

# THE GREEN PAGE

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## A BIG GREEN THANK YOU

This year's Big Green Week was only made possible by the tremendous efforts of a small but committed and invaluable team of volunteers. The ATC would like to thank everyone who helped in whatever capacity to

ensure that the Big Green Week was such a success. We welcome all constructive feedback and invite everyone to become involved in the event. Planning for next year's Big Green Week has already begun!

## A BLOOMING GREAT BIG GREEN WEEKEND!



The ATC's 5th Big Green Week proved to be the most successful yet with local residents and visitors from far afield enjoying the wide variety of events, demonstrations and displays that showcased what is already going on in the Calder Valley and highlighted examples of best practise from around the country.

Throughout the week well-attended talks and workshops on various renewable technologies were held at the Centre.

Amongst the visiting guests were Devon farmer Miles Fursdon, who discussed his own hydropower project that has earned him a nomination for the 2004 Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy.

Over the weekend Hebden Bridge was engulfed by sustainability in action. The temporary pedestrianisation and "greening" of St George's Square which became a continental style plaza for 2 days was widely welcomed. Visitors and locals alike commented on the relaxed atmosphere and pleasant envi-

ronment that created a safe area for all ages to sit and enjoy themselves whilst sampling goods from the Town Centre shops and the local products and farmers' market in Lees Yard.

Caption to accompany photographs – "Putting their best feet forwards! The temporary pedestrianisation of St George's Square proved to be an extremely popular attraction during this year's Big Green Week."

## IT'S A FAIR COB!

The cob building demonstration in the playground of Riverside School was a particularly popular attraction. Cob building is a sustainable construction technique that mixes clay soil, sand, straw and water to create a long lasting building material. It can be used to make thick load bearing walls to fit most architectural designs as well as being suitable for many aspects of interior design. The playground played host to a cob sofa that was made over the course of the weekend.

Cob has been used as a construction tech-

nique throughout history in most cultures throughout the world, and is suited to a variety of temperate climates. Cob walls are extremely durable, can withstand earthquakes and won't catch fire! There are approximately 50,000 cob buildings in the UK, most of which were built in the 18th and 19th centuries, and construction is currently enjoying a revival in North America and Mainland Europe.

Not sure that this photograph will benefit from a caption but feel free to add one if you disagree!



Displaying the copper pipework matrix and copper fins from the interior of the d.i.y solar water heaters.

## DIY SOLAR WATER HEATING

The Do It Yourself solar water heater workshops led by Nick Parsons from Heeley City Farm (Sheffield) were a huge success and produced 5 superb homemade solar water heaters. The workshops demonstrated that even those of us bereft of basic knowledge about solar water heating and lacking confidence in our ability to build and install a full size domestic solar water heating system, can construct a small working system using part

salvaged materials, that provides hot water. DIY panels that have been constructed on workshops led by Nick are regularly used on camping trips, in the garden, as a shower, or to heat up a children's paddling pool. Excellent examples of solar power in action and participants have left the workshop keen to begin larger scale projects to supply solar hot water for their own homes.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOP!

A fundamental principle of the Big Green Week is promoting the value of the local economy. Throughout the week local residents were asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their shopping habits and use of local services. Every pound spent locally is a pound invested in our local economy. Research has shown that if 80p in every pound is spent locally it would create a huge beneficial impact on local shops and services by generating five times its initial worth. Through prudent use of their spending power everyone can help to create and safeguard local jobs, save energy and

improve the environment. A prize draw of all the completed questionnaires was held and the holder of winning ticket number 212 can call at the Green Shop to collect their prize of a wind-up and solar powered torch. If you wish to add information on your shopping habits to our research please visit the Green Shop to complete a questionnaire. All data received will be used to help further the ongoing work that is aimed at improving local shopping and community services.

Unfortunately in the days preceding this year's Big Green Week the ATC were informed of the death of Dave Kennedy. Dave was the Pedal Taxi man. The Pedal Taxis and Dave's smiling face had become a popular and regular feature around Hebden Bridge during previous Big Green Weeks and he will be sadly missed."



# THE BIG GREEN WEEK



Just messing about on the canal! Participants enjoying themselves in just one of the many raft races that took place on the canal, adjacent to the marina over the weekend."