



## Spring 2009 Newsletter

GreenTeam  
Mawdesley



### **We have been awarded an NWDA Innovation Voucher!**

The voucher is designed to help Northwest enterprises purchase an academic institution's expertise. The remit for our chosen institution is to undertake a comprehensive carbon audit of the village of Mawdesley. Having reviewed proposals from several institutions, we have opted for the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN). They have shown commitment and flexibility in their desire to work with us, with the added bonus of their close proximity.



It is intended that a team of postgraduate students will help the GreenTeam to perform a survey of willing residents, collecting data on their views with regard to climate change and the energy efficiency of their homes. It is hoped this will lead to both financial savings and CO2 reductions for the residents.

**The survey will be free of charge. Any residents keen to be surveyed, or wanting to know more about it, can either email [gtmawd@googlemail.com](mailto:gtmawd@googlemail.com) or sign up at the Post Office**

We are hoping to also obtain an infrared camera to assist with surveying heat loss from properties. However given the improving weather and the timescales involved this may be part of phase 2.



### **MASH - Growing Together**

On a dark and cold night nearly 40 Mawdesley residents gathered in the function room of the Black Bull to share their ideas and suggestions on the idea of a Mawdesley community smallholding and/or allotments. It took over 2 hours to listen to everyone and at the end 13 of us volunteered to form a team to make this dream a reality.

We have since had our first meeting and are now formed as MASH - Mawdesley Allotments and Small holding. Our vision is to engage the community to create our very own Community Smallholding and Allotments, creating an opportunity for learning about growing food for us all, and future generations, leaving a legacy for our children.

We have a massive task ahead not only to find land, to plan what we want to do on the land, how the scheme will work, how the finances, legal aspects and the management of the scheme will operate. It is a little like starting up a new business!

**If you have any land that you would consider renting, or donating, to the project, please get in touch.**

We are looking for both a small plot, to establish a small scale community garden to demonstrate how the garden will look and work, and a larger piece of land for the longer term to create a more permanent, say 10 years, allotment and smallholding scheme.

We are ambitious, keen to learn, committed to the cause and willing to pick up the spade in the pursuit of this vision! We hope that the community of Mawdesley will support us and help us over the coming months while we look at the possibilities.

If anyone has any specific skills, knowledge, tools and equipment, spare money, free design and advertising, a place for us to meet, or anything that you believe will help us please do not hesitate to contact us through

[gtmawd@googlemail.com](mailto:gtmawd@googlemail.com), we hope you do, we can promise our thanks and free veg once we are up and running!



## Advice on greener cleaning from one of our readers

There is growing concern over domestic cleaning products and the damage they do to aquatic life, the food chain, our health and the environment in general.

See <http://www.its-ecological.com/> for more information.

One option is to use ecological products such as Ecover. However one of our readers found there are cheaper alternatives:



*... After doing some research on the internet I made some eco friendly products using white vinegar, soda crystals and bicarbonate of soda. With the vinegar I made an all purpose solution that will clean windows, work tops, toilets, bathroom and make your taps gleam. All you do is mix half water and half white vinegar, place the solution into a spray bottle and clean away. I tried this and I must say it worked a treat. The only problem was the smell so I added a few drops of tea tree oil which disguised it slightly and is also a natural antibacterial. Just a handy tip it tells you not to use this spray on natural stone or marble as vinegar is acidic.*

*I've also used bicarbonate of soda which works really well neat to clean pans, inside the oven, stains etc. It doesn't smell which is great. I've also used bicarbonate of soda to clean inside the dishwasher and it was great.*

*I love using soda crystals in the laundry as the stains come out really well and it softens the water. Soda crystals are great to soak items in to get them clean as well. I have used these to soak curtains and they came up gleaming.*

*A lot of this kind of stuff works, but the reason why people don't use them is because with strong modern products they clean almost instantly with no elbow grease. With natural products they take time from minutes, to over night on really tough stains and you also have to actually scrub. Keep up the good work!  
Susie from Croston*

Thank you kindly for that Susie. If any of you have any other advice, whether it be on recycling, polluting, energy efficiency or any another green issue, please send them to [gtmawd@googlemail.com](mailto:gtmawd@googlemail.com) and we'll spread the word.

