



Newsletter May 2009

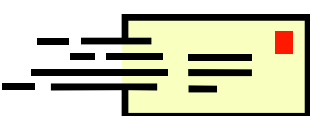
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formerly Eden Local Agenda 21

Vive la CAFS ... We're now fully operational under our new name - the preferred short version 'CAFS' is already recognised by many of our partner organisations and beneficiaries of recent projects. Eden LA21's last AGM approved the process of changing the name by creating the new charitable company 'Cumbria Action for Sustainability', transferring EdenLA21's assets etc to CAFS, and closing down the original charity. The transfer has also involved giving Members of Eden LA21 automatic **Supporter** status of CAFS.

CAFS is continuing to do what Eden LA21 did so well for 10 years ... developing imaginative projects and events across the whole county, all of them designed to stimulate, encourage and enable individuals and groups to be more involved in activities that are good for environmental sustainability, raise levels of community activity, and can save money.

Please tell us your Email address ... To reach our growing list of Supporters more **efficiently**



in future, we'll be sending-out **newsletters** and **event information** by **email only**. If you're currently on our postal mailing list, please tell us your email address: just email us at **office@cafs.org.uk**, state your name and confirm that you want to be on the emailing list.

Of course, we'll protect your personal details and you'll only be emailed with info about environmental topics, including local events. **This is the last newsletter that's being posted in paper format.**

Staff News After several years at the helm, **Phil Davies** left his post with us in mid-2008 to become Cumbria County Council's Climate Change Officer. Known fondly to many as 'Mr Energy', Phil is taking the additional bicycle commuting miles completely within his stride. We all owe huge thanks to Phil, for his unstinting work helping households, community groups and businesses around the county to embrace sustainable development, and also for his contribution towards making CAFS the strong and respected organisation that it is today.

Now entering his 4th year as CAFS Project Officer, **Richard Suddaby** established CAFS in a new office in Penrith, helped the Trustees to establish the organisation's new structure, and developed several new initiatives over the winter - more about some of these projects elsewhere in the newsletter.

At the end of last month CAFS appointed **Diane Hubbard** as **Cumbria Green Build Programme Officer**, to plan, develop and run Green Build Fortnight 2009 and to develop Green Build for the future into a year-round series of events.

Welcome Diane!



Cumbria Green Build Fortnight

5th - 18th October 2009

Since the inaugural programme in 2006, Cumbria Green Build Fortnight has become renowned for its unique and imaginative format. The festival always showcases a wide variety of buildings, products and technologies that aim to be a cut above the rest in terms of their green credentials. Most importantly, events are designed so that the general public all across the county have opportunities to see first hand some of the pioneering approaches taken by our Cumbria Green Build event hosts and speakers. In 2008 Diane Hubbard came forward as a volunteer to organise two events: 'Low Carbon Innovations', featuring high tech ... *(cont on page 2 ...)*

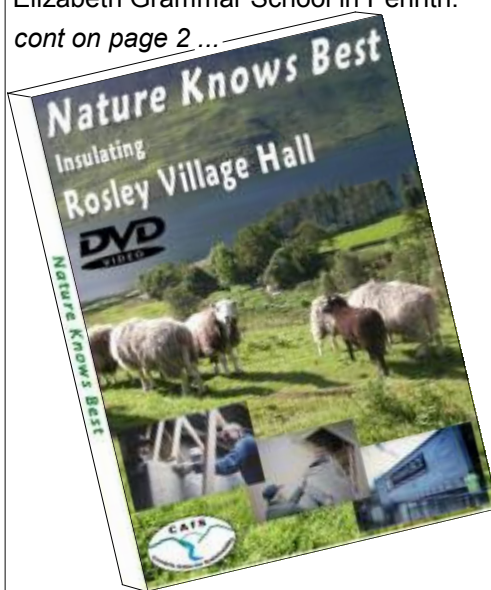


FOUNDATION

a climate fund for the Northwest

In early 2009 CAFS won a contract to deliver a £70,000 project as part of Phase 1 of the new North West Climate Fund (subsequently renamed 'FOUNDATION'). Richard explained ... This new Fund has been created by the North West Development Agency to support measures, particularly in community settings, that contribute to a 'low carbon economy'. CAFS' scheme used sheep's wool insulation to improve energy efficiency at Rosley Village Hall, and we introduced a large array of solar photovoltaic panels to generate electricity from sunlight at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith.

