

### Grapevine StewkleyGreen Sept 08

StewkleyGreen are busy working on their village survey. The full survey will provide householders with a wide range of specific answers on energy related issues, as well as a calculation of the carbon footprint for their home, vehicles flights and cruises. Jez Elkin hopes to start the new surveys in September. They will be conducted by a member of StewkleyGreen trained to help villagers gain the most from the programme. About 30 families have already requested a full survey, and many more are expected, as fuel prices increase by 35%. Roger Crews said that to get a reasonably accurate figure for the Carbon emissions of the village it will be necessary to take a 20% sample which is about 160 homes. If you would like either a short survey as published in the July Grapevine and on the web site, or to have a full survey free of charge please contact [Jez.Elkin@StewkleyGreen.org.uk](mailto:Jez.Elkin@StewkleyGreen.org.uk) or [Roger.Crews@StewkleyGreen.org.uk](mailto:Roger.Crews@StewkleyGreen.org.uk). A copy of the 'ROUGH GUIDE to Saving energy' will be given to the first 50 families completing the full survey; along with other cost saving brochures.

The initial results of the first survey show that there is an average of 1.9 adults per house. 18% of respondents had (2.0) children under 16. 89% use gas- the most efficient method of heating homes- and 8% use wood that is almost carbon neutral. Only 80% had a room thermostat, 72% a programmer and 59% had thermostatic valves; so there is considerable opportunity for cost cutting. These items can save 10-15% p.a. and pay back in under 2 years. Whereas over 90% of houses have double glazing only 77% had 3 or more inches of loft insulation. All houses with less than 6 inches of insulation are eligible for a substantial grant that is **not** means tested, meaning that the cost of having the loft insulated is only £150 to £225 which can be recovered in 1 to 2 years. Those over 70 and people on benefits pay nothing at all! Contact StewkleyGreen for help in getting the grant. Only 59% of houses had cavity wall insulation, again grants are available on similar terms to loft insulation and the pay back is 3-5 years, less if oil prices rise again. Installation companies have told StewkleyGreen that waiting times for installation of cavity wall and loft insulation have doubled to 34 days since the recent increase in gas prices and are expected to rise to 2 months in September. So act now to save on your escalating fuel bill.

95% of householders have a car and 68% have two. The average was 1.8. One third were diesel and two thirds petrol. Half did less than 10,000 miles per annum whilst 7% did over 25,000. 46% of respondents use the train regularly and 13% the bus. A quarter make cycle journeys and a third journeys on foot.

Flight details aren't fully analysed yet but 80% of the *households* made roughly 3 European flights with a half making 2.5 long haul flights. Those making business flights fly much more frequently.

CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions	Stewkley Average	UK Average
Home	10.3 tonnes	6.1
Travel	10.6 tonnes	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.9 tonnes</b>	<b>10.2</b>

So Stewkley is well above (worse than) the UK average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In fact more than double! 20 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> is equivalent to 2 million footballs full. The planet can support 1 billion people like we live, but there are currently 6 billion rising to

9+ by 2050. StewkleyGreen believe that if everyone in the village did their bit we could become Carbon Neutral in 10 years time, by reducing our consumption and adopting new technologies as they become cost effective. Understanding our current Carbon footprint is the first step towards planning how we can change our lifestyle and reduce our consumption.

To have a survey, or to help in the preparation of surveys, please contact

[Roger.Crews@StewkleyGreen.org.uk](mailto:Roger.Crews@StewkleyGreen.org.uk) 240 794. Or visit [www.StewkleyGreen.org.uk](http://www.StewkleyGreen.org.uk)