

How Green is Our Valley?

Mounting awareness of the effects of climate change and rising energy costs has led to the formation of a growing number of community groups determined to tackle these challenges locally.

Clapham Community Co-operative and its Sustainability Group are engaged in projects to produce local food and foster self-sufficiency and community in village life.

Along with the growing of fruit and vegetables and the flowers to feed new hives of bees, bio-diesel is being made, home energy use is under review, and recycling is to the fore. All age groups, including children, are involved in planning, organising, planting and harvesting, and the enterprise is enriched by a generous mix of talent and resources.



▲ Learning the skills of bee-keeping *Courtesy of Clapham Community Co-operative Sustainability Group*



▲ Members of the Sustainability Group planting potatoes in a field lent by local farmer John Dawson *Courtesy of Clapham Community Co-operative Sustainability Group*



▲ Burton-in-Lonsdale Shop volunteers displaying some of their wares *Courtesy of The Craven Herald & Pioneer*

Burton-in-Lonsdale Village Shop and Post Office is one of around 150 community owned shops in England. It was bought in 2005 when under threat of closure and is co-managed by a small number of paid staff, supported by a dedicated band of volunteers. Many products are locally sourced or home made and the shop is a lifeline, especially to elderly people in the village.

Having been named as best rural retailer in the North West in 2007 and 2008, the shop is now a regional finalist in the 2011 Countryside Alliance Awards.

Settle Hydro is a community hydro electric scheme which aims to generate about 165,000 units of electricity per year - enough for around 50 homes. An Archimedean screw has been installed at Settle Weir, next to Bridge End Mill using part of the old millrace.

Settle Hydro has recently won the Climate Week Award 2011 for 'Best Community Initiative'. 300 other communities have been inspired by its success to start similar projects of their own.



▲ Delivering the Archimedean screw to site *Courtesy of Settle Hydro*

