

Green Centre News

IOM FOE wins 1st prize at Northern Gathering - by Phil Corlett IOM FOE

May 8th & 9th was the yearly Northern Gathering (NG) meet for the FoE groups, this time it was in Haworth (Bronte Country), Yorkshire and for the 4th year IoM FoE was represented by Phil Corlett, who sadly missed arriving on the steam train at the quaint station despite the pic'.....and no I didn't fly in!

It was just after the UK general elections and the debate as to who would form the new government and what it would mean for environmental campaigning was a hot topic and the very first workshop item - some said a Lib/Lab coalition would be better but we now know what the UK got and time will tell?

The FoE UK campaigns don't always fit with the IoM and we have in the past adapted some of them, printing our own postcards for the Big Ask worked well, but currently the Get Serious About CO2 one:

http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/get_serious_index.html with a little adaptation, to suit the local situation, they could perhaps be used to influence the thinking and actions of our local authorities.

The attraction of these weekends is the numerous workshops, networking opportunities and new ideas you can pick up on + the large amount of info in the form of FoE publications/leaflets that are easily to hand for future campaigning in the local groups.

It's always handy to meet the FoE staff face to face as this lets them know that we exist and how much campaigning we are doing – it's always good to see the amazed faces of the people when you tell them we're an autonomous island - which brings me to our great success over this w/e when we made the first prize in the Environmental Green Dragons award for 'most difficult challenge' with our Micro-generation cards (see page 7 of FoE's bi-monthly magazine Change Your World for full details of the event - remember you can sign up for latest 'E' editions of it via the net) and if you haven't signed our card yet, do it on the second link:-

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/newsletters/cyw_83_july_august_2010.pdf

<http://www.foe.org.im/Campaigns-Microgeneration.html>

Watch this space as info was picked up at the NG for contacts for a public talk/presentation by 2 speakers who would go down well on the Island and promote a low carbon/sustainable lifestyle, plans have started to bring them over sometime soon!

Lastly we all stamped our inked hands to show support for a further campaign, currently running about the Canadian Tar Sands which FoE International is pushing and if you'd like to know more about this highly damaging form of oil extraction I recommend reading this:-

<http://www.fairpensions.org.uk/tarsands> + see our Film of the Day on www.FoE.org.im



I can highly recommend the very pretty youth hostel which FoE UK had block booked for the w/e where over 70 of us were accommodated, which was built for a Victorian cotton magnate who'd had it beautifully carved, decorated and fitted with stain glass windows, if you're ever in the area I can recommend it as the budget place to stay:-

<http://www.yha.org.uk/find-accommodation/yorkshire-dales-southpennines/hostels/haworth/index.aspx>

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Phil flies the flag for the Isle of Man

Latest News:

- IOM FOE has been nominated for an Earthsaver award at the annual FOE UK Conference - to be held at Reading University in September - for its micro-generation campaign. For further details see: www.foe.co.uk/events/conference

Halogen down lights - friend or foe?



Will your halogen spot lights reduce the demand at the power station?

Many modern lighting schemes use a lot of halogen spotlights, typically in the kitchen.

These schemes are often sold as being energy efficient, but is this really the case?

Many modern lighting schemes use a lot of halogen spotlights, typically in a kitchen. These schemes are often sold as being energy efficient, but is this really the case? Some simple maths will check the true energy consumption.

First lets assume the number of down lights is 12 (an array of 4 rows of 3 lights – which is quite a common size and sometimes a bit small in some kitchens). Halogen lamps are typically available with ratings of 12W (12 watts), 20W and 50W.

The total wattage of this sample array is therefore:

For 12W lamps – 12 (number of lamps) * 12 (watts/lamp) = 144W

For 20W lamps – 12 (number of lamps) * 20 (watts/lamp) = 240W

For 50W lamps – 12 (number of lamps) * 50 (watts/lamp) = 600W

Now assume the lights are on for 4 hours/day. The daily electricity consumption will be:

For 12W lamps – 4 (hours use) * 144 (watts) = 276Whr (or .276 units/day)

For 20W lamps – 4 (hours use) * 240 (watts) = 960Whr (or .96 units/day)

For 50W lamps – 4 (hours use) * 600 (watts) = 2400Whr (or 2.4 units/day)

[To convert watthours (Whr) to units (as shown on the electricity bill), divide by 1000 because 1 unit = 1KWhr = 1000Whr].

These simple calculations show that for anything other than the lowest rated halogen lamps, the electricity usage becomes significant, and for the brightest 50W lamps it is very significant.

So what can be done to improve the energy use, especially if halogen down lights are already installed?

The first option is to replace higher wattage lamps with the 12W versions, however in most cases this is likely to leave the lighting scheme too dim (similar to using a 40W filament lamp where a 100W unit would normally be used).

The better option is to replace the halogen lamps with LED equivalents. LED lights will drastically cut the electricity consumption. Finding an ideal replacement is likely to be challenging but as LED lamps improve and prices fall the option of replacing halogen with LED lights will become a straightforward task.