## Chorley Council upload the GreenTeam to YouTube



In case you were not aware, Chorley Council are soon going to replace the recycling green sack with a new blue bin. The bin will be the same size as the green and brown bin. Inside it there will be a plastic insert, or pod, that sits in the top of the bin. In the pod will go newspaper, magazines, envelopes etc. There is a gap down the side of the pod to allow us to drop into the main part of the bin all our glass, cans and plastics bottles. You can view a clip on the new bins at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ChorleyCouncil>

The bins are due to be rolled out during April and May.

This does leave the question of what could be done with the 45,000 green sacks that are currently in use? Which is exactly what the council asked Mawdesley GreenTeam. So a film crew came down to Mawdesley one Friday in March and filmed our very own Keith & Steph preparing and planting up two of the green sacks - One with wild flowers, and one with potatoes. The sacks are outside the front of the shop. Watch this space. If

you would like to see the film on YouTube go to the above link.

## Solar Water Heating – How it works, is it worth it?

Solar hot water is water heated by the use of solar energy. Solar heating systems are generally composed of solar thermal collectors, a fluid system to move the heat from the collector to its point of usage. The system may use electricity for pumping the fluid, and have a reservoir or tank for heat storage and subsequent use. The systems may be used to heat water for a wide variety of uses, including home, business and industrial uses. Heating swimming pools, under floor heating or energy input for space heating are more specific examples.

Residential solar thermal installations can be subdivided into two kinds of systems: compact and pumped systems. Both typically include an auxiliary energy source (electric heating element or connection to a gas or fuel oil central heating system) that is activated when the water in the tank falls below a minimum temperature setting such as 50 °C. The combination of solar hot water heating and using the back-up heat from a wood stove chimney to heat water can enable a hot water system to work all year round in cooler climates without the supplemental heat requirement of a solar hot water system being met with fossil fuels or electricity.



Most systems now use vacuum tubes to collect the heat from the sun. These collectors have multiple evacuated glass tubes which heat up solar absorbers and, ultimately, solar working fluid (water or an antifreeze mix - typically propylene glycol) in order to heat domestic hot water. The vacuum within the evacuated tubes reduce conducted heat losses, allowing them to reach considerably higher temperatures than most flat-plate collectors. The evacuated tubes draw their energy from the available light rather than outside temperature. For these reasons they can perform well in colder conditions such as those in the UK.

The average daily output in the UK given over a year is shown in the attached chart:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1.15kWh	2.11kWh	3.49kWh	5.80kWh	7.51kWh	9.00kWh	7.99kWh	6.50kWh	5.00kWh	3.01kWh	1.41kWh	0.85kWh

3kWh is equivalent to boiling your kettle for over one hour or heating 65 litres of water by 40°C

For domestic hot water, a typical installation will consist of a collector, controller and a special solar thermal hot water tank. The collector absorbs heat from the sun and transfers this heat indirectly via an exchange coil in the solar tank. The controller sits in the background and automatically pumps the exchange fluid around the collector/exchange coil when the panel reaches a set temperature.

Payback for solar thermal systems is typically around 10-15 years for a professionally installed system (installation cost £3000+). For competent DIY'ers the payback can be as little as 4 years. System life expectancy is in excess of 25 years.

A correctly configured system will provide up to 80% of the domestic hot water requirement averaged over a year. If you are interested in pursuing solar water heating, and wondering where to start, we may be able to help. You can get in touch via [gtmawd@googlemail.com](mailto:gtmawd@googlemail.com).

## Do you run a business in Mawdesley?

Are you aware of the Lancashire Waste Exchange? It offers a directory of available waste materials and materials wanted by local businesses for reuse. The resource efficiency club has so far diverted 5000 tonnes of waste from landfill. See <http://www.wasteworks.org.uk/> or contact LANCSBEA on 01254 676747 to register.

