



Challenging climate change by promoting and supporting sustainable lifestyles in the Ovingham area

www.greenovingham.org.uk or see our page on



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Welcome to our 2010 Christmas newsletter.

It's been a busy year for the group and here's a brief rundown of what we've been up to:

- We co-ordinated a well attended 'Go Green' event involving 3 local schools and many local environmental groups;
- we took an information stall to the Corbridge Deanery Environmental Awareness/Eco-day;
- we launched a community carbon footprint survey;
- we co-ordinated the waste management at the Goose Fair so that for the first time none of the waste went to landfill and lots of it was recycled;
- we've established recycling on the playing field;
- we had a successful stall at the Goosefair and
- this year are running green craft activities at the Reading Room Christmas Craft Fair
- On 13th November we held a public meeting with our MP Guy Opperman (one of our members acts as his Environmental Buddy) who gave an address and answered local people's questions on the government's agenda for the environment. Check out our website for a full report.



The Green Ovingham Stall at the Goose Fair



Hexham MP Guy Opperman answers our environmental questions

We start next year with our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 7pm on Sunday 9th Jan 2011, Ovingham Reading Room, Blackett Room

You will be very welcome to this and to our regular meetings which, from Feb 6th will be held at 7pm in the Reading Room on the first Sunday of the month.

Happy Green Christmas from Green Ovingham



Green tips for Christmas

Try our tips for more environmentally and people-friendly Christmas gifts:

- Plant a tree as a present;
 - Buy seeds and a plant pot;
 - Give a promise present;
 - Give a craft kit;
 - Adopt an endangered animal;
 - Give a hamper full of locally-produced food;
 - Give theatre or cinema tickets;
 - Book a meal in a restaurant;
 - Give a subscription to a magazine/dvd rental company;
 - Buy presents that don't use batteries;
 - If it has to be a computer game – what about “The Fate of the “World””;
 - Give a family game or jigsaw (try greenboardgames.com);
 - Give an environmental book (See book review below)
- Or try these websites:
- www.love-eco.co.uk
 - www.ecogo.co.uk/shop/2-Go-shop/
 - www.goodgifts.org
 - www.ethicalsuperstore.com
 - www.greengiftideas.co.uk
 - www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped
 - www.presentaid.org; www.freecycle.org

Buy locally-produced presents *and* food, at a Christmas special local farmers market in Hexham on 11 December.

And finally...

Buy recycled cards/charity cards – or make your own; don't use paper plates and cups; get ideas for making your own crackers (www.absolutelycrackers.com) and find out where to recycle cards (www.woodland-trust.org.uk)



Green tips for 2011

New Year is a good time for change, take up a new habit.

Use public transport:

GO loves the new Prudhoe Bank Bus Service
 From 8.43 to 16.13 the no.11 bus runs half-hourly from the Rail Interchange to Prudhoe Front Street (Lloyds TSB) – at 13 and 43 past the hour. (Saturday service from 8.13 to 18.43.)
 From 9.37 to 16.07 the service runs half-hourly from Prudhoe Front Street (Coop) to the Rail Interchange – at 7 and 37 past. (Saturday service from 8.07 to 19.07)

However, the changed 686 service to Prudhoe starts at 10.13 at Ovingham - too late for meetings at 10.00. Write to the bus company!

Full timetable at www.simplygo.com.

Help destroy the Alien Invaders:

The Tyne river bank has three nasty and even dangerous alien invaders, Giant Hogweed (contact with skin and eyes causes rashes and blindness), Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam (both shade out our native plants). See our website for identification.

The most persistent and easiest to pull up is Himalayan Balsam. Join Marion Lewis for an hour or two in a session of 'Balsam Bashing' – use your family's excess energy in early summer. Contact Marion at: ovinghambalsam@hotmail.co.uk.

Assess your carbon footprint

Green Ovingham has provided a carbon footprint calculator on its website. Find out how we use energy and release carbon. When completed, the

survey provides 10 tips on how we might save money with a better use of energy.

Buy local food

Try shopping at our local farmer's market every second and fourth Saturday morning in Hexham

Go gardening.... with GO's Garden Share Scheme

Do you have a garden that you can't make the most of? Or do you lack access to a garden but would love to grow your own fresh food, herbs and flowers? Our garden share scheme aims to link up underused gardens with would be gardeners. If you would like to be involved please contact Bridget Broadhurst on 01661 835096 to discuss details of the scheme and how it will work. Alternatively e-mail: broadhursts@croftview.freeserve.co.uk



And we'd love you to start year by coming to our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. You will be made very welcome!

Midwinter Joys A to Z	ploughed Fields
Apple crumble	double Glazing
Bed socks	shared Happiness
Brussels sprouts	a Hot water bottle
the red-breasted Bullfinch	Holly berries
Candlelight in the window	loft Insulation
Carrot and swede casserole	an Oxfam woolly Jumper
Contentment	a Letter from my MP
a cheerful bus Driver	Laughter
an English apple	a russet-coloured Larch
Family	handknit woolly Mittens



Book Review

Chris Goodall: How to live a low-carbon life – Second Edition 2010 Earthscan, 320 pages
 This is a good reference book on how our everyday lives generate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. It deals with jet travel, jewellery, standby power, packaging, energy 'embedded' in imported goods and on the CO₂ generated by the food we eat (from fertiliser production to the supermarket), etc. In UK we are each now responsible for about 14 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year. To meet the government target for emissions the total needs to fall to about 2 tonnes by 2050. The book provides information and practical suggestions on how to reduce our personal responsibility for climate change. A low-carbon lifestyle can even be fun and save us a lot of money - as well as the planet!

PB copy £14.99 but through David Archer (davearcher@yahoo.com) at 20% discount (£11.99)

Midwinter Joys (contd.)	Radio 3
the NHS	carol Singers
Northumbrian stone walls	early Sunset over the river
Nine Lessons and Carols	the Stepping stones
Beethoven's Ode to Joy	fish jumping in the Tyne
a Pompom bonnet	Thermals
a blackbird in the Pyracantha	a greener Vision
a Phone call from a friend	a Village jumble sale
Pooh Sticks	clean tap Water
'the Queen' on Christmas Day	a Woodpecker in the garden
Roasted Chestnuts	early spears of spring Wheat
a Robin helping me dig	You and your smile
a crowing Rooster	

