



Melksham Climate Friendly Group

Wednesday 4th March 2009 @ 8.00pm

Spencer's Sports & Social Club, Beanacre Road, Melksham

The MCFG Meet at the same venue at the same time on the first Wednesday of every month

NOTES

ATTENDEES: Jo Stoddart, Eddy Watts, Kathy Iles, Mike Boyce, Marieke Guy, Shirley McCarthy, Pete McHenry, Scott Aldersley, Jade Aldersley

SPECIAL GUESTS: Carol & Richard Craft

APOLOGIES: Steve Petty, Jess Riley

MATTERS ARISING

Fairtrade Coffee Morning: Marieke said this was very well attended but had difficulty getting rid of all her free samples so has donated them to the Group to use at the Food & Drink Festival.

The Mayor's Reception: Held on 27 February, Jo & Kathy attended this event and put up a joint display of MCFG & Freecycle. There was a lovely spread of food & drink and we were entertained by children from Kings Park Primary, George Ward School Wind Band and Rhiannon Lambert.

Promoting the MCFG: Eddy has asked the Melksham News if they would be interested in raising awareness about the deficiencies in public transport around Melksham – **agenda item for next meeting.**

CLIMATE FRIENDLY BRADFORD

Carol & Richard Craft from Climate Friendly Bradford came along to talk to us about how their very successful group works. Their group has evolved over the past 3 years. They have monthly meetings but it is mainly a speaker (RSPB / Christian Aid / Sustrans / Wessex Water / Severn Barrage etc). Their meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month @ 7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House. The first 15 minutes of the meeting are used for important notices of the groups activities then the rest of the evening is devoted to the speaker, questions and networking. In-between the monthly meetings (about a week before) they have a committee meeting which is attended by the Chair, Secretary and the leaders of their project groups – this is a bit like a steering group. At this meeting they agree on speakers and where money will be coming from etc. Individual groups meet as needed to discuss their current projects and feed back, through their leader to the committee meeting. They have groups that link with CFB but are not actually part of it – the Tree Group has planted 80 trees at Barton Park, the Food Group which was set up before the climate group, the Community Agriculture Group and the Cycling Group. CFB have 350 people on their email list.

Q: Why did you apply for money/grant?

A: So that we could reach more people, we produced a newsletter, we also purchased a DVD projector and we needed money to pay for the trainers at workshops, we also have DVDs and books for loan.

Q: Do you have an AGM?

A: We did have one, but it was more of a review meeting.

Q: How do you reach other people as we are struggling?

A: Keep chipping away and keep doing what you are doing. We have pretty much taken over the BOA Newsletter! Don't preach to people, just let them know what you believe in and what you do.

Q: How do you get on with your Town Council?

A: We get on with them well and are very well supported by them. Suggestion – make an appointment to meet with your Town Council and do a presentation about your group and what your intentions are for your town.

- ★ The Age of Stupid – the premier of this film will be shown at the Bath cinema on 15th March – tickets are about £4.
- ★ Wake-up, freak out – film on CFB website.

LOVE YOUR PLANET DAY

Sat 14th February 2009 – This went really well and was well attended by MCFG members. The weather was lovely, if a little cold, but we didn't need to use the gazebo after all. We gave out 360 energy saving light bulbs and associated literature to the public. People love to get something for free! Very positive feedback. Kathy gave an interview to the Melksham News and supplied them with a photograph.

FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

To be held at the Assembly Hall on Sunday 3 May instead of the Spring Fayre. We decided on a theme of 'Waste not, Want not!' Recipe ideas needed – please send your recipes and pictures to Kathy who will make them up as display posters and small handouts. We need to have a plan of action – who is doing what?

- * Mike co-ordinating
- * Kathy doing recipes, leaflets and stand display
- * Jo and Kathy will set up stand on the day
- * Quiz on what to do with leftovers – who is doing this?
- * Recipes for using a glut of food like fruit pickings etc
- * Check the Love Food Hate Waste website.
- * Sainsbury's had some leaflets about not wasting food – Shirley were you going to see if you could get them to donate some to us?
- * Volunteers for the day: Eddy, Shirley, Scott, Mike, Jade, Jess, Kathy, Jo
- * Jo will check with Maggie Giddings about timings
- * Jo to email Shirley about the pesticides article.
- * Mike producing some food related data for display.

Final plan of action to be drawn up at next meeting.

