



## DRN News

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### NEW RESOURCES FOR THE DEVON RURAL NETWORK

#### DEVON RURAL NETWORK STAFF

As from the beginning of June the DRN team has been joined by a new Devon Rural Network Assistant, Sarah Streeter. Sarah is a recent graduate from the University of Plymouth and is starting on a part time basis to support the team in the general day to day running of DRN and developing the Action Programme. Since her appointment Sarah has had a role in finalising the DRN website ready for its launch and in producing this edition of our newsletter. If anyone has any news or events that they wish to advertise in the winter edition of our newsletter please contact Sarah.

Sarah can be contacted Tuesdays and Thursdays on 01392 383145 or via email [sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk)

#### DRN WEBSITE LAUNCH [www.drn.org.uk](http://www.drn.org.uk)

Good News!! The DRN website was finally launched at the beginning of this month and is now available for all to access. Although the website has taken longer than anticipated to set up, we are extremely pleased with the results and hope that the site will be a great asset to DRN, its members and ultimately the general public.

With regular updates, the site is an invaluable tool for members, delivering *real* benefits and current information on our aims, activities and events across the region.

The website provides information about the DRN and its work, as well as recent news, events, toolkits for good practice and market research. Other helpful tools on the site include a jargon-buster guide and weblinks to industry organisations where users can find help and further information.

All DRN members should have received their username and password to allow their own access to the site to upload news and events. If you have not received your username and password, please contact DRN and we will provide you with one.

We would like to thank Peter Barton for his help throughout the development of the website and wish him all the best in New Zealand.

If anyone wishes to make any comment about the site or wishes something to be added, please email [sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk)

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01392 383487

Lisa Henry  
Devon Rural Network Officer  
01392 382831

Sarah Streeter  
Devon Rural Network Assistant  
01392 383145 (Tue & Thurs)

## ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS (AER) CONFERENCE

On the 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of October Devon County Council are hosting the Assembly of European Regions (AER) for Rural Development Conference at County Hall, Exeter. Originally the conference was to be hosted by Gloucestershire County Council but due to a change in Gloucestershire's ruling party in May, Devon County Council is now hosting the conference. As a result, the DRN team are involved in helping organising this prestigious event.

The conference is an opportunity for the AER to review developments in community policies aimed at supporting the revitalisation of rural areas in Europe, and to share the experiences regarding the difficulties, achievements, opportunities and perspectives of rural stakeholders. It is hoped that over 100 foreign delegates will be visiting the area and that the conference will be a great success.

Unfortunately the conference will be by invitation only and not open to DRN members. However, if you would like details of the conference and its agenda, please contact [Lisa.Henry@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Henry@devon.gov.uk).

In our next newsletter we will to have an overview of the conference proceedings for those who are interested.

## DRN MEMBERSHIP

Our membership base is growing fast but we are keen to hear from any groups or organisations who are stakeholders in rural Devon who wish to be a part of the Devon Rural Network.

If you wish to view more about our membership there are details and a membership form on our website. Alternatively you can contact Sarah Streeter and she will be happy to send you out a form.

Remember – if your organisation has no paid staff then the membership fee is waived. For those who do have paid staff the membership fee is only £25 for the year.

## DRN SUMMER / AUTUMN EVENT

Due to previous commitments, the Devon Rural Networks Summer Event will now be held in the autumn. More details will be announced though the website and by a newflash to members.

*All articles represent the views of the authors and are not necessarily those held by the Devon Rural Network.*

## RURAL INNOVA INTERREG IIIC PROJECT



Over the next year, until September 06, Devon County Council and the Devon Rural Network are involved in a series of conferences under a project entitled 'Rural InnoVA'. Rural InnoVA is a project led by the Limousin Region in France and involves 15 European Partners aiming to promote innovative rural development policy. The Rural InnoVA project exists as a network of inter-regional and trans-national exchange of practical experiences, meant to make the most out of the non-agricultural factors of rural development. It is structured around 5 Components in which the Devon Rural Network is involved in the following 2:

**Component 3: Innovative Economic Activities;**  
Delimiting the innovative economic activities likely to be initiated in rural areas and to define development strategies

**Component 5; Governance and Durable Development;**  
Identifying the tools and methods of strategic analysis, territorial prospective, leading, and evaluation of rural development policies.

