

ATC CONTACTS

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

On yer (electric) bike!



WHAT COSTS 2P FOR A 20 MILE TRIP, DOESN'T NEED TAX, MOT OR A DRIVING LICENSE, DOESN'T POLLUTE AND COSTS LESS THAN £600 ON THE ROAD?

Answer – an electric bike.

Bikes are not the most popular form of transport in this area, mainly because of the hills – but now you've got no excuse. Specially built bikes with rechargeable lead acid batteries will charge overnight from the mains and take you for up to 20 miles (34 if you help by pedalling!) on a single charge. With a special motor built into the wheel hub they are virtually silent. A new range has recently been introduced at the Green Shop with prices starting at £545 for the single gear shopper bike. The full range includes trikes, folding bikes that will fit in the boot of your car and a full 21speed mountain bike.

Our first customer suffers from a heart condition but was so pleased with the new freedom that he stayed up riding till 4 in the morning! "Tackling Hebden hills on this feels just like pedalling on the flat" said Abby from the ATC.

You can see the new bikes at the Alternative Technology Centre at Hebble End Mill in Hebden Bridge.

(left) Abby Lowe demonstrates the Electric 'Shopper' bike.

BEYOND THE VALLEY...

Positive green news snippets from outside the Calder Valley (but of possible relevance locally....)

DEVON GETS DUNG POWER

Britain's first dung-fired power station should be in action in Devon by January 2002. The plant will turn slurry into electricity, hot water and liquid manure.

About 30 local farmers will provide an estimated 1.6 million tons of slurry a year to the renewable energy scheme. The power station will produce up to 2 megawatts of electricity for the national grid. Biogas drawn from the stored and fermented slurry will drive turbines, while the hot water resulting from the cooling process will heat local schools, hospitals and homes.

The A-Z of recycling in Calderdale

NEXT MONTH WE WILL BE STARTING A NEW REGULAR FEATURE ON THE GREEN PAGE. The ATC is compiling a directory that will index the 4 'R's – reduction, recycling, re-use and repair possibilities in Calderdale.

Each month we will publish a selection from the list. It will help individuals, schools, organisations and business to find the best use for their cast-offs and waste and will include tips for reducing their consumption of everything from energy to water.

When complete the directory will be avail-

able as a booklet from the centre and will also be published on our web site. Businesses and organisations offering recycled or reclaimed products, hire services, repair services or advice and consultancy are invited to send in details for free inclusion in the directory. Individuals can send in recommendations as well.

If you have contributions to make, please send them to Richard at the ATC (address above) or e-mail to: AtoZ@alternativetechnology.org.uk

John Morrison is on holiday



CLUBBING TOGETHER

WANT TO HELP REDUCE CAR USE AND SAVE MONEY?

- Do you occasionally need a car but don't want the hassle or cost of owning one?
- Are you running two cars but only need one most of the time?
- Want to save yourself money?
- Concerned about environmental or transport issues and want to actively help reduce traffic congestion locally?
- Interested in having access to cars running on alternative fuels?

Ground Floor Car Share is a new transport initiative currently being considered for the Upper Calder Valley. This not-for-profit scheme is currently looking at the feasibility of setting up a club providing local people with efficient, low cost access to environmentally friendly vehicles.

Car sharing clubs have proved to be very successful throughout Europe where they have proved to be an effective, innovative alternative to owning your own car. Currently in excess of 100,000 people belong to such clubs and the schemes are expanding over the last decade.

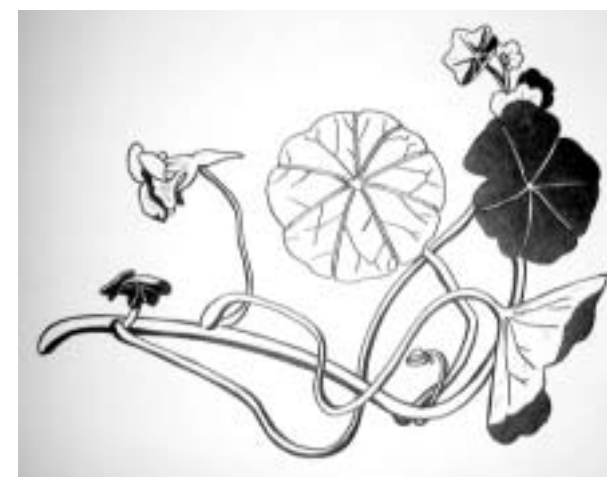
If you think you might have an interest in joining such a scheme we want to hear from you. There is no obligation to join but we want to know what potential users locally would need and want from such a service.

If you would like further information without any obligation, please contact 01422-844991 and leave your name, address and telephone number.

ATC Saturday Gardening Group

On Saturday 24th November 2001 from 12pm to 4pm we are finishing off the willow weaving in Primrose Garden. Anyone is welcome to join us, there's no charge. Children must be accompanied by an adult. We'll be making retaining fences, raised bed edging and freeform woven fences...come along.

I SPY: HANDY PLANTS



A GUIDE TO MULTI-FUNCTIONAL PLANTS IN THE ATC GARDENS.

Local naturalist and illustrator, Hannah Lawson, is embarking on illustrating every plant in the ATC's gardens. These illustrations will become the backbone of a self tour guide we are developing to show what plants are in the gardens and their multiple values and uses.

Number one is the

Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*) a major feature of the Little Theatre Garden this year. A very good value annual plant, easily grown and succeeds in sun or shade, but needs a good watering to start it off. Flowers constantly from early summer to autumn and grows about 60cm tall (or long). They come in all shapes and sizes from dwarf to giant, single to double, even treble flowers. If left to seed they

will sprout anew in a warm spring (covered by mulch or soil lightly tilled).

The Nasturtium is an edible plant (all parts are edible, the hottest being the seed which can be pickled like capers), or a craft plant; they can cover a piece of bare ground in a matter of weeks (very useful in the theatre garden for suppressing weeds). The plants have been left in place to help protect other plants from frost, the fibrous stems will be gathered to make twine for use in craft workshops at the centre.

Their rampant nature can be overwhelming and they have swamped a few of our other plants, although they can be fended off fairly easily. Dwarf varieties are available to combat this as they spread far less. The theatre garden was planted from just two packets of seed one giant and one mixed bloom; you can see how much they can spread!

Big Green Weekend III

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THIS YEARS' BIG GREEN WEEKEND, the Alternative Energy Centre is planning an even bigger extravaganza for the weekend of the 16th / 17th February next year. Over 3000 visitors flocked to Hebden Bridge for this years event, featuring a biodiesel car and electric bicycles among other attractions, making the Big Green Weekend a major regional attraction. As the BGW builds up a head of steam and becomes established on Britain's green events calendar, we expect to double the number of visitors and participants. Although its only November, we need to know what you want included in the BGW – and what you can do to help.

"Its everyone's weekend – we want as many people as possible to take a part, however small" said an ATC spokesperson. "Many of our local companies and businesses

produce goods or services which make use of waste, minimise energy & resource use, have a minimal or positive impact on the environment or improve health – We want them to use the BGW to entertain and educate people – and to sell themselves".

"As well as showcasing alternative energy sources, energy saving, recycling and the potential for using different technologies, the BGW is a boost for the local economy and it gives people a lift at what is often a quiet time of year."

"So if you have an idea, big or small - it could be a stall, a talk, workshop, whatever, we'd like to hear from you"

If you have a Big Green Weekend 2002 application form, fill it in and return it as soon as possible. If you don't have a form but would like to take part or find out more contact the ATC on