

# Green Centre News

## *e-Go (Vehicles) Ltd has ceased trading*

*by Andrew Jessopp ZWM*

### Inside this issue:

- Seasearch IOM* 2  
*by Tony Glen*
- FoE Northern* 3  
*Gathering by Phil*
- Green Centre at Tynwald* 4
- World's first cardboard* 4  
*vacuum cleaner*

### Latest News:

- The Green Centre is participating in the Douglas Corporation Fun Day, Sunday 24th July at Nobles Park - 2.00pm-5.00pm
- As the biggest car company in Europe, Volkswagen has the biggest climate footprint of any car maker in Europe. Volkswagen penalises consumers wanting smarter, cleaner vehicles by artificially inflating their price. Just 6% of Volkswagen's global sales in 2010 were of its most efficient models. Volkswagen has a history of diverting attention from its poor overall environmental performance by developing super-efficient prototype car designs which never come to mass production.

The Green Centre has been notified the only supplier of electric cars on the Isle of Man has closed citing the ready availability of subsidised vehicles that can be purchased from abroad.

Subsidies of £5,000 per vehicle are available in the UK, and €5,000 per vehicle in Ireland, mirroring the worldwide trend of governments in offering assistance to electric car purchasers to encourage zero and low emission vehicle adoption.

However, the Isle of Man has not followed the leadership of other nations in supporting the transition to low-energy, low-emission vehicles, meaning that subsidised foreign imports undermine the potential for local retailers to develop a market supplying cleaner and greener vehicles on the island.

The directors say they have, therefore, reluctantly taken the decision that the further existence of the company is not justified or sustainable following the definitive announcement by the Isle of Man Government's Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, John Shimmin, at the end of March 2011, that the Isle of Man will not provide subsidy for the purchase of electric vehicles similar to that enjoyed over the water in the UK and Ireland.

The directors believe that savvy Isle of Man residents wishing to purchase an electric vehicle will easily be able to obtain subsidised vehicles from those jurisdictions, placing e-Go and other potential Isle of Man EV retailers at significant commercial disadvantage.

They thank their business partners who have supported e-Go over the past two years, including the Electric Car Corporation, Manx Electricity Authority, Rossborough (IoM), Tower Insurance, Shimmin Wilson & Co, Signrite IoM and Barclays Wealth.

Over the two years during which e-Go has brought new vehicle technology to the island they say they have received an enthusiastic welcome from many residents and businesses who clearly share their vision of the merits and relevance of electric vehicles to the Isle of Man. They hope that, at some point in the future, the Isle of Man Government will find itself in a position to give more support to encouraging the adoption of zero-emission, low-energy vehicles on the island.

I tested the e-Go vehicle in October 2009, and although I thought it a wee bit pricey and slightly limited in range and performance, I did believe it would be a practical choice for (wealthy) residents living in the flatter parts of the Island.

Although the Manx Government's stance hasn't perhaps come as a surprise it does seem, yet again, the government is not really committed to developing a more environmentally sustainable transport culture on the Island.

The irony is, the government has probably spent far more promoting the 'green TT', which hasn't been as successful as anticipated, than it ever would have had to pay out in grants. However, there is an election looming so perhaps a bit of lobbying of candidates may persuade a rethink of the policy by the next government.



## *Seasearch IOM- by Tony Glen*



*Tall and numerous  
Japweed in LG*

Seasearch is a seabed habitat survey project for sports divers in the British Isles.

Accurate observations of the seabed from dives around the islands coastline help build up a map of various kinds of habitat and marine life present. With this growing knowledge it is possible to identify which species are most widespread and which are the rarest; it also highlights where there are unusual or important underwater features. Even the most frequently dived areas can show where changes are occurring and how quickly.

Seasearch was originally set up in the UK in 1987 in the Marine Conservation Society and Nature Conservancy Council, since then numerous schemes including the Isle of Man have been set up to form a grid of Seasearch observers around the British Isles all reporting data through their local wildlife trusts to MCS. On the island all data is coordinated and then entered on our local biological database and then forwarded to MCS for entry onto the UK national database.

Training for divers is split into three groups. The majority of Seasearch divers on the island are trained as Observers, however recently we have, through sponsorship managed to get five divers through their Surveyor course. There is a further specialist course which due to a lack of funding is not available for divers to undertake.

