

A DEAD CERT BET AT 10 TO 1

WE'RE TURNING INTO A NATION OF GAMBLERS, but not very clever ones! Most people don't think twice about laying out a quid for a lottery ticket with odds of several million to one for the jackpot. A flutter on the Grand National is considered a bit of fun and people will back horses at odds of 100 to 1 quite happily. And no guarantees.

So why is it that when someone offers us a GUARANTEED return on a 10 to 1 bet we don't jump at it? Perhaps we think it's too good to be true.

I'm talking about low energy light bulbs (no don't switch off - I'll prove it will save you money). Most energy savers (double-glazing, cavity wall insulation, condensing boilers etc.) can take years to pay back their initial costs, but a low energy CFL (it stands for compact fluorescent lamp) bulb can pay for itself in just SIX MONTHS and save you £££'s.

How it works

A 'normal' bulb will last for about 1000 hours, will burn £8 worth of electricity in its short life and cost you about 30p. Let's say over 8 years you buy 15 of them. That'll cost you £120 in electricity and £4.50 for the bulbs. Total £124.50

A good quality low energy CFL bulb will last for about 15,000 hours it will burn just £24 of electricity in its lifetime and cost you about £9. One bulb will last as long as 15 'normal' ones. Total cost £33.

Outlay £9 - Savings £91.50. Odds 10 to 1 guaranteed. And that's just one bulb, imagine the savings on a whole house full. Convinced? You should be, thousands of people are reducing their electricity bills in this way.

Helping to reduce pollution

Not only does it help you, it also helps the environment, producing

FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF £33,000 from Yorkshire Forward, work has now begun on the Energy Conservation and Training Centre and improvements to the stretch of the Rochdale canal close to the ATC. The solar powered street lights are designed, training courses for schools, business and other organisations are being written and some creative thinking is going on to solve the dog fouling problem (see 'Compoition Time'!).

A very welcome phone call came the other day from B&Q offering us £300 worth of garden equipment (water butts, benches, pumps etc) to assist the canalside improvements. Thank you B&Q!

The plans for the Energy Centre and 'EcoPark' are on view at the ATC. Why not drop in and let us know what you think.

electricity (from coal, gas and oil) causes pollution. 10 hours burning a 'normal' 100W light bulb will put about 700 grams of CO2 into the atmosphere to help warm up the planet! In the same time a low energy bulb will put only 140 grams - 5 times less.

And one last thing. . .

Of course we need energy to make these things in the first place - it's important to consider that too. So how much energy do we need to make each? Well one low energy bulb uses about 3.5 kWh of energy in its manufacture and the equivalent 15 'normal' bulbs will use about 13kWh of energy - more than three and a half times as much.

Case proven? I'm off to the bookies to spend all the money I've saved.

YOU CAN GET A FREE LOW ENERGY BULB by visiting the Alternative Technology Centre in Hebden bridge and filling in one of our questionnaires. There are only 100 available so hurry! At the centre we sell 100w equivalent low energy bulbs for just £6.95.

ATC CONTACTS

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Cyclists at the launch of the Hebden Bridge section of the new National Cycle Network. The 5000 mile cycle route now pass through most major towns and cities in the UK.

Compoition Time

THE ATC HAS TURNED TO THE POWER OF THE POEM to help prevent the dog-fouling problem along the canal towpath at Hebble End. Inspired by a scheme in the North East which used poetry to prevent vandalism in a sculpture park, Polly Webber of the ATC wrote to the 'alternative' poet John Hegley. She asked for a poem that could be displayed outside their premises to deter owners from allowing their dogs to use the canal towpath as a toilet.

John Hegley, who writes regularly for the Guardian, responded with a quick six-liner.

Now the ATC is holding a competition for local people (of all ages) to come up with their own poems.

The rules are simple: keep it short, make it witty and keep it clean. Drop your poems off at the ATC, Hebble End together with your name address, age and telephone number or e-mail it to info@alternativetechnology.org.uk. The closing date for entries is 31st July 2000. The best entries will be displayed on wooden signs along to towpath at Hebble End.

Our thanks to John Hegley.

Did You Know...

- THE AMOUNT OF HEAT LOST in UK homes annually, through roofs and walls, is enough to heat **5 million homes** for a year.
- THE MONEY WASTED DUE TO ENERGY INEFFICIENCY IN BRITAIN is equivalent to someone winning both the Wednesday and Saturday **National Lottery Jackpot** draw every week, for 6.25 years.
- IF EVERYONE IN THE UK who doesn't already have loft insulation installed it, the equivalent energy saving would be enough to justify **closing down one nuclear power station**.
- BY MAKING THEIR 400,000 PLUS LAMPS more efficient **Blackpool Illuminations** cut their electricity bill by 20%. That's a saving of around £15,000 per year.