So far there have been 3 conferences in which Devon County Council/DRN have been involved. The first under component 3 was entitled 'Developing and adding value to agri-food resources'. The second under the same component was entitled 'The Innovation of Rural Tourism in its Adaptation to the New European Rural World'.

The first conference under component 5 comprised of a series of Case Studies about Rural Development, including Rural Housing in the South West.

We hope to soon add the details and subsequent notes on the seminars to our website as they may be of interest to our members and their clients. If you would like details on the conference, please email [sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk) and she will be happy to pass on any information.

## DRN Action Group News

### CONSULTATION RESPONSE ACTION GROUP

#### (TO INCLUDE RURAL PROOFING)

The Devon Rural Network held the inaugural meeting of its Consultation Response Action Group (CRAG) on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005. This group will provide leadership for the Devon Rural Network on consultation documents with respect to rural issues. The DRN forms a united voice for rural Devon, with specific aims to counter the effects of external policy that are negative to Devon, and to lobby for change.

To influence National, Regional, and County wide policy effectively we need to have a clear system for making judgements on those documents and representing the views of the DRN. We need to have a clear basis on which to lobby for our vision of: 'a prosperous and vibrant rural Devon in a sustainably managed environment securing a good quality of life for all, and fully valuing the diversity and distinctiveness of the County'.

The first key task of the CRAG is to develop a set of rural proofing criteria that will enable us to provide a robust and objective opinion of the impact to rural Devon of a strategy, document or policy in a clear and transparent way.

When completed this criteria will be posted on our website [www.drn.org.uk](http://www.drn.org.uk)

For more information about the Consultation Response Action Group please contact Lisa Henry: [lisa.henry@devon.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.henry@devon.gov.uk) or call 01392 382831

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### SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ACTION GROUP

The Sustainable Tourism Action Group (STAG) has met twice over the summer to look at the role and key areas of work that the STAG will undertake over the short and medium term.

The STAG will have a clear role in the process of Rural Renaissance delivery when this funding bid has been approved. However it is too early to determine exactly what the level of activity will be, this has had a knock-on effect on the group's ability to set out a clear terms of reference.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July the group were invited to a presentation of research undertaken by Perfect Moment on 'Cultural Tourism – A Devon Perspective'. This highlighted the opportunities of rural communities working in partnership to utilise their cultural assets as a tourism product. If anyone would like to receive a summary of the initial findings or anymore information about the STAG please contact Lisa Henry [lisa.henry@devon.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.henry@devon.gov.uk) or call 01392 382831

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### DEVON FORUM

Devon's voluntary and community sector (VCS) representative body, Devon Forum, is continuing to support the development of VCS infrastructure across the county.

Funded through the Home Office's ChangeUp programme, Devon Forum members are managing and running projects addressing issues encompassing young people, older people, diversity, disability, health and environment.

Working closely alongside Devon Consortium, there will also be a focus on ensuring that Devon's VCS investment plan is delivered with due consideration for rural needs. To this end, a 'rural proofing' process is being developed, with recognition that this needs to fit with similar work being led by Devon Rural Network.

For more information on Devon Forum, please contact Peter Harding: [peter@devonrcc.org.uk](mailto:peter@devonrcc.org.uk) or call 01392 382832

## ENVIRONMENT DEVON

Environment Devon is a group which pre existed the Devon Rural Network and with whom we have a reciprocal arrangement to ensure that information flows both ways.

As yet there have been no direct meetings between the DRN and Environment Devon but information is flowing between the two groups.

If you would like more information please contact Phil Collins, Environment Devon Co-ordinator:

01392 889770 Or [Philip.collins@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:Philip.collins@english-nature.org.uk)

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## RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT ACTION GROUP

When the Regional Development Agency announced the Rural Renaissance Programme the three District Councils of East, Mid Devon and Teignbridge decided to form an informal group to submit a bid for Rural Renaissance funding for Rural Business Support covering those three District areas. Since then the Rural Business Support Group has become part of the Devon Rural Network's Rural Renaissance bid, with Rural Business Support being one of the three themes of the overall bid.

