



# Network

**News**

**June 2007**

**Important Notice For All AECB Members**

The AECB's EcoBuilding Conference and AGM is being held 29th and 30th June at the Rivergreen Centre, Durham. The AGM business will be dealt with at 17.45 hours on 30th June and all members are invited to attend. The Agenda and Annual Report (including the report of the Chairman) are set out below and are also on the website.

For full details of this exciting and stimulating conference please visit [www.aecb.net](http://www.aecb.net) or refer to the advert and insert that were sent out with your Spring issue of Building for a Future. If you wish to attend you are encouraged to book as soon as possible as numbers are limited. Please note that any AECB member can attend the AGM business session only free of charge.

If you have been an AECB member for more than 12 months are you interested in standing as a Trustee of the Board? If you are interested please telephone the existing Chairman, Chris Herring, on 01484 461705. He will be able to explain what is involved and the input the AECB needs. It would also be useful to visit the member's area at [www.aecb.net](http://www.aecb.net) where minutes, reports, trustee and company information is posted.

If you have any item you wish to include on the agenda for the meeting please let Sally (email: [sally@aecb.net](mailto:sally@aecb.net) or tel: 0845 456 9773) have full details before the 15th June. The agenda, annual report, accounts, minutes of the last AGM and other relevant information can be viewed at [www.aecb.net](http://www.aecb.net) or request a hard copy.

**Agenda**

Annual General Meeting of the Association for Environment Conscious Building (Ltd)(AECB)

Meeting 17.45 hours on 30th June 2007 at the Rivergreen Centre, Durham

1. Apologies
2. To receive the minutes of the AGM held on 8th July 2006. (Note: these are available on-line at [www.aecb.net](http://www.aecb.net) or a hard copy can be requested by ringing 0845 456 9773 or e-mailing [sally@aecb.net](mailto:sally@aecb.net))
3. To receive the accounts for the financial year ending 30th September 2006.

Please note that all these documents are available on-line at [www.aecb.net](http://www.aecb.net) or hard copies can be requested by ringing 0845 456 9773 or e-mailing [sally@aecb.net](mailto:sally@aecb.net))

4. To receive the Trustees' report of the AECB's activities to year ending 30th September 2006
5. To accept the retirement of all existing Trustees
6. To elect up to 12 trustees – (for a list of those standing and profiles of each please visit the website from the 16th June)
7. To appoint Keith Bridgford and Co as auditors
8. To agree the maximum sum that can be paid to any one Trustee in the current period (Clause 5.2.1 refers)
9. To discuss and determine any issues of policy or deal with any other business

The AECB is a company limited by guarantee. Company No 5336768

Company Secretary: Peter Wilkinson. Registered Office: 30 Linden Road, Earby, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 6XR

### **AECB Annual Conference. Rivergreen Centre, Durham, 29th – 30th June**

The final details of the conference are now being put in place. We now have a full programme of workshops with something of interest to all the membership. The eco renovation theme is attracting a lot of interest.

As well as this we also have workshops on alternative building materials, Sustainable building from a builders point of view, Looking at the AECB Gold and Silver Standards and the Carbon Lite programme. The new AECB Gold and Silver Standards and calculating insulation, as well as tours of the wonderful Rivergreen Centre and looking at the details of the building. With a special session on all aspects of the central rammed earth wall (you could only say that at an AECB event).

Paul King formally of WWF and now of the Green Building Council will give a presentation about the aims of the GBC. Peter Candler who is the developer behind the centre will be talking about it.

We will have tours of the Centre by the architects (AECB members Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall Ltd) and Peter Candler and we hope to be looking at the M&E side of the building.

Bookings can now be taken on line just go to [www.aecb.net/conference2007.php](http://www.aecb.net/conference2007.php)

Don't forget this event is also a great chance to network / share gossip / party, visit trade stands and of course participate in the AGM.