In 2011 thanks to sponsorship from the Manx Wildlife Trust and the Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and Environment the Isle of Man Seasearch divers have commenced a survey of several sites around the Calf of Man. The data obtained will be compared with data obtained in 1992 and 1993 by the Marine Biological station students.

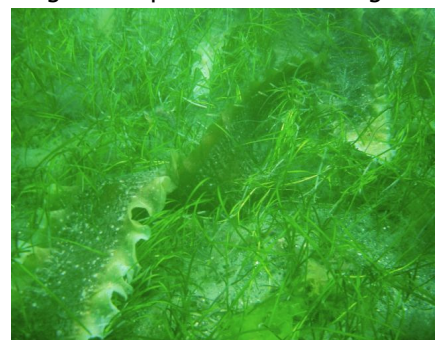
In conjunction with the Fisheries Directorate of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, divers will shortly be undertaking a comprehensive survey of Ramsey Bay prior to the enactment of the Ramsey Bay Marine Reserve Zone. This will assist the department in baseline survey monitoring and improve the knowledge of the bay.

Over the past two years Seasearch divers have rediscovered areas of Eelgrass (Zostera marina) and surveys in those areas are being planned for later in 2011 and 2012. Extensive areas of horse mussels have also been found and at present securing a protected area for these beds is still being discussed.

Unfortunately, whilst there are a lot of positives, divers are also reporting an increased number of invasive species. The main offender is Japweed (*Sargassum muticum*) which is now been seen in ever increasing numbers. Discussions are being held with the department to see if there is a way forward to slow down the spread of this species even by way of having test areas where the Japweed can be removed safely.

Plans for next year's diving season are already taking place with various organisations both on and off the island. It is hoped to improve our knowledge of our seas within our national boundaries and assist in protecting some of our more vulnerable species and sites.

For further details see: <http://www.seasearch.org.uk/>



*Two beds of Eel grass approx 2m x 2m*

**In conjunction with the Fisheries Directorate of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, divers will shortly be undertaking a comprehensive survey of Ramsey Bay prior to the enactment of the Ramsey Bay Marine Reserve Zone.**

## FOE Northern Gathering 2011

by Phil Corlett IOM FOE

On a brilliantly sunny weekend, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Chris Burton & Phil Corlett took a low carbon trip (2 up on Chris's 1000cc BMW) to FoE UK's annual North West Regional Gathering, this time in Haworth, Yorkshire. Past events have been held in The Lakes, Manchester & York, all at YHA's.



It's a full weekend of activities, talks, workshops and even a bit of dancing & 'refreshments' on the Saturday night. The idea is for the weekend to be fun; but essentially informative & inspiring.

Mike Childs' 'Head of Climate' was part of the intro and he talked about the new FoE Energy campaign - soon to be released - which continues the strategy for a green energy future. He has not visited the IoM for 15yrs but when asked if he would come to talk to Ministers, radio, papers and do a public presentation, he immediately said yes. So if all goes to plan he should be on the Island 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> August. Watch out in the press, manx.net, radio, in a few weeks time for his itinerary.

[http://www.foe.co.uk/blog/no\\_nuclear\\_27442.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/blog/no_nuclear_27442.html) - a recent blog of Mike's FYI.

The weather was so good that many workshops were out in the large gardens of the youth hostel. A particularly interesting one was about the tar sands in Canada, which was given by a university student who has spent three months there documenting the effects this huge industry is now having on the local community and environment. Alberta, Canada has large areas of tar sands and the machinery needed for exploiting this

particularly destructive type of fossil fuel is staggering in its size; and the damage it inflicts is equally enormous both to the environment and human health. It truly shows how we need a future built on renewables NOT fossil fuels – see: <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/03/oil-sands-via-google-earth.php>

Chris & Phil 'had a go' at the Strictly Come Campaigning event (a tongue in cheek take on the TV show Strictly Come Dancing) with a light hearted presentation about IoM FoE Renewables campaign; but other more 'deft on their feet' group campaigners beat us this year – last year our Micro-generation cards got us the top prize!