The group has grown and now consists of representatives of private businesses, educational representatives and the public sector organisations including Exeter City from the Exeter and Heart of Devon area.

Members of the group have included several rural business projects for consideration under the Rural Renaissance bid designed to help small and medium sized businesses operating in the rural area and to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in the running of their businesses by being located in the rural area. Once the Regional Development Agency have agreed the initial outline of the Rural Renaissance project the group will prepare an action and delivery plan for Rural Business Support projects in the Exeter and Heart of Devon area.

For more information on the Rural Business Support Action Group please contact

[Lisa.henry@devon.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.henry@devon.org.uk) or telephone 01392 382831

Or

[gwalker@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:gwalker@teignbridge.gov.uk) or telephone 01626 215102.

## SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND FOOD ACTION GROUP

The Sustainable Farming and Food Action group has recently welcomed a number of new members to the group which now includes representatives from Devon Wildlife Trust, Land Heritage, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, SW Forest, Taste of the West, National Trust, NFU, WestDEN, FWAG, Small Farms Association, Global Action Plan, English Farming and Food Partnership and Local Authorities.

The main action plan has just undergone a review to prioritise actions for the coming months and the group will be holding a series of focused meetings/events to take forward their delivery. Key actions will include supporting rural women and their role in farming and rural communities, further investigation into the viability of upland farming and the areas of support required including alternative income sources as well as the ERDP support schemes. A number of funding sources are available to us including the DRN Rural Renaissance bid which we continue to feed into.

Regular group meetings have been an excellent way of sharing information and the group has been able to keep updated with current issues including TB and farm waste regulations. Updated information on the main farming and food issues will be available on the DRN web site along with links to further information available on the internet.

For more information on the Sustainable Farming and Food Action Group please contact Kate Harris at [kate.harris@devon.gov.uk](mailto:kate.harris@devon.gov.uk) or telephone 01392 383205



## Membership News

### BLACKDOWN HILLS RURAL PARTNERSHIP

#### Round-up News

In common with many other AONB's Blackdown Hills are delighted to have been awarded £100,000 worth of Sustainable Development Fund. This will enable the rural partnership to forward a number of exciting projects that have been quietly simmering on the back burner. In response to this funding, the partnership is now looking for other exciting projects which could benefit from this money. Projects need to help to deliver the aims and objectives of the Blackdown Hills Management Plan – Please contact Carmel Wilkinson 01823 680735 email [carmel.wilkinson@devon.gov.uk](mailto:carmel.wilkinson@devon.gov.uk)

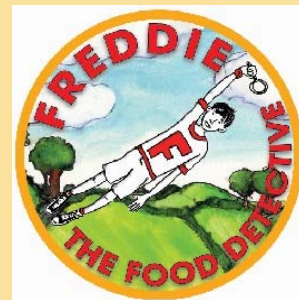
Some terrific Leader+ projects have recently been given the green light. **New Eyes** is a strategic arts project that will help to highlight the range of talented artists we have in the Blackdown Hills and give them the opportunity to market and promote their work to a much wider audience. A conference will be held in the autumn to officially launch the project and to start getting artists on board. Below is an example of artwork by Gordon Field, inspired by the Blackdown Hills landscape:



**Woodland Certification Workshops** are planned for August focussing on awareness raising amongst Blackdown Hills woodlands workforce and owners about the potential of a chain of custody scheme for the Hills. For more information please contact Warren Doe – Tel 01823 680626.

On the **tourism** side there are a number of great projects in development, including working with local groups to develop walking resources for the local community and visitors, a strategic cycling project, an equine directory and an alternative health centre. Form more information please contact: Corinne Matthews Tel 01823 680681

#### Freddies Dinners!



Freddies Dinners follows on from the very successful schools project *Freddie the Food Detective*, taking the initiative the next step from seeking out the healthy foods to be had in the Blackdown Hills to encouraging families to cook with them! The project is being led by the East Devon Primary Care Trust who see this project as a logical progression from the *five a day initiative*.

For more details contact Clive Essame on 0781 2104670.

