

# The Forum 21 Flier



<http://www.forum21.org.uk>

The Forum 21 website is updated regularly and includes a link to the F21 Constitution and to the Energy Efficiency Pack as well as a downloadable membership form and a Library of Forum 21 articles which have appeared in the *News Trader*. If you have any items for the website please e-mail them to Marlene at [forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com)

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## Please help us save costs and paper.....

If you receive this newsletter by post but now have access to email and could receive it electronically, **please let us know**. This will help us keep you up to date on events and useful information too. Alternatively, if you no longer wish to receive newsletters, please let us know. Email : [forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com)

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**Western Somerset**

**Energy Fair**

Friday 16th September 10.00 - 21.00  
Saturday 17th September 10.00 - 13.00

Informing the public and businesses on energy saving and renewable energy for a smarter future

programme of speakers and workshops  
activities for children  
displays and demonstrations  
information and advice  
café  
drop in any time

**FREE ENTRY**

Venue **Minehead Eye**, Mart Rd, Minehead (adj. railway station)

For more information, or to book a stall email: [malleforum21.org.uk](mailto:malleforum21.org.uk) or call 01984 634242 Details on [www.forum21.org.uk](http://www.forum21.org.uk)

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday

10am **Grand opening**  
Ian Liddell Grainger MP  
11am **Energy Now - setting the scene:** Ian Bright, Totnes Renewable Society  
2pm **Communities and Energy:** Tim Stokes, Exmoor National Park Authority  
7-9pm **Renewable Energy**  
Presentations on solar, wind, hydro, biomass, heat pumps

#### Saturday

10am **The Energy Efficient Home:** Philip Morris, Centre for Sustainable Energy  
1pm **CLOSE**

*A wide range of exhibitors and trade stands are attending the Fair, with information on insulation, renewables and energy-saving devices. Hands-on activities for children (young and old!) will be provided by At-Bristol. The Minehead Eye café will be open throughout the Fair, with drinks and a selection of hot and cold food. Minehead Station is close by the venue and there is a public car park beside the station.*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**2011**  
**September**  
7th **Think Big for Biodiversity:** Somerset Biodiversity Partnership: for details phone 01823 652409 or e-mail [Alison.Slade@somersetwildlife.org](mailto:Alison.Slade@somersetwildlife.org)  
10th **West Somerset LETS Flea Market and Jumble Sale**, Methodist Hall, Minehead. Contact Liz 01643 821442  
16th & 17th **Western Somerset Energy Fair:** see details opposite  
29th **Hockerton Housing Project Workshop, Nottingham:** Harvesting Wind for Community Groups and Farmers for details see [http://www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/SEFS/ID\\_3015/SEFF/ViewItem.asp](http://www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/SEFS/ID_3015/SEFF/ViewItem.asp)  
**October**  
16th **Farming Together: the Future of CSA in the UK:** Soil Association, 9-5.30 at Bristol: for more details: [www.soilassociation.org/csaconference.aspx](http://www.soilassociation.org/csaconference.aspx)  
19th **Forum 21 AGM** 6.30pm at The Methodist Hall, Minehead followed by **Forum 21 meeting: Green Initiatives in the New Economic Climate:** 7.30pm at The Methodist Hall, Minehead  
**November**  
11th **TMA Open Space Meeting**  
18th **TMA Quiz Night:** for both contact Maureen 01643 709478  
**Most Sundays: Sedgemoor Conservation Volunteers:** see [www.sedgemoor.f9.co.uk](http://www.sedgemoor.f9.co.uk)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE ENERGY FAIR

We need people to help at our Energy Fair on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th September: if you can spare an hour or two please contact Lorna Scott on 01984 634242  
*free buffet lunch for stewards*

## **SURVIVING WINTER**

### *Grants for pensioners in West Somerset*

Forum 21 has been asked to help charity Somerset Community Foundation to seek out pensioners who have trouble keeping warm in winter. SCF last autumn invited pensioners who didn't need their £250 winter fuel payment to donate it so that it could be used to help those who did. Forum 21 would be grateful if this information could be publicised to those who work with pensioners. More information on the Forum 21 website: [west-somerset-forum21.org.uk](http://west-somerset-forum21.org.uk)

### **The Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme (RHPP)**

The RHPP is now open for applications. The RHPP enables householders to receive one off vouchers towards the installation costs of eligible technologies.

From 15th August, bids are invited from Registered Providers of social housing for funds up to around £175,000 per housing provider to support proposals for heating equipment including biomass boilers, solar hot water panels and heat pumps for social housing tenants. £3 million will be available under the new scheme which should in total finance at least 17 social housing projects. The deadline for bids is the 15th of September.

The bids will be evaluated by a panel of experts on criteria including value for money, the number of individual installations, the opportunity for learning and the number of homes not supplied by mains gas. Successful applicants will be informed in early October and can therefore start installing renewable heat equipment as soon as they receive confirmation of their winning bid.

More information on eligibility criteria for the scheme, the assessment criteria and the form to be completed in order to make a bid can be found on the RHPP website. For more information visit:

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Sell-your-own-energy/Renewable-Heat-Premium-Payment](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Sell-your-own-energy/Renewable-Heat-Premium-Payment)

## **Green Initiatives in the New Economic Climate: How Can Communities and their Representatives Get Involved?**

A workshop aimed at community groups and for local councillors to explore potential opportunities in the new **Localism Bill** for parishes and community groups to progress worthwhile green initiatives.