We didn't hear them coming

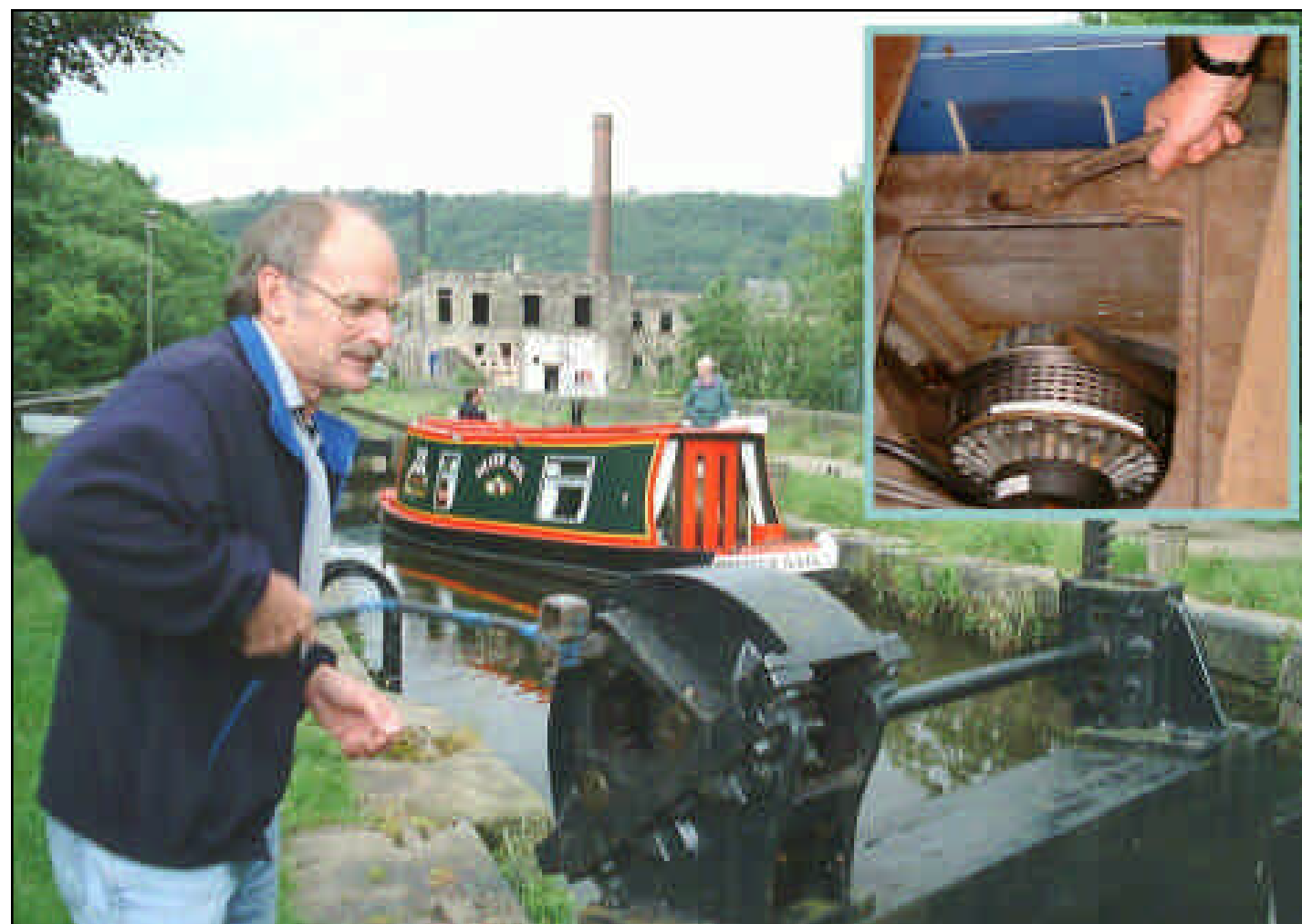
- the electric narrowboat visits Hebble End

ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES SEEM TO MAKE A BEELINE TO HEBDEN BRIDGE. Last month it was the chip-fat powered car. This month it's an electric narrow boat (and before you ask . . . no it doesn't just have a very long flex) - one of only a very small handful in the U.K.

Fraser and Anne Brown from York have lovingly restored the 'Silver Sail' which was built in 1981. The tiny, 12" diameter 1.5kW electric motor (inset photograph) is powered by two banks of batteries which give about 75 miles of cruising! The batteries can be charged up overnight at a mains hook-up point.

"The best thing about it is the almost total silence and lack of vibration" said Fraser, who bought the boat as a birthday present for his wife Anne in 1997. Of course the boat is also environmentally friendly, with no fumes and no danger of fuel spillages. If they charge it up from 'green electricity' (which can now be bought from most suppliers) then there are no extra CO2 emissions.

Full details of this beautiful little boat (and how to buy 'green' electricity) are available at the Alternative Technology Centre.



Going Green for Softies

NEXT TIME YOU GO SHOPPING for fruit & vegetables look at the 'country of origin' and choose the product that has travelled the least. Transport uses energy, choosing locally produced food saves energy and pollution from the truck, ship or plane(!) that brought those goods to the shop. For extra public 'greenie points' take a child shopping with you, pick up one of the offending products and say quit loudly "Well we're not buying that, think of the energy it's used up just getting here!"