Finally a project aimed at helping to build community capacity within all the business sectors in the Blackdown Hills has just been launched. Titled **Community Outreach in the Blackdown Hills Rural Area** (COBRA) aims to help communities (geographical or business) to come together to access bespoke education and training. Each group will have different needs and aspirations and hopefully this project will really help to provide wider economic opportunities for many of the Blackdown Hills Community. The Project is being managed by the Community Council for Devon, and for more details contact Tanya Millard 01392 383357

Please visit [www.blackdown-hills.net](http://www.blackdown-hills.net) for more information about any of the above.

### NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

As part of the NFU's 'Making Green Ground' campaign key policy makers and opinion formers in Devon and Cornwall were recently invited to a farm visit in the Tamar Valley to demonstrate the environment-friendly nature of much of the farming in the South West. More than 8,500 farmers in the region have agri-environment agreements covering nearly a third of the farmed area, double the national average, and with 86% of our rivers classified 'good quality' they are far cleaner than the rest of the country. Tree planting is increasing by around 1,000 hectares a year.

The awareness-raising campaign explains that, at the same time as having an unprecedented opportunity to become more market focussed and self-reliant, as well as hugely increasing their participation in environmental stewardship schemes, farmers are facing a rising tide of environmental expectations which will make their role even more complex and challenging.

The visit emphasised that underpinning an attractive, well-managed countryside - vital to tourism - there has to be a profitable agriculture.

For more information contact Mike Ellingham on 01392 440713 or email to [michael.ellingham@nfu.org.uk](mailto:michael.ellingham@nfu.org.uk)



### RURAL FUTURES UNIT

The Rural Futures Unit of the University of Plymouth is pleased to announce its forthcoming conference:

**The Rural Citizen: governance, culture and wellbeing in the 21st century**

**At the University of Plymouth, United Kingdom  
5-7 April 2006**

Keynote sessions will include both academics and practitioners chosen for their authority, creativity and impact. Contributed papers will be sought in the second announcement. There will also be a stimulating programme of relevant visits and evening events.

The conference will be of interest to academics in a wide range of disciplines, including geography, health, social and cultural studies, politics, agricultural and rural development studies, and will be relevant to those working in business, government and public services, and the voluntary sector in rural areas.

In case this is not enough, Plymouth has one of the most beautiful situations of any English city, on the southern coast between Devon and Cornwall. It lies within easy reach of the stunning coastal, moorland and pastoral landscapes of the South West peninsula, offering excellent opportunities for an extended stay in the area.

Whether you are directly employed in the processes of rural development, or an academic engaged in studying those processes, you should be there! If you are at all interested, please complete the short form at the following link so that we can keep you informed (this implies no commitment on your part): [http://www.geog.plym.ac.uk/rural\\_futures\\_conf\\_1que.htm](http://www.geog.plym.ac.uk/rural_futures_conf_1que.htm)

For further information please contact: -  
Rural Futures Unit  
School of Geography  
University of Plymouth  
email: [rural.futures@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:rural.futures@plymouth.ac.uk)  
phone: +44 (0)1752 238462  
fax: +44 (0)1752 233054  
Rural Futures:  
<http://www.geog.plym.ac.uk/ruralfutures>



## FARMING AND FOOD UPDATE

### Upland Farming

A recent report published by the National Trust highlighted the vulnerability of upland farms post CAP reform. A large number of Devon's farm will be affected by changes in the support payments system and will have to look to environmental stewardship and diversification if they are to continue to be viable. The report highlighted the value of upland farms in maintaining and managing the landscape which is a feature of some of our main tourist areas including Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks.

### Bovine TB

Devon continues to be one of the Bovine TB hotspots, to date this year over half a million cattle have been tested and over 1000 herds are under movement restriction in the County. The long term effects of this disease continuing to threaten our beef and dairy herds as well as our wildlife population is a major concern and there is a strong push for action to get on top of the disease.

### Planning events

AgriBIP in partnership with Devon Rural Network, Local Planning Authorities and DEFRA's RDS are organising a series of free workshop evenings to discuss issues around development control and diversification projects. A planning officer will be present along with a member of DEFRA's RDS team to talk about potential grant funding. The first two events will be held at South Hams District Council on 5<sup>th</sup> September and The Ockment Centre Okehampton on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, both starting at 7.30

For more information please contact Kate Harris on 01392 383205 or email [kate.harris@devon.org.uk](mailto:kate.harris@devon.org.uk)

## BROADBAND FOR DEVON

### Exciting EU Subsidies Available To Stimulate Business Growth in Devon

We don't often hear of a project set-up to give money to businesses, but that is exactly what Broadband4Devon exists to do.

