

News Bulletin

January 2009

Kenilworth Initiative on Climate Change (KICC) held an open meeting on Thursday the 22nd January. This well attended meeting began with a presentation by George Martin, who gave an overview of why action was needed. Attendees to the meeting were asked to prioritise the groups actions for the coming year. The majority of attendees felt that thermal imaging, low carbon building information and communication activities should be amongst the first priorities. During the meeting George Martin was appointed Vice Chair and Roger Bennett Treasurer.

The National Association of Cider Makers (NACM) has launched a report on the impact of climate change on the cider industry. The report "A Changing Climate for Cider" was developed with the support of UKCIP. The NACM took a 30 year view of potential impacts on orchards, production and the market place. Challenges for the industry may include: summer drought leading to tree stress, leaf drop, smaller fruit size and poor quality juice, and prolonged wet winters giving rise to root loss.



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) suggests that climate change could be contributing to the fall in Scotland's seabird populations. Recent data from RSPB shows that Kittiwakes, Artic Terns and Arctic Skuas have had a terrible season, with increased winter sea surface temperatures implicated in their decline. <http://www.rspb.org.uk/news>

The National Trust estimates that 10% of its properties are currently at high risk of flash flooding, and that by 2050 over a third of Trust sites could be affected by drought and major water shortages. In a new report "From Source to Sea" the National Trust recommends co-ordinated activity to create an updated and joined up approach to water management, <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

With the acceptance of its constitution and application in December, Leamington has officially been registered as a Transition Town with the national organisation. There is now a link from the main website to the Leamington based one.

St Johns Church, Kenilworth has been trying to reduce its energy consumption, in 2008, total energy consumption showed an 18% reduction on 2007 and 53% reduction on 2005 this has led to a shrinking of the churches carbon footprint of over 40 tonnes CO2 emissions on 2005 levels and at todays prices a saving of about £8000. These reductions have been achieved by...

- Church boilers switched off between 1st May and 31st Sept
- Regular monitoring of energy usage
- Improved heating controls - Using the digistats to set times and temperatures appropriate to the activity
- Installing low energy lightening in the church
- 250mm loft instalation in the small hall
- Replacing the Hall boiler with an energy efficient condensing combi boiler

In November 2008, the Climate Change Strategy web pages received 3,722 external web hits, the Switch It Off web pages received 6,088 web hits and the partnership pages received 7,213 web hits. This represented a total of 17,023 web hits.



On the 3rd of November the Waste Partnership event was held at Benn Hall in Rugby. A carbon management workshop was held in the afternoon with talks by Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership members, Encraft and Act on Energy.

New web pages have been added to Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership web site. These new pages include information on National Indicator 186, Energy Managers Forum and National Indicator 188.

