



## GET VOTING FOR £5,000 COMMUNITY FUND

**On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan voting started to choose which of six local community groups should receive funding from our £5,000 Community Fund pot.**

The six groups applying for one of the three awards are:



Moor Harmony North Cornwall Chorus; St Minver Silver 'B' Band; Wadebridge District Guides; Wadebridge Foodbank and StoreHouse; Wadebridge Lawn

Tennis Club; and Wadebridge Youth Project.

Each was on hand to discuss their projects – which range from building a new Guide hut to buying brass instruments.

Foodbank manager Jacqui White said: "Foodbank helps us help one another in times of crisis. A grant from WREN would enable us to carry out some of the essential work needed on our new premises at Bridgend before we can move there."

Members of Moor Harmony North Cornwall Chorus opened proceedings with an impressive display of harmonies. Pauline Gobbitt argued their case. "Moor Harmony is a friendly new singing group. Ladies of all ages and experience are welcome to join us, whether a young mum who needs a break or retired with time on their hands."

Voting is open to all WREN members. There is a poster in the Energy Shop describing why each organisation needs our assistance. You can vote for up to three of the six projects.

Democracy will be enforced by PCSO Phil Chanter of Devon and Cornwall Police, who took custody of the key to the ballot box. He'll be on hand to verify the count on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.

WREN Events Director, Lizzy-Jane Frankel, said: "All the groups so deserve our support. They each contribute to our community in many different ways."

The money was raised through contributions made by those who had solar PV panels installed through WREN's solar club. The Fund was set up to redistribute some of the benefits of renewable projects back into the community.

You have until the 17<sup>th</sup> of February to make your choice,

## BE AN ENERGY CHAMPION

**Think you could spur on others to get the most from their heat and energy consumption? Why not train to be an "Energy Champion"!**

WREN has teamed up with Community Energy Plus to help people in the Wadebridge area get access to advice on how to deal with their energy needs.

Two sessions: 9th or 23rd of February. Both will be at the Energy Shop from 2pm on. Places are limited, so if you're interested contact Lizzy-Jane Frankel via email [events@wren.uk.com](mailto:events@wren.uk.com). Maximum of 12 places per day.

## FREE SOLAR OFFER

**We currently have an operational 'free solar' offer courtesy of Wadebridge company, Clean Earth.**

The tariff will go to Clean Earth, but you can benefit from reduced energy bills, and be doing your bit for the environment by helping to de-carbonise our local energy supply.

Your roof must be at least 25m<sup>2</sup>, and be facing between south-east and south-west. We need to hear from you by the end of February.

For more, please email [jerry.clark@wren.uk.com](mailto:jerry.clark@wren.uk.com), or pop into the WREN Energy Shop and leave your details.

## BIG 'LECCY' BILL?

**Don't get in a flap! Get free advice to help manage and reduce your electricity and heating bills.**

Community Energy Plus, a local charity, is working with WREN to support households in the

voting in person at the WREN Energy Shop on the Platt in Wadebridge. WREN is a membership organisation run by volunteers. Anyone can join, and life membership only costs £1! WREN Director Harry Wild said, "I hope everyone will help us decide how to spend this money by joining WREN and voting."

## SOLAR PV. WHERE ARE WE?

### Let's try to clear the confusion surrounding the current level of the Feed-in Tariff.

Before Christmas, the Government attempted to reduce the tariffs with a reference date of 12<sup>th</sup> December.

This has now been declared illegal by two courts, but the Government may still appeal to the Supreme Court to have their decision upheld.

It has led to a considerable impact on the solar industry with many companies having to cease trading, and others hanging on with much reduced staffing levels.

So, where does this leave the customer?

Currently, FIT payments are set at 21p per kWh for a domestic installation (this may remain at 43p for a while if the Government lose their final appeal, but will definitely be 21p from March 3<sup>rd</sup>). This means that on a 4kW installation costing just £9,500 from our partners Plug into the Sun, the payback time is still only eight years, with approximately £1,200 per year in savings and income.

If you are thinking about an installation, then get it done soon, as there is another hurdle from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April – any building to which a new system is connected will have to comply with stringent energy efficiency standards in order to claim the 21p tariff. This will be difficult and expensive to achieve on most homes. Though undoubtedly worth doing for the benefit of energy savings attained, it could be a step too far for most people who just wanted to fit solar PV.



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Wadebridge area. Their energy caseworker will be at the WREN Energy Shop, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February between 11am-3pm.

There's free practical support on:

- Understanding and managing energy bills
- Getting the best from your heating system
- Insulation and heating support
- Damp, mould and condensation problems
- Having a healthy and warm home

You can book a twenty-minute, one-to-one session between 11am – 2pm, or just turn up to the drop-in session at 2–3pm.

## LOOK, MA – I'M A WREN STAR!

### Do you want to star in our next film?

We are making a short film in March about why you became a member.

If you'd like to take part, email [events@wren.uk.com](mailto:events@wren.uk.com), or leave a message at the Energy Shop.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Interested in volunteering in the Energy Shop?

We're running a 'Shop Information and Training' session on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February starting at 2.30 pm. Please contact Lizzy-Jane at [events@wren.uk.com](mailto:events@wren.uk.com) if you are interested in coming along!

## FEBRUARY ENERGY DATES

- *Thurs 9<sup>th</sup>: Be An Energy Champ*
- *Mon 13<sup>th</sup>: Shop Training*
- *Fri 17<sup>th</sup>: Last day Community Fund voting*
- *Sat 18<sup>th</sup>: free advice to manage, reduce energy bills*
- *Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>: Be An Energy Champ*
- *Wed 29<sup>th</sup>: Last day re Clean Earth 'Free Solar' offer*

For all events and Community Fund voting, drop into the Energy Shop, the Platt, Wadebridge (between Artyfacts and Chase Art Gallery), or for events/training email [events@wren.uk.com](mailto:events@wren.uk.com).