Article provided by George Fincher MEAC

Electric bike usage - by Chris Burton MEAC

I have recently upgraded my electric bicycle for a Wisper Tourer 906 and I am very impressed.

This is a brilliant machine



The Bike is well built with a 14 amp hour battery 36 volts. The machine is legally required to not exceed 15 miles an hour however with pedal assist it can better these speeds.

Electric bicycles are superb for the Isle of Man as they take the effort off in the hills. I enjoy the freedom of cycling on roads and lanes that have little traffic and as I live on a hill I have an easier ride going home. For trips to the shops, allotment and the like the bike is the best bet as the car or motorcycle would not even be warm if I used them. The Battery is charged off the Solar Panels at the house so there is no charge to pay and no carbon used.

The pedal assist starts once one full rotation of the crank has occurred and it is variable depending upon the setting of the assistance required and the speed of the crank. Previous bikes I have ridden and owned have a fixed assist which can at times be more than you require.



The real improvement which sets the Wisper off against other electric bicycles I have ridden is its control, pedal assist is

gradual building up and then trailing off at 15 MPH this enables you to pedal beyond the maximum speed. On other bikes when reaching the maximum speed it is like hitting a wall, you were fighting the motor, a much cruder control.

I do not need to state this was an expensive purchase however I have done 1000 kilometres on it in a few months and for commuting I put the bike on the back of the car and park up in the Santon area and cycle into and out of Douglas on the Marine Drive something I have come to appreciate as a privilege especially at six thirty in the morning with not another person on the road. Sets you up for the day and cycling home I often get through stationary traffic at Douglas effortlessly.

Hub gears and disc brakes



There are no dealers on the Island currently offering this make of machine and I obtained mine from Ian at Valley scooters who have a huge range of electric bicycles to choose from and he will let you ride all of them until you are happy.

The drawback is battery life and replacement, the battery could only last about 3 years and costs in the region of £500 to replace. However my running costs are cheap, no tax or insurance and I charge the batteries via solar power.

<http://www.electricbike.tv/906xc-Tourer.php>

<http://www.valleyscooters.co.uk/>



A 250 watt front hub motor

Carbon frame



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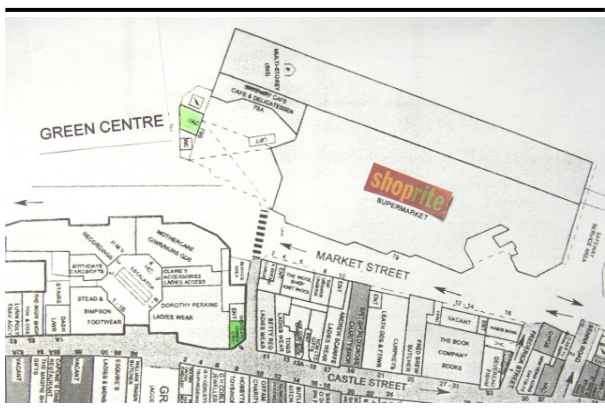
The Green Centre Yn Laare Ghlass

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Opening Hours: Saturdays 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
(Although generally open for longer)

Campaigning for the Island's environment



Community renewable energy electricity generation on the IOM

Take a simple situation; two houses where the two house owners would like to jointly install a wind turbine or photovoltaic array and jointly use the generated electricity.

If this was a single household then they could (with MEA approval) use the home generator tariff and connect the system output to the grid via an approved grid tie inverter. The final result is a simple to operate installation.

So as a jointly owned system why not do the same? Well mainly because it would be illegal. By law only the MEA can sell electricity on the IOM. If the first householder installed the system and then supplied electricity to the other householder, then the first householder would be breaking the law. If they jointly owned the system via a 'holding' company or entity then the company would be breaking the law.

Community renewable energy electricity generation on the IOM continued

This is an unfortunate situation almost certainly not an intended victim of the electricity act. If you have a community scheme in mind that would fall foul of this effect then please contact MEAC. The MEA has offered to work with MEAC to see if any of the legal obstacles can be overcome.

Article provided by George Fincher MEAC

Down with the barricades: Passing trade for the Green Centre *by Muriel Garland ZWM*

'In Douglas, near to Shoprite, next to the public toilets.'

It has always been a bit embarrassing giving directions to the Green Centre. But all that has completely changed.

Now we don't mind because the newly refurbished toilets next door are looking great. There are baby changing facilities and the whole place feels modern.

During the last year the Green Centre has been surrounded by building work of one sort or another.

First came the creation of the Promenade Surgery up above us, on the edge of the Chester Street car park, and more recently the refurbishment of the lifts and the public toilets right next door to us. Even finding us became a bit of a problem.



Despite the scaffolding and the barriers many people did manage to get through to the Green Centre but now the situation is much better. All the work is finished and the builders have moved out. The surgery has been completed, the lifts refurbished and the public toilets totally refitted with bright orange tiling.

Once again we are able to put out our signs and every arrow points to the Green Centre where members of Friends of the Earth, Manx Energy Advice and Zero Waste Mann give help, information and advice every Saturday.

So next time you're going to Shoprite, or using the lift to the Chester Street car park and especially if you're coming across to use the smart public toilets do call in and see us.