**Methodist Church Hall,  
The Avenue, Minehead**

**19<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

*Organised and independently facilitated by  
West Somerset Forum 21*

#### **7.15 Arrival (teas and coffees available)**

7.30 Introductions

7.40 Overview of the Localism Bill and potential for green initiatives – 4 headings

7.45 Group discussions on potential opportunities under the first two headings:

(A) 'New freedoms and flexibility for local government'

(B) 'New rights and powers for communities and individuals'

8.05 Group feedback

#### **8.25 Break – further refreshments**

8.40 Group discussions on potential opportunities under the other two headings

(C) 'Reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective'

(D) 'Reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally'

9.00 Group feedback

9.20 The way forward

**9.30 Workshop close**

**Anyone wishing to book a place  
please e-mail**

**[forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com)**

## Exmoor EcoSchools Initiative

The Exmoor EcoSchools Initiative is an 18 month project being led by the Field Studies Council at Nettlecombe Court Field Centre. It has been funded by money from the Exmoor National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund and from Forum 21.

The project is ending this Autumn and has been a great success meeting its goal to support all the Primary Schools within the National Park boundaries in their application for EcoSchool Green Flag status. All but one school hopes to have their Green Flag by the end of September. 'EcoSchools' is European wide initiative, run in the UK by the Tidy Britain charity. To qualify schools are assessed against a set of criteria covering a wide range of topics based around environmental sustainability - such as energy and water use, transport, litter, recycling and grounds biodiversity. The whole school (pupils, teachers, support staff, governors) and the wider community need to be involved.

The Exmoor Initiative has enabled schools to hold joint teacher INSET events and to access expert local support and advice on a range of environmental issues. Just being able to meet with other neighbouring schools to share good practice has been of tremendous help. Pupils from each of the schools have also met up at special EcoSchool events and learnt more about how to be 'greener' through organised activities. The Field Studies Council, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Somerset Waste Action Programme, Forum 21 and Exmoor National Park staff have all been involved in making this project a success. It is hoped that now Green Flag status has been achieved the schools will continue to work together and also to link up with other schools outside the National Park to continue to improve their green credentials over the coming years.

## Update on Hinkley C

West Somerset District Council gave planning permission on 28th July for EDF to start preparing the site for the two new nuclear reactors that they want to build at Hinkley.

They will begin to dig the substantial foundations and fill in the adjoining valley. One of the conditions of the permission is that EDF will restore the site (400 acres) if they do not get final permission to build the power station from the IPC and the Secretary of State in 2012.

There are a number of concerns in relation to this:

- The current financial situation could deteriorate so much that the City and the French government (EDF) will not provide the funds needed to start building the power station in 2012.
- The news currently coming out of Fukushima will continue to worsen to such an extent that the Weightman Report will have to completely review its recommendation.
- Waste fuel rods have never before been stored on site at Hinkley, they have always been sent to Sellafield for storage. Local people do not seem to be aware that there will be a major nuclear waste storage facility at Hinkley Point for the next 160 years and no known method of disposal.

If you have questions or want more information contact Katy Attwater [attyhoops@hotmail.com](mailto:attyhoops@hotmail.com)



Forum 21 is an environmental group in West Somerset working with West Somerset District Council and other partners to help avoid climate change and to promote sustainability

## Forum 21 contacts:

Lorna Scott  
Co-ordinator  
01984 634 242  
8 Severn Terrace,  
Watchet  
TA23 OAS  
[mail@forum21.org.uk](mailto:mail@forum21.org.uk)

Marlene Allinson  
Admin  
[forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com)

Louise Evans  
[forum21.carbon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:forum21.carbon@yahoo.co.uk)

## Transition Town Contacts:

Wiveliscombe:  
Deborah J Thorpe  
01823 401567

Minehead and Alcombe:  
(TMA)  
Maureen Smith  
[tma2009@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tma2009@hotmail.co.uk)



*Forum 21 at this year's Dunster Show*

## Watchet 2025 Energy Group

The Watchet Energy Group began about a year ago. So far it has conducted an energy survey of 300 homes in Watchet and is working on a possible community energy project in the town.

On Thursday September 29th it is opening an Energy Advice Centre in Watchet, for one day a week on a trial basis; a joint venture between the Energy Group and Forum 21. Look out for publicity. We are going to need volunteers to join our energy team and help in the Centre. There will be some basic training for this on two afternoons - September 7th and 14th - in Watchet. Contact Lorna if you want to know more about this on 01984 634 242 or [mail@forum21.org.uk](mailto:mail@forum21.org.uk).

The Forum 21 energy team is growing in size, and is being asked to take on more projects. The Advice Centre is one exciting new development.

Thank you for reading,  
we hope to see you at  
some of the  
up-coming events!

### A Note about Membership

We welcome anyone with enthusiasm, initiative or time to help run projects. Or if you have a project you would like advice on, get in touch and we may be able to help or put you in touch with someone.

We would like to act as a source of information for local people to help in achieving a more sustainable, self-sufficient West Somerset.

If you wish to become a formal Forum 21 member which allows you to vote in new Steering Group members at our AGM, please fill in the form on the website and e-mail to Marlene Allinson at [forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com). Thanks.