

ATC CONTACTS

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

Simply Solar

Save Now, Save Later, Save the Planet...

IN AN EXCITING NEW INITIATIVE, the ATC has joined forces with Calderdale and KirkleeS Councils, Kirklees Energy Services, the Energy Savings Trust and the manufacturers AES and Filsol in a pioneering scheme which will provide funding for 200 homeowners to have solar panels installed to heat their hot water.

The scheme will not formally be launched until mid-June but enquiries are already coming in as a result of pre-publicity.

The scheme offers homeowners two ways to install solar water heating. You can choose either to have a professional installer, who will fit the solar panels over 1-2 days, or the even cheaper do-it-yourself option with help and advice from the West Yorkshire Solar Club, which is run by the ATC.

The only proviso is that you must have a south-east to south-west facing roof. Also, solar panels unfortunately cannot be connected to combi-boilers.

The grant available from the Energy Savings Trust means that a professional installation, with a new twin coil cylinder, all fitted and working, will cost about £1,100 (including VAT). The DIY installation through the Solar Club will cost about £850.

This is an opportunity not to be missed. You can save hundreds of pounds on the initial installation, save hundreds more on your future hot water bills and help to save the planet by reducing your carbon emissions.

For an information pack and details of how to apply, contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre now on 0800 0527496 - grants are available on a first come, first served basis.



Nick Wilding, pictured here with his sons Gabriel and George, installed solar water heating last year at his home in Heptonstall.

The Solar Club

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 and to discuss how to install the system.
- 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.

We will be holding a number of information evenings and training days through June, July, August and September.

For further information about the Solar Club ring John Brierley or John Smith at the ATC on (01422)-842121. NB To register interest in the Calderdale & Kirklees Simply Solar Scheme please ring the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre first on 0800 0527496.

Solar Water Heating

Contrary to popular belief, solar panels do work in the UK (even here in Yorkshire!). With solar water heating your annual hot water bill would be reduced by over half and nearly all of the hot water you require during the summer months will be provided.

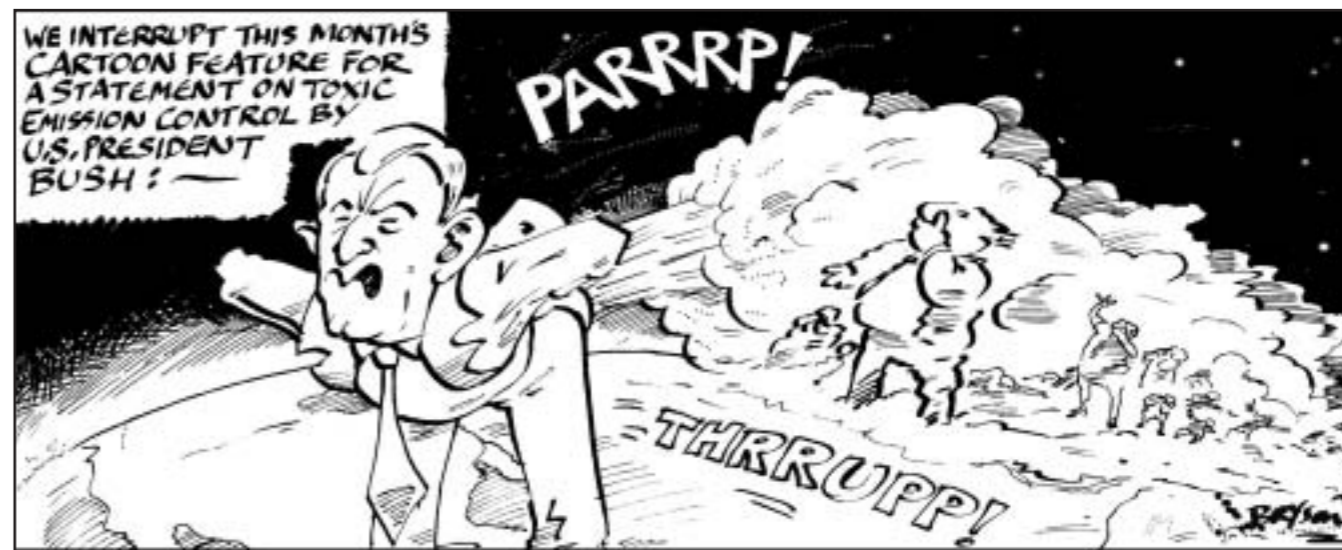
Solar water heating is a well-established technology and there are currently more than 42,000 domestic systems installed in Britain.