Funding from the European Union's Objective 2 programme, the South West Regional Development Agency and Partners, means Broadband4Devon can provide Information and Communications Technology (ICT) advice and guidance to businesses in rural Devon, together with subsidies to encourage connection and development.

The purpose of Broadband4Devon is to contribute to the economic success of Devon by providing the ICT knowledge and subsidies to help businesses connect to broadband, and then use broadband as part of a successful business growth strategy. All this at no cost to your business.

Broadband4Devon does not sell broadband or anything else – just gives subsidies to businesses which want to make the most of technology. No catch, no massive forms to complete.

For more detailed information regarding the Broadband4Devon project and the Catalyst4Growth programme visit [www.broadband4devon.org.uk](http://www.broadband4devon.org.uk) or [www.catalyst4growth.org.uk](http://www.catalyst4growth.org.uk)



### PROJECT 5X30

5X30 is a local project to encourage and support people to be more active, more often in their everyday life. 5X30 covers 91 parishes including the towns of Okehampton, Hatherleigh, Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton. 30 minutes of moderate physical activity, 5 times a week can significantly assist in maintaining good health.

The **5X30 Project Team** can provide hands on support, motivation and help to establish new physical activities in your community through:

- **Information**  
Details of facilities, activities and contacts available to you in local community
- **Advice**  
5X30 Community Activators are available with advice to ensure that you are aware of what is available
- **Support**  
Available to provide motivation, training and initial support for individuals and groups
- **Assistance**  
Resources available to assist groups and individuals overcome barriers to getting involved in physical activity

#### Examples of physical activity you may like to start in your community

- Tree planting in the local community
- Setting up a salsa dance group in the village hall
- Finding suitable transport to the nearest swimming pool
- Finding out what activities are already going on in your area

If your organisation would like to take part in the 5X30 Project, please contact the Project Co-ordinator, Esther Richmond 01884 234390 or your local community activator:

Cullompton:	Ruth Tucker	07967 17966
Crediton:	Lynn Burrow	07976 959644
Okehampton:	Stuart Lord	07967 179662
Tiverton;	Zane McCormack	07976 963827

Visit the website: [www.5X30.org](http://www.5X30.org)



### HOW TO SECURE LONGER TERM FUNDING FOR YOUR VILLAGE HALL OR COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Planning for success, not survival!**

**Tuesday 20th September 2005 9.30am – 4.30pm**  
**South Brent Village Hall, South Brent (just off A38 nr Ivybridge) South Hams**

£10 per person – includes buffet lunch and refreshments. This fee is subsidized by funding from the European Regional Development Fund and the Countryside Agency.

This workshop is aimed specifically at volunteer members of Village Hall committees and volunteer fundraisers for community buildings. We are increasingly hearing of village halls facing a funding crisis and even questioning their survival. With grants getting ever harder to come by, some communities are taking a fresh enterprising approach to more sustainable fundraising. By perhaps capitalizing on their assets, planning ahead and exploring new ways of generating a regular income, village halls can make a steady profit (to re-invest to the village hall course!)

This event will provide you with:

- An opportunity to network, share ideas and hear about successful case studies of trading enterprises, grant schemes and loans accessed by other hall committees.
- Training on business planning, cash-flow management, the legalities of trading, sustainable fundraising strategies and social enterprise solutions.
- Follow up one-to-one surgeries about your particular fundraising dilemmas or development plans will be available for delegates.

The training will be run by:  
Dawn Eckhart, Social Enterprise Worker, CCD  
Sue Morrish, Co-Active Business Support Manager  
Andrea Leplae, Village Hall Adviser, CCD

For more information contact: Dawn Eckhart, CCD on 01392 383457 or email [dawn@devonrcc.org.uk](mailto:dawn@devonrcc.org.uk)

Contact Gail to book: 01392 383443 or email [gail@devonrcc.org.uk](mailto:gail@devonrcc.org.uk)

A booking form and more information is available on our Training pages of our website [www.devonrcc.org.uk](http://www.devonrcc.org.uk)



## Strategic News

### DEVON AONBs SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

A Sustainable Development Fund has been made available to each of the AONB's in Devon by Defra, to support the conservation and enhancement of these special landscapes. Grants will be available to individuals and organisations within or outside the AONB's until February 2006 for a wide range of sustainable development initiatives.

