

the green page

News and information from the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

ATC CONTACTS

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Non-polluting pedal power at the recent Hebden Bridge Carnival.

HOT, HOT, HOT!

The pioneering Calderdale and Kirklees Simply Solar scheme, which offers grants to local homeowners wanting to install solar water heating, has been extended for another 12 months. There are now over 80 completed installations, including several in Hebden Bridge, with work in progress on another 30 or so.

The only complaint so far from those who have installed is that the water can get too hot!

Grants are available of £700 for a professional installation and £600 for a DIY installation (with training and other assistance given by the West Yorkshire Solar Club which is based at the ATC). Grants are available for the first 200 installations only – first come, first served.

Solar hot water systems (even here in Yorkshire!) can provide more than 50 to 60% of a household's annual hot water needs. Most systems last for well over 20 years. For

more information ring Simply Solar on 0800 0527496 or the ATC on 842121.

There will be an information evening on Tuesday 2nd July at 7.30pm in Todmorden Town Hall for anyone interested in knowing more about solar water heating and the Simply Solar scheme. Run by the West Yorkshire Solar Club, admission is free and there will be no obligation, just the chance to find out more.

they no longer need to do so? Businesses that are regularly serviced by vehicles of this size could surely be helped to relocate to out-of-town brownfield sites.

There is a solution to a very real parking problem, and it's even closer to home than recently reprieved Calder Holmes Park. Build a three-storey car-park in the scruffy area that surrounds Garden Street. One wall of the car-park is already in place: the huge retaining wall that supports Commercial Street. Cars coming from the Halifax direction could enter the top story of the car-park from Commercial Street, with other traffic entering at ground level (perhaps from the town end of Garden Street). The exit would be into Albert Street, towards its junction with New Road. Offer the site to a developer, and sweeten the deal with planning permission to include a few apartments in the scheme. The car-park could be large enough to meet foreseeable needs and, because of its position, could be almost inconspicuous.

The idea is not mine; it was explained to me by one of our ex-councillors. But the more I think about it, the more sense it makes. Isn't it time to stop prattling about with half-baked, make do and mend schemes? Instead of mortgaging our squares and green spaces to the infernal combustion engine, let's solve our parking problems once and for all. In twenty years time we should be able to look back, with a degree of pride, knowing that we took the long view. It's a great little town, but we could still make it better.



A Sideways Look

John Morrison

Traffic: the long view

don't happen on a weekly basis. But they will. Some day soon a driver will reverse into Bridge Gate and knock a child over. Or a pedestrian crossing the top of Crown Street will forget that cars can come from every conceivable direction, and get swept up by the bull-bars of some 4x4 off-road monstrosity. As for the juggernauts that lumber across St George's Bridge, I fear we will see a major tragedy.

It seems odd to dismiss ideas out of hand as being unworkable - especially in the Calder Valley, of all places, which prospered on the can-do spirit of textile entrepreneurs. So let me get this straight: we can get to the moon and back, we can build huge skyscrapers... but bringing some order to the traffic chaos of a small South Pennine town is beyond us.

Pedestrianisation can be made to work, of course it can... if the people of Hebden Bridge want it badly enough. And instead of finding more convenient ways to route the juggernauts through our narrow streets, shouldn't we be planning for a future when

I had my wrist slapped some time ago for suggesting that we could create a pedestrian oasis in Hebden Bridge by banning cars from St George's Square. The square could be extended by banning traffic along Bridge Gate from St George's Bridge to the pack-horse bridge. It's impossible, I was told. It couldn't work. Lorries wouldn't be able to negotiate the bend around Hope Street. Or something.

But my own view (and call me naive, if you will) is that we should make the most of the best things we've got. Instead of being a car-park for about ten cars, and a two-way road that's too narrow for two cars to pass, St George's Square could be the bustling hub of this little town.

Some of us give our time selflessly on sunny afternoons, to sit outside the Shoulder of Mutton and monitor the traffic flow. We watch in amazement at the unhappy conjugation of cars and pedestrians in and around the square. What's amazing is that accidents



BEYOND THE VALLEY

Positive green news stories from outside the Calder Valley.

