

the green page

News and information from the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

ATC CONTACTS

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The views expressed by individuals on the Green Page do not necessarily represent the views of the ATC.



Seven year old Ellie Brierley from Cragg Vale takes a ride round town in one of the 'Pedicabs' which offered tours around Hebden Bridge during the Big Green Weekend. The ATC is carrying out a feasibility study with a view to providing human powered taxi rides on a regular basis in Hebden Bridge, as well as electric bike hire for trips to the National Trust's Gibson Mill in Hardcastle Craggs.

A to Z of recycling

EACH MONTH WE ARE PUBLISHING A SELECTION FROM A NEW A TO Z OF RECYCLING IN CALDERDALE WHICH WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

We plan to expand and update this A to Z regularly. If you have any additions, suggestions or alterations, please send them to Sharon at the ATC (sharon@alternativetechnology.org.uk or tel. 842121)

This month we are onto 'B' for.....

Baby Clothes and Equipment – buy second hand from friends or charity shops. See notices in local shops / newspapers. Or hire Jack and Jill baby equipment - 844459.

Bags – most supermarkets now offer long lasting 'bags for life'. Use these or an old fashioned, non plastic shopping bag – string bags are de rigeur for summer 2002. UK shoppers use 8 billion plastic bags per year (134 per person)! Refuse plastic bags in shops if you don't need them. Safeways in Todmorden has a bin outside for recycling plastic bags or put your name down for the ATC's Plastic Recycling Club – 842121.

Batteries – Household batteries are difficult to recycle – use mains where possible. Small dry cell batteries can be recharged (the ATC's Green Shop sells battery rechargers). Call Duracell on 0800 716434 for a freepost label and Jiffy bag to return spent batteries or send Ever Ready batteries to Energizer UK, Recycling, Freepost L0L2311, Dunstable, Beds LU54YY.

Local community recyclers, Kerbside, have

a pilot scheme for collecting and recharging household batteries – tel. 881110.

Car batteries can be taken to certain recycling point / civic amenity sites – contact Calderdale's Recycling Officer for information - 392385. Kerbside collect used car batteries locally. Exhausted power tool batteries can often be taken back by the supplier so it's worth asking eg Draper tools will take back spent battery packs in exchange for a 10% discount on a new one.

Beds – If you have any unwanted beds to get rid of – try a local charity shop or alternatively try registered charity CHAS - 01274 731909 – they will call on you if you live in the Halifax area, free of charge, to remove any unwanted items of furniture which are in a reasonable condition and may be of use to someone else.

Bicycles – will be repaired by most local bike shops or try and sell through local paper.

Books – Give second hand books to charity shops / jumble sales. Your local Oxfam / PDSA etc will be glad of them. Book Aid International sends books to developing countries –phone 020 7733 3577.

Bob the Builder - To get your hands on a 'Bob's recycling day' sticker book along with a huge selection of books on Recycling / Environmental issues contact Eco-logic books on 01225 484472 or email: books@eco-logic.demon.co.uk.

Bottles – Find ways of reusing bottles and jars or rinse and take to your local bottle

bank – contact your Recycling Officer 392 385 if you don't know where yours is. Kerbside collect plastic or glass bottles to recycle (tel. 881110) or get your name down for the ATC's Plastics Recycling Club.

Bottled water – Filter your own or drink tap water! Plastic bottles are difficult to recycle – there's also the energy waste in bottling / packaging and transportation. ATC recycle a limited number of plastic bottles. To find out more about plastic recycling contact the ATC or RECOUP on 01684 272185.

Bric a brac – take your unwanted goods to charity shops / jumble sales / car boot sales. Other people are always ready to give your cast-offs a new home!

Bring sites – another name for 'recycling sites' or 'bottle / paper banks'. Phone Calderdale Council – 392385 - for a free, up to date list of what to take where in Calderdale or see www.calderdale.gov.uk

Building Materials – to find companies that sell second hand building materials such as bricks / gates / paving see Yellow Pages under Builder's Merchants or Salvage and Reclamation or try www.salvo.co.uk.