The fund, which provides an additional £100,000 to each of the AONB's, represents a wonderful opportunity for the Partnerships to drive forward and support sustainable development within their areas. It will also enable the AONB's to engage with communities across a broad range of environmental, social and economic projects, ranging from small scale local schemes to larger more strategic initiatives.

The grants will be overseen by panels established by each AONB Partnership. It is anticipated that continued funding will be made available for 2006-8. For further information on the fund and/or a preliminary discussion on your project, please contact your local AONB:

East Devon AONB	tel 01395 517557
Blackdown Hills AONB	tel 01823 680681
North Devon AONB	tel 01237 423655
South Devon AONB	tel 01803 861142
Tamar AONB	tel 01579 351477

### DEFRA – RURAL SOCIAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

The rural social and community programme has its origins in Lord Haskin's 'Review of Rural Delivery', published in October 2003. The review included recommendations designed to address what were regarded as complex rural policy and delivery mechanisms. The general message was a need to decentralise, with more key decisions to be taken at a regional or local level.

The largest part of this new fund will be a flexible fund that delivers DEFRA objectives, namely, tackling rural social exclusion and community capacity building, through locally determined projects that more accurately reflect local needs. The programme will also be delivered within the context of the regional rural delivery frameworks and the Rural Community Council's service level agreements.

GOSW organised a consultation event on July 21<sup>st</sup> for the South West region to discuss the programme. Including how monies might be allocated and the delivery mechanism that would be used to ensure that delivery of services in rural areas are appropriate to the circumstances.

The specific aims of the programme are:

- To enhance the community capacity building capability of rural communities so that those communities can work together to shape their own future.
- To help socially excluded individuals in rural communities improve their life chances.
- To develop the capacity of the voluntary and community sector, and of the town and parish council sector, to reinforce the delivery of the first two aims.

These aims take forward commitments made in Rural Strategy 2004 and DEFRA's 5-year Strategy, to support sustainable rural communities and to tackle rural social exclusion wherever it occurs.

The programme is a three-part, two year programme worth £27 million over the two years from April 2006. It will be split into three simple strands:

- Funding for Rural Community Councils
- Support for activity at sub-regional or local level
- Funding for Nationally important projects

To further the discussions a sub-regional workshop was conducted in July 05 at Bridgwater to gain agreement on: the delivery mechanism; what are the important issues; and business as usual or big changes? It was suggested that the funding for each sub region would be in the region of £100,000 - £200,000 pa – however please note that it is likely that a large proportion will be spent on continuing projects and staff already in place – where they are proving effective.

The suggestion from the Devon group was for the Devon Rural Network (DRN) to be the delivery mechanism for the programme. Subsequent discussions have suggested that the ring fenced money would be channelled through the Local Area Agreement first, but to acknowledge that the DRN exists to represent rural interests and is therefore the best fit in terms of overseeing delivery.

The next step is to organise a wider consultation event in Devon to engage and discuss the process further, this is to be organised in conjunction with GOSW who will attend this event and assist in planning the development stage of the process.

Watch the website for further developments and dates.

For further information on the initial consultation, which closes on 13<sup>th</sup> October, please go to: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/rsc-programme/index.htm>

## THE VALIDITY OF FOOD MILES AS AN INDICATOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DEFRA have commissioned this study to assess whether a practical and reliable indicator based on food miles can be developed, and whether this would be a valid indicator of progress towards the objectives of the government’s Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy and the proposed Food Industry Sustainability Strategy.

### The study has undertaken four key tasks:

1. To compile a food miles dataset covering the supply chain from farmer (both UK and overseas) to consumer for 1992, 1997 and 2002.
2. To assess the main trends leading to increases in food miles around the UK and overseas.
3. To identify and quantify the economic, environmental and social impacts of food miles.
4. To develop a set of key indicators which relate food miles to their main impacts on sustainability.