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... hydrogen fuel cell materials, hydro-electric turbines and state-of-the-art energy efficient lighting solutions; and secondly a Solar Water Heating Workshop, with experts on hand to advise people interested in satisfying their domestic hot water needs cheaply, using the power of the sun.

Now as CAfS' dedicated **Green Build Programme Officer**, Diane is busy developing a varied and stimulating series of events to showcase more green build concepts, in an even broader range of settings, in every part of Cumbria. If you've done something novel and special to make your home, business or community building more environmentally sustainable, or if you have a product or service that helps others to be more 'green', Diane would like to talk to you now, about becoming involved in the 2009 Cumbria Green Build Programme ...

Please ring Diane at CAfS
01768 210276 or email
diane@cafs.org.uk



Cumbria Green Build has always been about far more than the basics of sustainable power generation and construction methods and materials. Understandably, there's an emphasis on reducing CO₂ emissions, but at the same time CAfS' Programme highlights approaches to construction that encourage biodiversity around buildings, use recycled and low toxicity materials, and make good use of efficient water supply and waste disposal systems, for example. Whether you're a speaker, an event host or part of the audience, 2009 Cumbria Green Build Programme is for everyone - it's tomorrow's world.

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... The funding available from FOUNDATION created an opportunity to introduce some really practical energy efficiency measures for two Cumbrian community organisations. But we also considered it important to augment the installation works with educational and media activities that would promote a message about the reasons for the project and the benefits - financially, monetarily and socially.



The Insulating Rosley Village Hall Project has been a huge success all round ... A professional energy audit identified how the building's energy efficiency could be improved - largely with loft and cavity wall insulation, new doors and draught proofing. Local firm Second Nature UK Ltd supplied a wagon load of Thermafleece® sheep's wool insulation, which volunteers from the community off-loaded and then fitted. The Hall committee saw to important details like checking with Natural England that the work could proceed without disturbance to bats, potentially in the roof. The Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust pitched-in with a grant to match the FOUNDATION money, so everything could go ahead in a very tight timescale. Nigel Jenkins captured the spirit of the project in a short film, which may be viewed on YouTube (search for Rosley & Thermafleece). And pupils from Rosley School were involved, hearing about the reasons for the project, and using a thermal imaging camera to see for themselves how heat escapes from a poorly insulated building.

The solar PV panels at QEGS form a sizable array, generating 7.56Kw of electricity in peak output conditions. Again we were faced with a tight deadline to complete the installation, but Eden firm Sundog Energy Systems, the School and Eden District Council's Planning Department, amongst others, got everything together amazingly quickly, so that the panels were feeding power to the rest of the School before the end of March. In this case the grant from FOUNDATION was matched with financial support from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.



As well as significant capital investments at two venues, the 'FOUNDATION climate fund for the northwest' project bore the familiar CAfS hallmarks of community involvement, showcasing and education. I believe that where people and communities have bought, used or adopted environmentally friendly products, services or ways of doing things, the benefits and advantages ought to be celebrated and introduced to as wide an audience as possible.

Just some of the other activities throughout the winter ...

- For the Lake District National Park Authority and the Field Studies Council - a thermal imaging survey and report on the Blencathra Centre, for use in highlighting heat losses, both for Centre maintenance purposes, and for educational uses with staff and visitors on courses.
- Energy conservation & energy efficiency lessons for Year 12 students at Ullswater Community College - finding out about heat transfers and insulation. Students' learning and understanding was enhanced thanks to hands-on experience of infra-red photography.
- For SusKes (Sustainable Keswick) - As part of the Cumbria Green Build initiative, chaired a very successful evening event for the public entitled "Making Your Building Green", with speakers sharing experiences of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems they have adopted in their own homes. SusKes now have a Green Build subgroup.



Thus, CAfS' projects under development over the last year have all had the 'Green Build' theme in common. This has become the predominant focus for CAfS' recent activities and represents a sphere of interest and work that's going to keep us busy, and Supporters informed and entertained, for some time to come. It is with great pleasure therefore that we welcome Diane Hubbard in her new post, to share in CAfS' objectives and in particular to expand and enhance the Cumbria Green Build Programme of showcase events.

Richard Suddaby.