Power Plants

A £66 million support scheme for bio-energy projects has been launched by Energy Minister, Brian Wilson. The money will support the establishment of up to six power stations to produce electricity from burning fast growing crops such as straw, willow or miscanthus (elephant grass), and up to a hundred smaller power and heat plants.

Hydrogen Partnership

The Greater London Authority has teamed up with big business, the motor industry and top research experts in a bid to make London a

world leader in the use of hydrogen. The Hydrogen Partnership is the first partnership of its kind in the UK committed to taking forward fuel cell technology. Hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles produce no pollution or carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming. Fuel cells can also be used to power homes and offices and, in the future, even laptops and mobile phones. With more Londoners dying from vehicle emissions than are killed in road accidents, the development of cleaner fuels is crucial to London's future.

If the trial is successful, Mayor Ken Livingstone will consider converting all London buses to hydrogen.

Public Support for Wind

A public opinion survey carried out around one of National Wind Power's newest wind farms, the Lambrigg Wind Farm in Cumbria, found overwhelming support for the wind turbines. 74% of people questioned said that they support their local wind farm with only 8% of residents saying that they oppose it. Other recent surveys carried out by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Scottish Executive show strong support for the development in general of wind power in the UK.

GRAND OPENING OF PRIMROSE GARDEN

A lot of effort has been going into Primrose Garden (just across the canal from Hebble End) over the past few months, since we received grant money for plants and workshops from Yorkshire Forward in March. We will be celebrating all the hard work by having a Grand Opening of the Garden on Saturday 27th July 2002 at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

We also have quite a bit more to do before that date... pathways need to be finished, a flight of steps built and log seating put in place. The ATC Garden Gang get together in Primrose every Friday, 10am to 5pm, and Saturday, 12pm to 5pm. So, come down and find out what we are doing and help finish your beautiful community garden.



One of the Primrose gardeners, Nic Etherington, helps plant up the community garden.

ARTD'ECO

As part of the Arts Festival programme, the ATC is once again hosting an exhibition of mixed media art and craft creations that promote and incorporate the use of natural and recycled materials, as well as reclaimed products.

The exhibition is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until July 7th, 12 to 4pm at the Basement Gallery, Machpelah Works (on the corner of Station Road in Hebden Bridge). Admission is free.

A to Z of recycling

"Give us an F!", as Country Joe MacDonald famously shouted out at Woodstock. The complete A to F listings of our Recycling Directory for Calderdale are now on our website. We will add entries for each letter as it gets published in the Hebden Bridge Times month by month. If you have any suggestions, corrections or additions, please send them to Sharon at the ATC.

F's

Film containers - camera film containers can be returned to Boots for re-use -the nearest one is Northgate in Halifax. Many people in Hebden Bridge find other uses for them.

Flowers -The wire and cellophane that comes with bought flower arrangements is hard to recycle and takes years to decompose. Why not buy a rooted plant to be planted out instead?

Food - A huge amount of our weekly bin contents is food! Why not start composting food scraps? For more information contact the ATC, The Community composting Network 0114 258 0483 or the Composting Association 01933 227777 for info on how to get started.

Foil - wash and reuse or put out for Kerbside collections. For more info phone Chip Wood at Kerbside on (01422) 881110

Foreign Coins -Many charities will take them -don't throw them away! Try Oxfam or Overgate Hospice on Market Street, Hebden Bridge.

Furniture and other household goods - can be recycled by donating to 'Sitting Comfortably' tel (01422) 392482. For furniture made from recycled timber try 'Eco Friendly Furnishings' (01422) 833222. For general information contact the Furniture Recycling Network on 0116 233 7007 or frn@btinternet.com.

Furniture II -Jarabosky Railway Sleeper Furniture produce furniture from re-claimed railway sleepers tel (0-1422) 311922.

Funerals -For information on green funerals contact the Natural Death Centre on 020 820 82853.