### Study Findings:

The key finding of the study was that a single indicator based on total food kilometres is an inadequate indicator of sustainability. To capture the complexities of the issue, they recommend a suite of indicators which reflect the key adverse impacts of food transport.

It was noted that data is available to provide and update a set of indicators on an annual basis. The key transport stages are covered by good quality DfT and HM Customs and Excise statistics gathered annually. The transport of food has significant and growing impacts for the UK and Internationally. For example food transport accounted for an estimated 30 billion vehicle kilometres in 2002, of which 82% were in the UK.

One of the major impacts of food miles is congestion and the associated environmental, economic and social factors. The total costs are very significant compared with the gross value added of the agriculture sector (£6.4 billion), and the food and drink manufacturing sector (£19.8 billion) in 2002.

For more information and the full report please follow the link below:

<http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/foodmiles/final.pdf>



## DEVON AFFORDABLE WARMTH

### Rural Energy Champion Scheme in Devon

An energy champion scheme is underway in Devon to reach vulnerable households in rural and remote communities.

The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy recognises that households in rural areas are more likely to be living in fuel poverty than those in urban areas. Rural households are more likely to be living in housing with low-energy efficiency standards, are less likely to have mains gas (currently the cheapest fuel for space and water heating) and thus face higher fuel costs. The problem of fuel poverty in rural areas is often compounded by other issues such as poor rural transport, dispersed service provision and lack of access to specialist advice and support networks. Rural fuel poor households may be difficult to identify, by virtue of their isolation, yet evidence shows that working with trusted professionals and/ or those active within the community can be an effective way to engage local people.

National Energy Action has secured funding from Defra to work with four Rural Energy Champions in Devon and support the work of each of the champions with a £1,000 and an opportunity to free training City & Guilds 6176 in Energy Awareness. Each champion will organise small-scale community events and signpost vulnerable householders to energy advice. Four Energy Champions have been selected to promote energy efficiency in rural communities in Mid Devon, West Devon, East Devon and South Hams.

For more information please contact Martin Eibl on [martin.eibl@nea.org.uk](mailto:martin.eibl@nea.org.uk).

### Warming up community buildings

Do you know a town or parish hall that could do with better insulation or more energy efficient heating systems? You can apply for a grant of up to £3,000 from National Energy Action (NEA) to improve the energy efficiency of a community building. The community building should be open to all parts of the community, have a reasonable hiring schedule and it should be owned by a community association or similar with a lease of more than 5 years. Interested?

Please contact Martin Eibl on [martin.eibl@nea.org.uk](mailto:martin.eibl@nea.org.uk) for more details.

## DEFRA GRANTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Rural communities, rural economies and the environment have all benefited from Defra's England Rural Development Programme (ERDP).

The ERDP Annual Report 2004 shows that substantial progress is being made towards realising the ambitious environmental, social and economic outcomes envisaged in the Programme.

For example, in the last year alone:

- Over 2,000 full time equivalent jobs were created or sustained under new Rural Enterprise Scheme projects;
- Over 29,000 training days were secured for farmers and foresters under the Vocational Training Scheme.
- 6,000 hectares of new woodland were approved to be planted under Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme agreements;
- Countryside Stewardship agreements, reached a total estimated cumulative area of 325,000 hectares;
- Environmentally Sensitive Area agreements reached a total estimated cumulative area of 132,000 hectares;
- 16 collaborative marketing ventures were established under new Processing and Marketing Grant projects;

Rural Affairs Minister Jim Knight said:

"As well as delivering real benefits for rural communities, their economies and the environment, the ERDP also helps farmers to diversify their businesses, reconnect with their markets and acquire the skills they need to manage their businesses viably and competitively in response to the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme."

Of the 10 schemes originally brought together under the collective banner of the ERDP, 5 of them were effectively closed to new applicants during the year in preparation for the introduction of two new schemes to replace them.

The Countryside Stewardship, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Organic Farming Schemes were closed to new applicants to be replaced by a single scheme called Environmental Stewardship in March 2005.

The Woodland Grant Scheme and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme were also closed to new applicants to be replaced by the new English Woodland Grant Scheme, managed by the Forestry Commission in July 2005.

