

SLACC tt ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

Introduction and Summary

There are many individuals who should be thanked for their work this year. I am not going to mention individuals in this report because that would inevitably mean leaving some out, but that does not in any way diminish the significance of their work this year.

This year has seen some significant National and International developments from which it is difficult to separate our local achievements, Whilst both the "recession" (A term I am reluctant to use given its implications of continued growth) and the OCCUPY movement have raised wider awareness of the deficiencies of capitalism. Unfortunately that awareness still tends to assume a return to growth both Nationally and locally, worrying considering the report of the IEA in November that we have only 5 years to act on climate change,

The impacts of these factors clearly impact on our work. Whilst funding is harder to find for projects, it is fair to say that this encourages us to do more on our links with the community and the continued development of what might be called "self help" projects. The list below gleaned from a years worth of newsletters gives a snapshot of the enormous importance of this work.

The news earlier in the year of a survey showing that cycling in Kendal has increased by 11% since 2007 must be partly attributable to the work that slacc tt has done over the last 3 years to encourage cycling in Kendal. It would be great if we were able to measure some of our other achievements so readily. Some of you will be aware of the Brampton Survey carried out this year (search "Sustainable Brampton Survey" on Google) and the importance of its findings. It demonstrates the difficulties of significantly changing behavior in a world of global air travel which so easily counteracts local effort. On the other hand we should not forget that change often happens initially in slow increments, which are no less important than the sudden shifts in mindset that often happen as a result of that slow awareness raising, often stimulated by some significant "trigger". Our work is often slow and frustrating but I am confident that our efforts are significant in preparing the ground for such a shift.

TRUSTEES 2011-12

Chair	Chris Rowley
Treasurer	Judy Morris
Secretary	Gwen Harrison
Vice Chair	Edward Acland
Membership secretary	Colin Sutherland
	Liz Ashburn
	Maggie Mason
	Gareth Thomas

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Slacctt has a duty to demonstrate its public benefit. This is demonstrated

through “the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment” and is achieved through specific projects designed to reduce South Lakeland’s overall greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. The group works both at grassroots and in conjunction with other local groups, local councils and regional organisations where appropriate. As part of the Transition movement it seeks to involve people at all levels in its aims. The achievements listed below all in some way contribute to these aims.

MEMBERSHIP

Our paid up membership is approximately 65 whilst the e mail newsletter is sent to nearer 563.

CAMPAIGNS

Fracking Much work over the Year including representation at the camp in Lancashire in September

Tar Oil extraction Sterling work ,particularly in lobbying Tim Farron.

Zero Carbon Britain A wet cycle ride (You know who you are!) to lobby Tim Farron in Milnthorpe

FINANCES and FUNDING

Our funds are often restricted to specific projects governed by the terms of the grants received, though this year we have managed to establish a slightly larger unrestricted or general fund balance from membership and small sums carried forward. Key funders in 2011 were:

LEAF funding for SENS from DECC supported by slacc tt

Active Travel Project received funding from the National Park

Biked Up (Mintfest 2012) received funding from the Hadfield Trust

PRESENTATIONS and REPRESENTATIONS

Presentations to : Brahma Kumaris (Februray 2012)

Churches together in Cumbria (May)

Kendal in Bloom Presentations (July)

Liberal Demorats (December)

Unitarian Church in Kendal (May)

Representations on : SLDC Climate Change Task and Finish Group

The Green Party Cambridge Conference on alternatives to Growth Feb. 2012

Meetings with : Town Councillors

Kendal Futures

MEETINGS and CONFERENCES

Two workshops by Seeds of Change on ‘Facilitation’ and on ‘Consensus decision

making'.

HUB meetings have replaced Transition Futures as a form for general discussions

Bi monthly Trustee meetings

Discussions on the Localism Bill and possibilities of a survey of what is valued in Kendal

Discussions on nuclear energy and disposal

FILMS

"Just Do It" on climate activism Brewery August

"Economics of Happiness" May

NEW DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS 2011

Community Newsletters to continue the work started with the community groups day at the Town Hall last March

Development of the "Monster Mural" and display os that at : ASDA, Westmorland Shopping Centre, SLDC Lakeland House, Unitarian Chapel, Town Hall and Windermere Big Green Event.

Two articles in the new Kendal Courier (on Wild Food and Transition) More to come in 2012.

Development of Sustainable Gardens Award for Kendal in 2012

Meetings to discuss possibility f a Kendal currency in 2012

Preparations for the Mintfest 2012 "Biked Up"

Support for re-establishing "Green Drinks; in Kendal

SOCIAL EVENTS

Torchlight procession and lantern making September 2011

Celidah December 2011

100 mile meal March 2012

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Various events organized by Staveley Big Onion

Composting and sything events at Sprint Mill

Wild Food course

Bee keeping courses organized by Brigsteer bee reserve

GROUPS

Energy and Buildings

Activiies in thermal imaging, low carbon communities, chimney balloons and proposals for "heat party's"

Food

Links with Staveley big onion

Transport

Map cycle/walk routes Bowness and Windermere
Promotion of car clubs
Cycle challenge and summer of cycling
Bike maintenance

Creatives

Lantern making for Torchlight procession
Development of "Biked up"

LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS INCLUDE:

South Lakes Credit union	SENS
Staveley Big onion	PACT
The Quaker meeting	CAFS
The Unitarian Church	World Development Movement
Queen Katherine Community Garden	Windermere Reflections
Woodmatters	Green Drinls
Brigsteer Bee reserve	Cumbria Sustainability Network
Future makers	Council of all Beings
FOLD	Spirit of Adventure
Green Build festival	LETS
KSET	