Solar systems involve a heat collector, usually mounted on a roof. The solar panels are not obtrusive (it's rather like having in a Velux skylight) and can sit on your existing roof. Heat is then transferred from these panels to water stored in an indoor tank. Solar systems usually give well over 20 years useful service during which time the money saved more than repays the initial cost.

If you want to see a solar panel in action, call in at the ATC where we have a system up and running (feel that hot water!).

Cartoon comment

Mike Bryson



A Sideways Look

John Morrison

You know what they say: if you can't beat them, join them. So I've taken a leaf out of Sir Bernard's book, and this column is now sponsored by McDonalds.

A lot of people get hot under the collar about McDonalds. But why? They are probably just envious of the company's huge success. After all, those golden arches have a global recognition factor greater even than the cross of Christianity. You don't achieve that kind of market penetration by serving up rubbish. So here are a few good reasons to go into town right now and order up a Big Mac and fries.

Because the burgers are made of prime beef, and nothing but prime beef. And maybe a pinch of seasoning.

Because fried potatoes aren't chips, they're fries. Come on, it's logical.

Because it's fun to eat our meals off a

tray, with our fingers.

Because every burger we eat at any branch of McDonalds will taste exactly the same as every other one we've ever eaten. That's quality control for you.

Because the company has put a stop to the age-old practise of disgruntled waiters spitting in the soup... by dispensing with waiters, and soup.

Because even for that shortest of journeys - from counter to stomach - the food is packaged in expanded polystyrene. That's hygiene for you.

Because when all that packaging blows through the pedestrian precinct - the take-away tumbleweed of our throw-away society - staff are sent out to sweep it up. That's social responsibility for you.

Because you are what you eat. That makes you a Lamb McSpicy.

Because, despite their low wages, the

counter staff are always courteous. "Enjoy your meal", they say, with a smile. Well, I don't know about you, but that always perks me up.

Because this is one fast-food company that takes training seriously. They have de-skilled the cooking process to the point where, after a term at Hamburger University, even the dimmest of school-leavers will be able to flip burgers and tip food onto a tray.

Because the company doesn't allow any wierdy-beardy trade union agitators to fill the employees' heads with seditious nonsense about wages and working conditions.

Because the company serves sugary, squashy finger-food aimed at the taste-buds of a hyperactive six year old, who has been weaned on a diet of Tartrazine and E-numbers. Like the Jesuits, the company knows that, if they catch their customers young enough, they'll be loyal for life.

Because no two countries that have a McDonalds have ever gone to war with each other. It's true.

Because the company reveals its lighter side, by having a demented clown to front its publicity. And they've got Ronald McDonald too.

Because one day we'll look around town and there'll be nowhere else to eat. It will be burgers and fries for eternity. Have a nice day...



Round Table help to green canal

'H' Gregg from the ATC receives a cheque for £500 from the Hebden Bridge Round Table.

The donation has been given to help fund the EcoPark improvements to the stretch of canal near Hebble End.

Art d'Eco

The ATC will be getting involved with this year's Hebden Bridge Arts Festival by holding an exhibition of environmental art at Machpelah Works. The theme of this mixed media exhibition will cover anything from recycled or waste materials to works from nature.

Any artists and crafts people interested in getting involved in this project are invited to contact Polly Webber at the ATC (before the end of May, please) for more information.

FOSTER A PLANT!

Would you like to foster a seedling? The ATC is looking for temporary homes for

hundreds of young plants.

The aim of this project is to grow a multitude of wild flowers for planting along the canal edge between the ATC and the Little Theatre. The idea of fostering has been developed to involve as many people from the community as possible and due to a lack of growing space at the ATC itself.

We are looking for volunteers who will take care of the seedlings in their own homes until they are big enough and hardened off enough to hold their own along the canal bank. For each potted plant returned the grower will receive payment in green currency as a thank you for their efforts.

If you would like to be a foster parent, please contact Susy Feltham at the ATC.

GREEN FESTIVAL

This year's Green Festival, organised by Calderdale Friends of the Earth, will be held at the Piece Hall in Halifax on Saturday 2nd June.

The festival will open at 10.45am with Hebden Bridge's own Rhythm Bridge Foundation Samba Band and will feature other popular local artistes including the Reluctant Romeos. There will be stalls from a multitude of environmental groups and green businesses.

More information is available from Anthony Rae - (01422) 845061.