Buy recycled – buying recycled helps the recycling chain. It encourages the growth of companies providing recycled goods and displaces products made from scratch. A UK recycled products guide can be obtained from Waste Watch on 020 7 253 6266.



A Sideways Look

John Morrison

'Guitar music is on the way out...'

Predicting the future is a notoriously difficult business. Those with vested interests in maintaining the status quo find it more difficult still. Sir Bernard Ingham, for example, who is paid to polish the tarnished image of the nuclear industry. A favourable view of alternative sources of energy, from the pen of our very own Purley King, is about as likely as turkeys voting for Christmas.

Sir Bernard is welcome to his recently aired opinions about nuclear power. I can only echo those high-principled words of Voltaire, who declared "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it". In Sir Bernard's case, though, I sincerely hope it won't come to that.

It's depressing to hear the green alternatives being rubbished. With nuclear power largely discredited, fossil fuels running out and the internal combustion engine threat-

ening to take over the planet, only a fool would refuse to look for new ways to create and harness energy. OK, even the most enthusiastic proponent of wind and wave energy would admit that these technologies are still in their infancy. There's a long, long way to go, but at least we've made a start.

The nuclear lobby spends huge amounts of money to promote their cause. If a proportion of that sum could be diverted into the research and development of new, sustainable technologies, who knows what we might achieve in ten, twenty, fifty years? It's all too easy to shoot new ideas down in flames. We should support green initiatives, if only on the basis that we have nothing to lose and much - potentially - to gain.

Here are a few choice quotes from people who shared Sir Bernard's short-sighted view of what the future might hold. In terms of

misreading the runes, he's in excellent company...

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy." Drillers who Edwin Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." Lord Kelvin, president of the Royal Society, 1895.

"Everything that can be invented has been invented." Charles Duell, Commissioner, US Office of Patents, 1899.

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" HM Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corporation, 1977

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." Decca Recording

BEYOND THE VALLEY ...

Positive green news snippets from outside the Calder Valley

- The UK's first and the world's largest and most efficient **straw fired power station** has opened at Sutton near Ely. The £60 million power station uses new techniques to burn surplus straw to generate electricity. The 36 MW plant will generate over 270 GWh of electricity a year; enough power to heat and light 80,000 homes.
- The Government is providing grants for farmers to plant energy crops and capital grants for new power stations to convert these crops into electricity. Over a three-year period the Department of Trade & Industry will give a boost to bio energy worth almost £85 million pounds.
- Construction work will begin in the Spring on the **world's largest offshore wind farm**, capable of generating 520 megawatts of electricity. The wind farm, in the Irish Sea off County Wicklow on Ireland's east coast, will be three times the size of all the existing wind farms in the world put together. The farm should supply about 10 percent of the country's energy needs and should reduce Ireland's emissions of harmful carbon dioxide gas by 13.5 million tonnes a year.

I SPY: HANDY PLANTS WITCH HAZEL

(Hamamelis virginiana)



Continuing our regular feature on plants in the ATC's gardens.....

A North American Native commonly found in damp woodland growing to 1.5/ 2.5m tall. Witch Hazel is hardy, preferring acid to neutral soils. It comes from a large & lovely family of deciduous shrubs, which offer virtues in every season. It has glowing foliage in autumn leaving leafless branches to be decorated in pale, deliciously scented, yellow spider blooms to bright the duller days, from midwinter to early spring. Blooms are never touched by even the hardest frosts. It is a slow grower, suitable for a small garden.

Hamamelis comes from the Greek for

'apple' and 'together', since the flowers and fruit are produced at the same time. The few insects around at this time of year greatly appreciate the food.

Distilled Witch Hazel is made from the young flower-bearing twigs and used as an astringent. The forked branches are used as divining rods to find hidden underground water sources.

Our main reasons for having it in the Little Theatre Garden: winter wildlife value, its prolific show of flowers when all else is dull, the bark and leaves have some dye properties and the flowering limbs can be woven into baskets!

Illustration by Hannah Lawson

GREEN AVENGER BY MIKE BRYSON

