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Land & business NORTH WEST

Hydro: Back to the future

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CLA
The Magazine for
CLA Members
in the North West

It's all go for hydro



ELLERGREEN HYDRO is rapidly paving the way for hydro schemes in the NW with a collection of schemes under its belt in operation in both the Lake District and Yorkshire. This collection is steadily growing as more landowners and farmers seek to realise their hydro potential. The current group of schemes are going through their planning and construction phases at the moment. To name a few, they include three schemes on mountain becks falling into the valley of Longsleddale north of Kendal, another scheme on a farm in the Esk Valley, and a domestic sized scheme on a farm within the Yorkshire Dales.

Ellergreen have a professional and responsible approach to the design of their schemes. The main focus being on close collaboration with experienced ecologists and using local and traditional building methods. This, along with use of the latest hydro technology, enables schemes to fit the

countryside and generate electricity without negatively impacting on the ecology of the watercourse or surrounding area.

Mark Cropper, Ellergreen's founder and a landowner himself in Cumbria started out developing his own schemes for himself, his success and experience is now put to good use with schemes for like-minded land owners and farmers looking for energy independence. Mark is passionate about supporting farm diversification with hydro as it provides the long term revenues that are sought, as well as giving independence from the rising price of energy. Ellergreen's philosophy is one of action over words and it is best experienced by visiting one of



DIVERSIFICATION: The Ellergreen Hydro Team

the operating schemes. The CLA has had several group visits to operating sites which have given members the opportunity to see all aspects of a hydro scheme. To get feedback on whether you have a viable hydro site on your land, we urge landowners to contact Ellergreen Hydro direct by sending an email with location details to info@ellergreen.com. For further information contact 07798 502755.



CLA Director General Martin Jamieson, Walker Smith Way's Dickie Williams Denton Clark's Julian Mellis and Jon Clarke with Tom and Jessica Clarke at the show

The Mighty Atom comes to Cheshire

THE STAR of one of our shows this year was an Ariel Atom, one of the world's fastest cars. The CLA, Denton Clark and Walker Smith Way joined forces at this year's Cheshire Show to help raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, which exists to find the cure for type 1 diabetes and its complications, and is the world's leading funder of type 1 diabetes research. The owner of the Atom, Jon Clarke of Hartford, Northwich, lent his rare vehicle for the show as his son, Tom, was diagnosed at the age of 7 with Type 1 Diabetes. Jon has also set up a special donation page for those who would like to help at <http://www.justgiving.com/CheshireShowAtom>

Relief as CLA wins review of septic tank regulations

THE NEWS that Defra and the Environment Agency are going to undertake a review of the regulations requiring people to register their septic tanks by January 1, 2012, has been welcomed with great relief by the CLA. The Environment Agency has now announced that the registration process is suspended for the review period, although septic tank owners can still register if they so wish.

The regulations were introduced last April, but the CLA says that communication has been poor and very few people were actually aware of the requirements. The Association has been dealing with a considerable amount of calls from concerned and confused members, and has been using its own communication channels to attempt to clarify the situation while lobbying regionally and nationally for the last nine months to have these regulations reviewed.

Carole Hodgson, CLA Assistant Regional Director said: "This review is exactly what we have been asking for. The burden on

owners and the cost of creating and maintaining the database seem totally out of proportion to any benefit, so we are very pleased with the announcement.

"In the rural areas, virtually all properties outside villages will be reliant on septic tanks, so this appeared to be simply more rural red tape.

"Of course, domestic sewage arrangements should not pollute our environment, but water courses are already subject to monitoring programmes, so problems can be identified and addressed at a local level without the need of a further database."

Full details of the consultation will be announced in the next few weeks.

For further details including the Environment Agency's Regulatory position statement see www.environment-agency.gov.uk or contact the Regional office.