



Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

September 2016

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New Contact Address and Telephone Number

WREN has now moved out of the Energy Shop on The Platt, replaced by a chocolatier.

Our new postal address is:

WREN
PO Box 67
Wadebridge
PL27 6BX

Telephone: 01208 622123

Our email addresses remain as before, the main ones being energy@wren.uk.com and communityfunds@wren.uk.com.

Annual General Meeting

WREN's annual general meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, 27th September 2016 in Wadebridge Town Hall.

As usual, there will be a report from the Chair, Tony Faragher. This will be Tony's first. We will also be presenting the awards made to the Middle Treworder Solar Farm community fund recipients.

Make a note for your diary.

And speaking of Middle Treworder...

Middle Treworder Solar Farm Community Fund

£10,000 is available for community projects to benefit people living in Wadebridge town, and St Kew, St Mabyn and Egloshayle parishes.

The fund has been open for some time now and the closing date is 12th September 2016.

The money comes from the Middle Treworder Solar Farm and is available as grants to charitable projects and purposes, with a focus on grass roots community and voluntary groups.

The fund committee's priorities are for projects that will benefit children, young people and schools, or households in or at risk of fuel poverty, and also to low carbon initiatives and climate change mitigation or adaptation projects.

However, at the time of writing, only a handful of applications had been received, so if you have been holding back, thinking your project might not be eligible, it could be worth applying. The application form is short and straightforward.

Organisations must apply by 5pm on Monday 12th September 2016 using forms available from WREN, and the fund committee's decisions will be announced towards the end of September. Organisations can download application forms and

further details of eligibility [here](#), or obtain them by email to communityfunds@wren.uk.com.

If you applied for the fund in 2015 you may apply again in 2016, whether or not you were successful. You can see the successful 2015 applications [here](#).

A Midsummer Feast

Energy, its costs and the effect of its use on our climate, is the big challenge. It needs tackling at a global level, but also by communities and individuals. But ‘energy’ is not an exciting subject for many people! Timetabled around midsummer - maximum potential solar energy hours - A Midsummer Feast set out to stimulate audiences and practitioners to visualise our community’s response to the issue of energy and engage them through an arts festival.

This fits within one of WREN’s aims: “advancing education and raising awareness of energy resource scarcity and low carbon living”.



Green Super Hero by Rhys from Wadebridge Primary Academy, part of "A Feast for the Eyes"

Midsummer Feast events comprised

- **A Feast for the Eyes** - art workshops and an exhibition of work by local people at The Energy Shop (its last major event before closing), Wadebridge Library and Relish Café;
- **A Feast of Words** - poetry writing and performance workshops, culminating in a thought-provoking and hilarious cabaret event in The Ship, with Matt Harvey;
- **A Feast for the Ear** - an open evening of music and words at Hewitt's Bar and Kitchen, with a pleasingly blurred distinction between audience and performers;
- **"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** - three performances directed by Lucy Gordon Clark, at Wadebridge Primary Academy, with a cast and crew brought together from the local community. Costumes and set, wherever possible, were created from recycled, reused and natural materials. In the end, this even extended to the 'glasses' used for interval refreshments that were

made from bio-plastic and were fully compostable. The ensemble were so enthused by the experience that they intend to continue as a local community theatre group - anyone interested in getting involved with future productions should contact Lucy Gordon Clark via midsummerwadebridge@gmail.com.



A scene from *Midsummer Night's Dream*

FEAST is a programme to make great art happen across Cornwall.

FEAST harnesses the talents and energy of Cornwall's artists and communities, generating new opportunities for everyone to enjoy the arts. The focus is on bringing people together to share experiences as audiences or participants, and on animating local celebrations and cultural life.

Investment for FEAST comes from Arts Council England and Cornwall Council. The programme is managed by Cornwall Arts Centre Trust.



Renewable Energy - a Local Progress Report for England

Regen SW has published "Renewable Energy - a local progress report for England 2016". Chief Executive Merlin Hyman writes:

“This decade has seen remarkable growth in renewable energy in England; 19 per cent of our power now comes from renewable sources. Renewables are a public policy success story - a combination of public and private investment has led to innovation and technological progress, new industries and rapidly falling costs.

“This report examines the renewables revolution in England: what are the key technologies, where have they been deployed, and what is the outlook following the virtual ending of public policy support. To draw these lessons, we have analysed 736,998 renewable energy projects.”

That’s a lot of projects...! Download the full report [here](#).

Energy Markets Report

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has recently investigated the supply of electricity to domestic consumers - that’s you and me. Their Energy Markets report shows that 70% of consumers are sitting on expensive standard variable cost tariffs from the Big 6, rather than the lower fixed term deals that the suppliers make available.

And the CMA concludes that it is not the fault of the Big 6 for keeping their standard tariffs so expensive. It is our fault for not switching to the lower tariffs; we are “disengaged”. All 70% of us. Really? Really?

Plymouth Energy Community wrote an article about it, which we are pretty much in agreement with. You can read it [here](#).

WREN Meets Bideford

Not all of Bideford, you understand. Nine people from Bideford Town Council, 361 Energy (<http://www.361energy.org>), Bideford Sustainability Group (<http://bidefordsustain.org>), North Devon Green Party and University of Exeter came to Wadebridge at the end of July to meet WREN (represented by directors Tony Faragher and Kevin Smith) and exchange views on the current state of renewables and the opportunities for local community projects.



David Brenton (Bideford Town Council), Sue Clarke (BSG), Angus Winfield (BSG), Paul Rogers (361 Energy), Phillip Wearne (Green Party, Torrington), Ruth Craigie (Bideford Town Council), Shivangi Sharma (University of Exeter), Jaimie McKenzie (Bideford Town Council), Tony Faragher (WREN), Joe Day (Bideford Town Council)

It's good to see that local communities are still keen to make things happen, even with the virtual ending of public policy support referred to by Merlin Hyman above.

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