



BVS Environment Group

Sustainable Blewbury Newsletter

A special interest group of the Blewbury Village Society

This Newsletter covers recent decisions about the future directions of Sustainable Blewbury, events and items of general news for both internal and external circulation.

For the latest news and more information, please see our website at <http://www.sustainable-blewbury.org.uk/>

Welcome to the second, somewhat belated, edition of the Sustainable Blewbury newsletter.

For new readers

'Sustainable Blewbury' (SB) is another name for the BVS Environment Group, so that we can be more easily identified with other 'sustainable' communities.

A Core Group meets monthly to co-ordinate activities. It consists of a chairman, secretary, webmaster, networker (who liaises with similar groups outside Blewbury), and a representative from each of five theme groups.

Theme groups are (with convener/contact):

- Energy & Transport (Hugh Osborn)
- Food & Farming (Sarah Deco)
- Natural Environment & Heritage (Mike Edmunds)
- Travel & Transportation (Mike Marshall)
- Waste & Recycling (Mike Marshall).

The networker is Allan Ridgeley and the webmaster is Eric Eisenhandler.

Project groups meet as required to fulfil the aims of individual projects within and across the themes.

Projects running or being developed (with contact) are:

- Blewbury Energy Initiative (Hugh Osborn)
- Blewbury Produce Stall (Sarah Deco)
- Exploration of Permaculture (Sarah Deco)
- Orchards (including Apple Day) (Mike Edmunds)
- Cleve improvements (Mike Edmunds)
- Downland project (Peter Cockrell)
- Village fabric project (Anita Rendel)
- Restoration of the Berkshire Wagon (Peter Cockrell).

Membership of SB is open to all those interested in a sustainable future for Blewbury. Members receive a newsletter, normally by e-mail, and can attend Plenary Meetings several times a year. Each meeting receives reports on progress and looks ahead. The newsletter is also posted on the SB website. A brief item appears in the Blewbury Bulletin each month, highlighting forthcoming events and matters of special interest.

SB is a member of Oxfordshire CAG (Community Action Groups); CAG organises events and initiatives to raise awareness and take action on climate change issues. SB also subscribes to ONCF (Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum – the name speaks for itself. We are in contact with several

other local groups (e.g. Sustainable Wallingford, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell EG and soon-launched Sustainable Cholsey).

Energy and transport

This is an extension of the work of the BEI (Blewbury Energy Initiative) team. Current studies include thermal imaging and insulation of buildings, smart meters, bio-fuels and feed-in tariffs for micro-generators.

New website pages

The Blewbury Energy Initiative has added a new section on transport issues to our website at:

<http://www.blewbury.co.uk/energy>

On transport, the BEI is mainly concerned with how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing the best possible means of transport for both short and long journeys, while people working on Sustainable Blewbury's Travel and Transport theme aim to improve public transport around Blewbury, provisions for cycling, etc. (see below)



The new transport section of the website has five pages, as follows:

- A summary of our conclusions, and outlines and links for the other pages
- A compilation of the carbon dioxide emissions of various types of public and private transport, and discussion and conclusions on choosing means of transport that minimise emissions
- A page on choosing a car with low emissions, both now and in the near future when a number of interesting new types of car will become available
- A page of tips on how to save fuel, and therefore reduce emissions, whatever type of car you drive
- A page on alternative fuels, including biofuels (ethanol, biodiesel, butanol), propane and butane (LPG), methane (biogas), methanol, and dimethyl ether, as well as the problems raised by current biofuels.

You can access this section directly at:

<http://www.blewbury.co.uk/energy/transport.htm>

Travel and transportation

Cycle routes: We are grateful to the Parish Council for investigating the provision of cycle routes from Blewbury to

Upton and East Hagbourne. Unfortunately both routes have run into serious opposition from some landowners and plans have had to be put on hold indefinitely.

OCC transport plan LTP3: The County Council is currently consulting on a number of issues concerning the development of Local Transport Plan 3. We have been responding by choosing options which would reduce the carbon footprint and improve bus services. The plan will be affected by the Government spending cuts.

All aboard the Blewbury Bus!

You will, no doubt, have seen the article on the front page of the September Blewbury Bulletin about the Blewbury bus service. Support for the service to Didcot (and beyond) continues to grow.



The service is regular and nearly-always punctual. There are good connections from Didcot to Oxford, Reading and Wallingford. The bus crews are helpful. Parking charges and the hassle of parking at Didcot station are avoided. Please use the service.

Please contact Jane Gibson (Parish Council) or Mike Edmunds (850337, wme@btopenworld.com) with any comments or suggestions.

Food and farming

Blewbury produce stall: Our weekly produce stall provides a regular outlet for local produce throughout the summer months in conjunction with other village groups. It has been running successfully since May every Saturday from 10am to noon, at Blewbury Garage forecourt on London Road.



The last stall for the season will be on the 25th September.

Contributions can include garden and vegetable plants, salad, herbs, fruit, vegetables and free-range eggs; also home made

produce such as cakes, biscuits and preserves. Almost everything brought along has been sold. Proceeds go to the producers, less a small contribution towards our costs. Please bring any produce between 9.30 and 10.00 – see our website for further details.

Contact: Sarah Deco, sarah.deco@care4free.net or 01235 851441 for information.

Natural environment and heritage

New projects with emphasis on biodiversity: in the coming months we plan to develop action plans for various activities relating to biodiversity (improvements to the Cleve and streamflow draining to the Playclose; The Downland project (biodiversity); and completion of the Orchards survey. We would like to involve more members in these activities so please contact Mike Edmunds if interested.

Blewbury Apple Day 2010:

Saturday 16th October from 11.30am to 4.30pm
Red Lion Garden and Methodist Chapel

Please refer to publicity in the September and October Bulletins.

Tree survey

The Tree Survey was started in about 2006, is part of the 2004 Parish Plan and is an ongoing process. We began by looking at trees in open spaces and next to roads and footpaths. We measured all trees with a girth of 30 cms and over, photographed and identified them and assessed their state of health and impact on the public realm.

Having completed this stage we started venturing into gardens, with owners' permission and often by invitation, and were surprised and delighted by the rich diversity we found. We know we haven't been everywhere so would be happy to hear of any more privately owned trees and record them as part of this survey.

The criteria for inclusion are: rarity, exceptional size or age, or being a visual amenity beyond the garden's boundary. In some gardens we have found trees originally planted to commemorate a certain event in the life of the current or previous owner and we have enjoyed recording these as well.

Please contact one of us – we're always happy to look at more trees!

Mike Marshall (850360), Anita Rendel (850131), Joanna Thomson (850285)

We welcome new members and anyone interested in getting involved in the above (or new) projects

Contacts: Chairman – Mike Edmunds (wme@btopenworld.com)
Secretary – Mike Marshall (mike@twintrees.demon.co.uk)

Website: The Sustainable Blewbury website is at <http://www.sustainable-blewbury.org.uk/>
Web links to other organisations are available from the links page on this website