Do you know that there are currently subsidies available to Lancashire business under the Small Scale Renewables Scheme? The grants are to assist (up to 50% of costs, to a max of £20K) with the installation of any of the following small scale renewables: Biomass boilers, Ground and air-source heat pumps, solar electricity (PV), solar powered water heating, small scale hydro power and wind power.

Any small to medium enterprise within LCC can apply. All applicants will first receive a free energy efficiency audit. To find out more call 01772 536600 or contact [edward.hughes@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:edward.hughes@lancashire.gov.uk)

If you would be interested in receiving more information on green initiatives that we hear about, or have any carbon reducing advice you would like to pass on to other local business, please get in touch

[gtmawd@googlemail.com](mailto:gtmawd@googlemail.com)

## GreenTeam's Annual General Meeting: Tues 21st April

Being a year on from our first AGM, we are due another! It will be held at the Village Hall, and kick off at 7.30pm. The meeting will cover the achievements of our first year, our accounts, our plans ahead and the voting in of the new management committee by our members. All are welcome, we hope to see you there.

## Date set for orienteering bike ride: Sunday 3rd May

Stick it in your diaries. Registration will be at 9.30am at the Start & Finish point of the Black Bull car park. **Please be prompt.**

You will be issued with a map, and a card which you will need to get stamped at various checkpoints. The event will run for 90 minutes. There will be categories for entry, along the lines of Male, Female, Family (All under 16s must be accompanied by an adult) and Juniors (16 & 17 year olds, who must have a signed parental consent form which can be obtained in advance from the shop).

All entrants must sign an indemnity form at registration and wear a cycling helmet (which you must provide yourself). There will be a small entry fee to cover our costs. Any profit will be donated to a local charity.

We hope you can make it on the day! If the weather is really grim we may delay until the 10th. Any questions you have can be directed to [gtmawd@googlemail.com](mailto:gtmawd@googlemail.com).



## Happy Birthday GreenTeam Mawdesley!

It doesn't seem five minutes since I went to the Black Bull with Pete Green, this time last year, for a drink and a chat about Climate Change. That was the fateful night we hatched a plan to halt this thermal juggernaut, or at least slow it down. I knew I'd found the right guy when he showed me his office, powered by a waterwheel in his garden stream. He also runs a home-made wood-burning stove that supplements his central heating to the extent that Pete's gas bill last year was less than £25! Here was a man who didn't just talk about reducing his carbon footprint, he got on and did it!

By the time we made our first presentation to the Parish Council, Grahame, Martin and Tom had also come on board, and all are now united in a desire to help reduce the carbon footprint of Mawdesley and similar local communities. The Parish Council was so impressed it generously awarded us £250 so we could publish our first newsletter, and we knew then there was no turning back.

Nine months later we've now published two more newsletters and have our own website. Both outlets are full of hot tips on how to reduce consumption, extend the life of products, recycle useful materials and harness renewable energy.

Thanks also to a lot of promotional work, we now have nearly 20 members, many who are actively attending meetings, supporting our efforts and generating new ideas. Last July we were further encouraged by Lancashire County Council who supported our aim to set up an Awareness Road Show, to bring the message of Climate Change, and how to counter it, to the wider community in and around Mawdesley.

So, if you want to get involved and enjoy a more sustainable lifestyle, or you have some advice to give us on how we can be more effective, then please email us or drop a note into the village shop. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy our 1st Birthday Newsletter.

**Rod Collins, Chairman**

## Contact Us

United by a green agenda we are now operating six areas, if any sound of interest please get in touch:

- **Community Engagement** Organising public events, presentations, giving low carbon advice, conducting surveys, working with schools etc.
- **Technology** Research, offering technical advice, public demonstration projects
- **Environment** Working with nature, smallholding/allotments and other carbon sink projects
- **Local Business** Helping local business to reduce their carbon footprints
- **Communications** Website, newsletters, press releases, handling communications
- **Management** Objectives, constitution, membership, fundraising, lobbying

Web: <http://greenteam.mawdesley-village.org.uk>

Email: [gtmawd@googlemail.com](mailto:gtmawd@googlemail.com)

For those of you that do not have access to the internet, more information and membership forms can be obtained from Tom at the shop.