LANDSHARE

Work on the Sensory Garden at the West End is imminent. Scott is talking to the pub landlord and the brewery who own the land but no date for this meeting yet – Scott, Mike & Jo will attend the meeting. Jo & Kathy mentioned this project to the Melksham Gardeners Society and there was some interest; we have been asked to give them a presentation/talk on the MCFG and Freecycle so we may be able to get some more help and donations.

- * Film on bees on Co-op website
- * Could approach the Co-op for some funding
- * BBC Seeds for Bees – Shirley has a link for this.

2020 VISION

The notes from the Steering Group were circulated. A sub-group will meet to discuss this project on Monday 23rd March in Spencer's Bar at 8pm – separate email to follow. What we put together could be a 'Master Plan' for Melksham.

PUBLIC RECYCLING BINS

We would like the council to think more about public recycling and supply separated recycling bins in 'hot-spots' around the town, particularly the Park and other community/play areas. More thinking needed on this and a letter to go to the Town Council with our ideas. A sub-group to be formed to discuss. Links with CFB on this project.

GWS LIAISON PROJECT

Waiting to have another meeting about this on 20th March. WWT running the Eco Schools at GWS. After school club 'Make a Difference' planned to be launched in April. Jade has made posters and e-mailed Heather Rossi about this but heard nothing back from her. Marieke suggested trying the primary schools and it was agreed this was a good idea. A letter to go to GWS Headmaster telling him that with regret the Make a Difference club is being withdrawn from GWS due to lack of support.

POWER MONITORS

At the last check 2 monitors had gone out for loan from the Tourist information. An article advertising the monitors had appeared in the Melksham News. Eddy will pop into the TI when the monitors are returned to reset them.

FUTURE PROJECTS

A list of the current project was circulated for people to add their names to if interested in being a part of these sub-groups. The updated list is attached.

FINANCE

Currently £75.48 in account with £41.20 waiting to be paid in from bag sales. We agreed that we would like to raise some more money to pay for particular things like a gazebo, projector, DVDs, speakers etc.

- * Kathy has £40 to donate toward having a banner for the MCFG made – Jo and Kathy will design and arrange the order of this.
- * It was agreed that we did not want to have a membership or monthly fee.
- * Suggestion to contribute 20/50p for tea/coffee on the night if taken.

WEBSITE

Eddy to put on the picture and story from the Melksham News about the Love Your Planet Day. Send Eddy any other items by e-mail for the website. Scott had an idea of having a photo gallery of worst packaging – see if we can get an article in the Melksham News asking for contributions of pictures for this.

AOB

- Spencer's Open Day – Saturday 20th June from 3pm. MCFG / Freecycle to have an info stand and a Junk Modelling table.
- James Lovelock discussion on Radio 4 about climate and population being a big issue and the World cannot sustain this many people.
- Questions for Emma Glover from WWDC who is coming to our next meeting to give a talk. Kathy to send e-mail to Melksham news to see if we can get this advertised.
- Scott is thinking of approaching Linpak in Devizes to see if he can arrange a tour. Trying for a Saturday as a first choice.
- Mike looking at some software to use as a calendar share for the group.
- Planning meeting for betting shop on 12th march. Marieke will e-mail everyone about this.
- Shirley is still wound up about the statement in her local newsletter about residents not believing in climate issues. She would like to write an article to go in all local newsletters about this issue and our group. Give Shirley ideas via e-mail and details of any local newsletters you know of.
- Eddy has recently purchased a new TV and when it is on standby it only uses 0.2 watts of electricity so is very good.
- Jo has purchased a new banner for Melksham Freecycle, this was paid for with a grant received from the Town Council. Jo and Kathy plan to run a Freecycle Stall in Melksham Town Centre one Saturday and have this advertised in the Melksham News.
- Friends of the Earth workshop – Power up. This is being run one weekend in Birmingham at a cost of £60 per person. Jo and Kathy plan to go to it at their own expense. Check the FOE website in the Community Section.
- Business cards for the MCFG have been designed and orders and a supply of them will hopefully be available at our next meeting.

- Earth Hour – this is on Saturday 28th March – turn off all you electricity for 1 hour at 8pm. Kathy to see if she can get this advertised in the Melksham News for the next edition.
- Greening Your Home workshop run by the CFB still has spaces – this on 14th March and is advertised on their website.
- Mamma Mia Theme night to be held at Spencer's Club on Saturday 26th September – this is a charity fundraiser for local charities. No kids!

DATE OF NEXT MCFG MEETING: Wednesday 1st April 2009