The two days tend to go quickly and Sunday's panel discussion included some interesting people including Pam Warhurst of 'Incredible Edible Todmorden'. Here the town's people have actively encouraged the planting of fruit & veg, in both private and public gardens, so that anybody can pick it and eat it. The idea is that people learn about how and where food grows, sustainability and sharing. Pam was another that said **yes** to visiting the Island. Take a look at the 'incredible' pictures:-

<http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/pictures>



Having attended at least 5 of these events now I have to say they leave you reenergised and full of ideas to use in the IoM group... and hopefully at the same time letting FoE UK know that we might be a little group but we have a big punch!



*Phil, Chris, Rachael (FoE Network Developer), Helen (FoE Regional Coordinator) and trusty BMW*

**It's a full weekend of activities, talks, workshops and even a bit of dancing & 'refreshments' on the Saturday night.**

**The idea is for the weekend to be fun; but essentially informative and inspiring.**

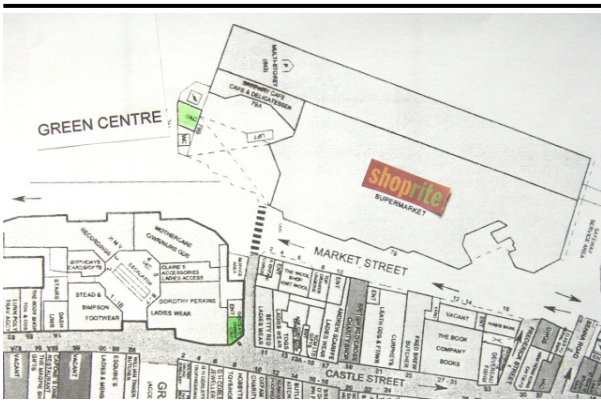
## The Green Centre Yn Laare Ghlass

*The Green Centre*  
Chester Street Centre, Douglas. IM1 2PG  
Tel: 666029  
Email: greencentre@manx.net

www.zerowastemann.org  
www.meac.iofm.net  
www.foe.org.im

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

### *Campaigning for the Island's environment*



### *Green Centre at Tynwald 2011*

All three Green Centre organisations had a presence at St Johns on Tynwald Day; but unfortunately the less than perfect weather seems to have deterred many people from attending the fair.

However, our gallant band of volunteers made the best of the annual event to deliver our respective messages to those that did attend.

Hilary again demonstrated how to make Morsbags, George continued to explain - to whoever was willing to listen - onshore wind power is viable in the IOM in suitable locations; and Phil was busy doing something—but nobody was really sure what it was. Fortunately Ian was there to hold the IOM FoE fort!



## *World's first cardboard vacuum cleaner*

Yes, that's right, a vacuum cleaner that uses the packaging it comes in to form the body of the cleaner.

Vax, which claims to be, the UK's best selling floorcare brand, has championed young British design talent by producing the world's first cardboard vacuum cleaner, designed by Loughborough University student, Jake Tyler

The Vax ev is a high performance vacuum cleaner constructed for optimum sustainability, using recycled and recyclable materials that reduce the burden on landfill. The corrugated cardboard panels that form the body of the Vax ev are easily replaced if damaged and cost just a tenth of the price of an equivalent plastic panel. They are multi-purpose too, beginning their life as part of the retail box the vacuum cleaner is sold in. Once the cardboard parts are separated from the box, they 'pop' into place around the motor housing, without any need for glue. They have a flame retardant coating and are fully customisable - with just a few felt tip pens you can turn your vacuum cleaner into a unique work of art!



Components that cannot practically be made of cardboard have been produced from recyclable, pure nylon plastic using RP (rapid process) manufacturing, rather than injection moulding. This means the Vax ev can be manufactured locally to order, without the need for costly

tooling moulds and assembly lines, whilst avoiding long distance distribution.



Industrial design student Jake Tyler developed the Vax ev for his final year degree project at Loughborough University. He was supported by the New Product Design team at Vax's headquarters in Worcestershire, where he worked for a year under the company's student placement scheme.

The Vax ev's revolutionary design has already won him a prize from the university and a place at the New Designers exhibition of the UK's best graduate work, held at the Business Design Centre in London from 6-9th July 2011. Vax is now exploring a limited production run of the vacuum cleaner.

"With sustainability becoming an increasing concern for manufacturers, the Vax ev shows just what can be achieved when young designers are encouraged to think creatively and push the boundaries of product design," said Paul Bagwell, Director of NPD at Vax.

This is indeed a novel way of approaching product design. It would be nice to see similar innovations in mass produced models so consumers have greener options when they shop.