years ago, solar water heating panels were already installed. "They're brilliant", says Chris, "Although they are quite old now, they provide us with free hot water all summer. They work even without direct sunlight and nothing has ever gone wrong with the panels themselves." The computer box that connects the panels with the gas boiler did go wrong once, however, and they had to track down the one man in the country who could fix it – from Birmingham.

The Emerson's house is ideally placed for sun on a south-facing hillside. Two adults and two teenagers live there. The house has two hot water cylinders: one heated by gas, one by solar energy. They can choose to use the gas-heated cylinder, the solar-heated cylinder or, by pressing a lever, can use a system which boosts the heat achieved by the solar panels.

**\* Check out the front page for details about the new Solar Club and contact the ATC for more information and advice about solar water heating.**



It's a wind-up - ATC helper John Smith demonstrates self-powered torch

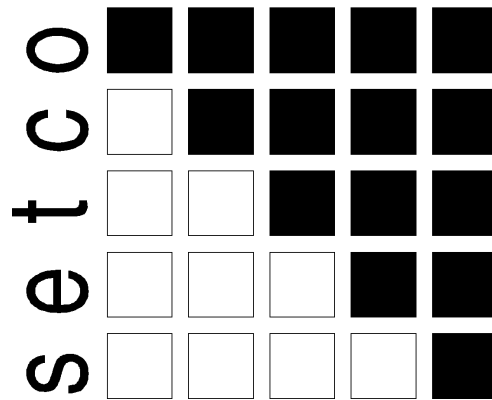
### Wind-up Torch lights the Barge.

Local artist Peter Jones purchased a wind-up torch from the Green Shop before Christmas. In the absence of mains electricity on his narrowboat, this has meant that he has been able to use some of the long winter nights painting and drawing. And it helps him build up his muscles!

The best selection of  
vegetarian & wholefoods  
in the area  
**Pennine  
Provisions**  
21 Crown St. 844945

**Bear  
Wholefoods**  
child friendly veggie cafe - huge organic  
range - alternative medicines  
29 Rochdale Rd, Todmorden OL14 7LA  
Tel: 01706 813737

## The Phone Co-op



### Cut your phone bills and help the ATC!

#### The Phone Co-op....

**Saves you money on your phone bills  
whilst helping the ATC raise funds.**

The ATC has joined forces with *The Phone Co-op* - the only co-operative telecommunications provider in the UK. *The Phone Co-op* provides highly competitive rates and distributes profits to the individuals and organisations that own it.

The ATC, as a member of *The Phone Co-op*, has set up an affinity scheme for its Friends and supporters. Under this, you could dramatically cut your phone bills - and the ATC would benefit by receiving 6% of the value of the calls you make.

**To become a customer of The Phone Co-op will cost you nothing** - there are no set up charges or monthly fees....you pay only for the calls you make using *The Phone Co-op's* service.

Costs are 48% cheaper than BT for national peak-time calls, 35% cheaper for national off-peak calls and 18% cheaper for local peak-time calls. There are even bigger savings to be made on international calls. (*Full details of our special tariff are available - see below for contact details*)

**The minimum call charge is just 1p compared with 4.2p with BT.** This means that sending and receiving e-mails can be up to 75% cheaper than through BT.

**The Phone Co-op can also save you up to a massive 90% on calls from Orange and One2One mobile phones.** Now you can make calls from your mobile phone to a landline for the same price as a landline to a landline!

#### It's simplicity itself to take up this offer:

\* you keep your existing line and phone number - and, if you are a BT customer, you will be provided with a 4-digit access code to dial in front of each number you call (you can probably store this access number in your memory button)

\* the special ATC supporters tariff is available to anyone currently spending more than £30 per quarter on calls

\* If you spend more than about £30 per month with your current supplier(s), *The Phone Co-op* will supply you with a smart-box which will automatically route all your calls through their service.

#### Get in touch now for more details...

Either drop into the ATC and pick up a leaflet or call John Brierley on 01422 886792 (or e-mail john.brierley@zen.co.uk)

## The Even Bigger Green Jumble Sale

Saturday 8th April, 2-4pm

Following the success of last year's Big Green Jumble Sale, the Friends of the ATC are organising another – on Saturday 8th April, 2-4pm at Holme Street Arts Centre in Hebden Bridge. Entrance : 20p

Please start digging out your jumble and either deliver to the ATC at Hebble End (open generally 10am-5pm Monday to Friday & 12-4pm Saturday / Sunday) or deliver on the day to Holme Street Arts Centre, 10am – 1pm or we may be able to collect from you if you have lots of jumble and no transport (ring the ATC on 01422-842121).

## An Introduction to Permaculture

Saturday May 20th, 11am-4pm

### Marilyn Edwards

A day of learning how we can live sustainably in all aspects of our lives. A common sense approach to food growing, being energy efficient, economics and sharing resources. Details (including cost) from the ATC.



