

Sampford Peverell and District Sustainable Villages

Chairman's Annual Report for 2015

Sustainable Villages has continued to flourish over the last year, we now have nearly 500 members on the **email list**.

We've run quite a range of activities, all with a **sustainability** theme. The **Give or Take** events continue to be a very popular way of recycling unwanted items, having been held in Tiverton Pannier Market in April and also in the Creativ-Hub shop in November.

A variation on Give or Take was held in May, when it was for **plants and seeds**. This was well received so we would like to hold another one this year.

Uffculme Green Team is now under the Sustainable Villages umbrella and has run Give or Take stalls too, as one of their many activities on a recycling theme. This team, and Delia in particular, are now busy planning the next Uffculme Green Day, to be held on Saturday 14 May.

Through our '**Recycle for Free**' system, using emails and parish magazines, we have helped to find new homes for many unwanted items.

We also provided encouragement and support to Mid Devon District Council in their efforts to introduce a doorstep **plastic recycling service**.

We became part of The **Devon Re-use forum** in July. This brings together a wide variety of organizations in Devon that ensure that almost everything can be reused rather than sent to landfill for mutual support and information sharing.

The community **beekeeping** group continues with a buzz, with all 4 hives having been productive during the year. Due to the weather, the quantity of honey was reduced from 2014, but the bees are healthy enough to give them a good start in 2016, weather permitting!

Efforts were put into identifying roofs on community buildings suitable for **solar panels**, in conjunction with the community cooperative company Brendon Energy, unfortunately none could be proceeded with for one reason or another. Still, we tried!

A **Repair Cafe** is held once a month in Tiverton, now in its second year, it benefits from the enthusiasm and skills of those who give their time and expertise to help mend things. Attendance was low in some months and other times were very busy. Further publicity through the local press, leaflets, flyers and word of mouth does seem to be getting the message out to people.

What has now become a regular annual event is the **apple fair**, which we held at Magelake in Uffculme for the first time – previously it had always been in Sampford Peverell. The extra space in Uffculme, with adjacent car park, proved to be an excellent venue, and one that we hope to use again.

We have continued to support members of the Ecological Land Co-operative at their smallholdings in **Greenham Reach** in whatever ways we can. Over 60 people attended their open day in September, and they have also had school visits to see how they are managing to live sustainably.

We organised an Open Day at **East Devon Forest Garden**, a permaculture site. It is in early stages and we were pleased to support Sagara. Since our visit, he has gone from strength to strength. We were able to see his eco swimming pool and learn about techniques and ideas ranging from rocket stoves, to creating micro climates and how to grow plants in sympathy with themselves and the surrounding environment. Anyone wishing to know more can google East Devon Forest Garden.

Looking ahead to 2016, we have more events in the pipeline for you to attend. I've already mentioned that there will be another plant **Give or Take**, probably in May, and that **Uffculme Green Day** is on 14 May. In addition, we're considering showing more films, if this evening's viewing proves to be popular. We also have more **films** available to borrow. A '**Visioning Day**' is being planned in the spring and an **apple day** in the autumn.

In conclusion, thanks to all who have worked so hard to put on these events, and to those who have supported them. We are always open to new **ideas** for initiatives, especially if you're willing to play a part in bringing them about. So do please come and talk to any of the committee later this evening and let us hear your ideas. Thank you.