As part of Rural Strategy 2004, Defra has reviewed its funding streams for rural areas. The Department is committed to reducing the current range of schemes and programmes to a framework based around three major funds targeted to the three Departmental strategic priorities impacting on rural areas:

- environmental land management and natural resource protection;
- sustainable rural communities;
- sustainable food and farming.

This approach aims to achieve greater simplicity for customers and to improve value for money; it is being implemented progressively, with the final stage to be completed with the roll out of the next rural development programme (2007-2013).

Further details of the funding streams review can be found at:

[www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/funding/default.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/funding/default.htm).

Defra is now preparing for the successor to the ERDP, which will operate from 2007 to 2013. A full public consultation on the proposed new European draft Rural Development Regulation was held over the Summer of 2004 after the first draft of the regulation was published in July 2004.

The experience of operating rural development measures since 2000 and before will be used to inform decisions to be taken about the future structure and delivery arrangements for the ERDP from 2007 onwards.



## Listings and events

### August

#### South West Forest

South West Forest is holding 3 local events this month:

- Charcoal Making – 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
2 day event, £50 Inc VAT, being held in Hatherleigh.
- Tree Identification – 26<sup>th</sup> August  
1 day event, £35 Inc VAT, Being held at Cookworthy Forest Centre, Cookworthy Moor, Beaworthy.
- Tree and Timber Measurement – 31<sup>st</sup> August  
1 day event, £35 Inc VAT, held at Trunelshute Woods, Nr. Barnstaple.

For more information or to book on one of these days, call 01409 221896 or email [swforest@devon.gov.uk](mailto:swforest@devon.gov.uk)

#### County Market 26<sup>th</sup> August

Allin Bewes who is a Torrridge District Councillor and a farmer is organising a one off County Market on Bideford Quay on Friday 26th August 9am to 3pm.

There will be a large range of produce on sale from wild boar and beef to fresh bread and honey. If you are interested in holding your own stall, or wish for more information, please contact Allin on 01409 281205

### September

#### Kingsbridge Show 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Borough Farm, Kingsbridge

#### Planning and diversification seminars

AgriBIP in partnership with District Councils, DEFRA's Regional Development Service and DRN are holding 2 evening events for farmers and landowners on planning issues concerning diversification projects. There will be presentations by local planning officers on the planning process and planning applications and DEFRA's RDS team looking at potential grant funding.

The events are free of and will commence at 7.30

**Monday 5th September**, South Hams District Council Offices, Follaton House, Totnes

**Wednesday 21st September**, Okement Centre, Okehampton.

#### Business Link

- Self Assessment for the Self Employed – 6<sup>th</sup> September, please call 0845 600 99 66
- Excel the 1<sup>st</sup> Steps – 6<sup>th</sup> September & 29<sup>th</sup> September, £199 + Vat. Please call 0845 245 0417

#### Forestry Commission

- Managing Neglected Woodlands 15<sup>th</sup> September, £35 inc VAT at Chumleigh
- Thinning of Woodlands 20<sup>th</sup> September, £35 inc VAT at Cookworthy Forest Centre, Beaworthy

For more information or to book please call 01409 221986 or email [swforest@devon.gov.uk](mailto:swforest@devon.gov.uk)

#### South West Woodland Show 16<sup>th</sup> Sept

Forestry and Timber Association event held at Devon & Exeter Racecourse, Haldon, nr Exeter.

#### Sustainable Local Food Sector

**Conference 19<sup>th</sup> September** – held by Somerset Food Links & Co-operatives Group UK  
A conference to explore opportunities offered by a local food system. To book call Vivi on 01458 259485 or email [vivieng@foodlinks.org.uk](mailto:vivieng@foodlinks.org.uk)

### October

#### Hemyock 'Village Tasting' Of Local Produce From the Blackdown Hills

A wide selection of local food and drink producers will be holding a free 'Village Tasting' at Hemyock Primary School on Wednesday 5th October 7:30 - 9:30 pm.

#### 4 Day Cattle Foot Trimming Course-

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October**, Duchy College Vocational Training Scheme Event

### November

#### Grass Challenge Annual Conference

8<sup>th</sup> November at Lakeview Country Club, Bodmin

If you have anything you wish to submit for the next edition of the newsletter please email: [sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.streeter@devon.gov.uk)