## Food Futures

The Food Futures programme aims to develop links between producers, retailers and customers and to promote local food initiatives. It is supported nationally by the Soil Association in partnership with local authorities and the local food sector.

It's aims are:

- \* to give support to local farmers and producers to benefit the local food economy
- \* to make fresh affordable local food available to local communities, schools and organisations etc
- \* to decrease the need for transporting food and journeys for shopping to reduce the pollution levels associated with road transport.

The ATC is involved in putting together the database for this project so if you are a: farmer/grower, retailer, food co-op, interested individual or group, health worker or council officer - please contact us to have your name included on the database.

A number of people would like to start up a local branch. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Polly at the ATC.

## ATC CONTACTS

HB Alternative Technology Centre,  
Hebble End Mill,  
Hebden Bridge,  
HX7 6HJ.

**Tel:** Daytime: 01422-842121

**Fax:** 01422 84 31 41

**Email:** info@alternativetechnology.org.uk

**Web:** www.alternativetechnology.org.uk

**Next issue:** please send any feedback, letters, contributions etc for the next issue of **The Alternative Times** (out in June) to John Brierley at the ATC.

The **Alternative Times** is published by Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre, Hebble End Mill, Hebden Bridge. Designed by Pennine Pens & Frogs Graphic Design. Printed by The Halifax.

**Thanks** to all the following for their generous support: Awards for All, BTCV, Calderdale Community Foundation, the Halifax, Business in the Community, Hebden Royd Town Council, Yorkshire Rural Community Foundation.

## Benefit for the Riverside Festival

Saturday 8th April

This year's Riverside Festival will take place July 8-9th and the ATC is having a big input into it. A benefit dance party to raise money towards the event will take place at the Trades Club,

Hebden Bridge on Saturday 8th April with DJs playing electro to leftfield, rhythym and grooves, hard house and techno. Special guests appearing also. Details: Chris (01422) 846098 (evenings)

## WEB PAGE DESIGN

www.hebdenbridge.co.uk  
**HEBDEN BRIDGE WEB**  
see our website portfolio online at  
www.penninepens.co.uk  
webmaster@hebdenbridge.co.uk  
01422 843724  
**PENNINE PENS**

## every clown has a silver lifeboat

john lennon

frogs graphic design

## CYCLEWAYS

25 West End Hebden Bridge  
tel: 01422 843777

**cycle sales  
service  
repairs  
accessories**

**WESLEY & GELDARD**  
Telephone 845217  
46 Market Street, Hebden Bridge  
**The Old Millennium Stores**  
Health foods, Ecological cleaning products,  
Organic Bread & Vegetables, friendly service



**VALLEY  
GARDEN  
ORGANICS**

## LAND WORKER REQUIRED

This is a full time position and will include weekend work as and when required.

Applicants should be fit and strong and a working knowledge of organic growing would be an asset though not a necessity.

Key strengths will include flexibility and the ability to work as part of a team.

For more information contact Mary Ann Reed 01422 886032

## the green shop

at Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

solar panels  
wind chargers  
deep cycle batteries  
solar water heating\*  
'green' gifts  
postcards  
greetings cards  
garden furniture  
fashion bags  
clothing  
notepads  
hand made paper  
soaps and 'smellies'  
paints  
'green' auto recovery\*  
electric bikes\*  
insulation  
\* agency

open 10.00 - 5.00 mon-fri  
& 12.00 - 4.00 sat-sun  
www.alternativetechnology.org.uk

## PERSON TO WORK IN THE CAFE

from 21 April 2000 on Monday to Thursday, lunchtime and afternoon. Must have basic certificate. Approx £85 per week. May not last beyond September. Apply to Canal Cafe, 9 Hebble End, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 6HJ.

## SALEM COMMUNITY CAFE

Central Street  
Hebden Bridge

**Veggie/Vegan Food**  
**Organic and fair trade ingredients**

Children's play area  
Tues/Fri 9-3 Sat 10.30-4.30



**VALLEY  
GARDEN  
ORGANICS**

Local **organic** vegetables and fruit delivered to your door.  
Contact Mary-Ann Reed  
Tel & fax 01422-886032

## THE software & internet SHOP

4 Hilton St, Hebden Bridge. Tel: 01422 842400 URL: www.SoftNetShop.co.uk

Computer Books - DVD's - Software & Multimedia Titles - Training  
Colour Laser Printing - Faxing - Scanning + Web & Print Designing

Public computer access for  
DTP, emailing and surfing  
the WEB.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES FREE PHONE  
**0800 980 7537**

## EcoHeat

Plumbing & Heating Engineers  
Committed to - Energy Efficiency  
Solar Energy & Water Conservation  
**2 York St, Hebden Bridge,**  
Tel/fax 01422 843414



**www.goosenet.net**

We offer Internet/Intranet and  
Networking Solutions for small and  
medium size businesses and organis-  
ations in the Northwest. E-zine  
publication for special interest groups.