More details from Geoff Stow 01392 272475 or email [geoff.biy@homecall.co.uk](mailto:geoff.biy@homecall.co.uk)

### **AECB'S Carbon Lite Programme Is Awarded Funding Under The Carbon Trust's Networks Programme, And By The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation**

The AECB is delighted to announce that the Carbon Lite Programme has been awarded grants by both the Carbon Trust and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

This funding means that AECB members will soon be able to benefit from a range of resources and training workshops that will enable them to retain their market leadership in sustainable building in the UK. The AECB energy performance standards will be backed up by design guidance, primers on calculating heat loss and projecting energy use in new buildings, and a series of training courses.

The new Carbon Lite web-site will soon be up and running. Members can expect to be able to download new resources from the site some time during June,

The AECB is also grateful to those organisations which have offered their time and expertise on the Programme's Advisory Board - the RIBA, Construction Products Association, Construction Industry Council, CIBSE, UCL Bartlett School of Architecture, National Energy Services, National Energy Foundation and, informally, the Homebuilders' Federation. These bodies will all help ensure that Carbon Lite learning enters the mainstream, where it is sorely needed.

For more information contact Liz Reason email [liz.reason@r2bc.co.uk](mailto:liz.reason@r2bc.co.uk)

### **Yorkshire And Humber Regional Network**

Calling all members in the Yorkshire and Humber area. If you are interested in coming along to the first regional meeting, please let me know. The aim of the first meeting would be to get our heads together and set some objectives for the regional network and see what members would like to achieve from the meetings. Ideally we could do with at least ten members to get the ball rolling.

If you are interested in being involved, send me an email ASAP [cwalker@myddelton.co.uk](mailto:cwalker@myddelton.co.uk) and let me know your location and where a suitable meeting place would be for you.

I look forward to hearing from you all

Claire

### **2007 RIBA International Book Awards**

The annual RIBA International Book Awards aim to highlight the rising influence and standard of architectural writing and publishing. They celebrate the important contribution writing makes to the dynamic activity of creating buildings and transforming the landscape in which we live. Two books specifically about green building made the seven-book shortlist (from 85 original entries from the UK and abroad) for RIBA's International Book Award for Construction for 2007.

These were the 'Green Building Bible' (3rd edition, in 2 volumes), edited by Keith Hall and published by the Green Building Press and 'Strategies for Sustainable Architecture' by Paola Sassi and published by Taylor and Francis. Whilst these titles received very positive feedback from the judges, the final winner of the award, was 'Stone Conservation: Principles and Practice' by Alison Henry published by Donhead Publishing.

The chairman of the judging panel, Max Fordham, said about the winning title: "Here is a book which is both specialist and technical, an edited collection of pieces with a message. 'Stone Conservation' is a winner because it fits the brief; it is about building construction, conservation and refurbishment. Above all of this there is a passionate dedication to the topic which, although it is a collection of pieces by different authors, shines out through proper writing."

### **North Wales Green Building Hub**

The Gwynedd economic partnership, [www.pegwynedd.org.uk](http://www.pegwynedd.org.uk) is currently involved in the regeneration planning of a severely depressed mining town in North Wales. As part of the regeneration package we would like to explore the idea of encouraging the setting up of a 'green building hub' possibly around an MMC factory producing eco houses, utilising the existing rail network to create a sustainable and inexpensive transport route.

We would like to get a measure of the interest that the existing eco building industry would have for this project, if financial aid and grants were to be made available to prospective building companies to expand or relocate in the town. I would appreciate if interested parties could email their letters of interest and details to me with any questions or relevant comments.

Many thanks, Alex Badley. Email [abadley@orange.net](mailto:abadley@orange.net)

### **Low Carbon Buildings Programme Re-Launch**

The DTI will re-launch the householder stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of May. The re-launched programme featured administrative changes and most notable a slash in the level of householder grant, which is now set at £2,500 for any one householder. The Government has been widely criticised by those in the industry pointing out that the new cuts in grant level are unnecessary in the light of the existing reductions announced in March, the effect of which has yet to be observed owing to the suspension of the Programme.

### **More Paper Than Policy**

We've been waiting months for the Planning and Energy White Papers. Well now we've got them! And did they justify the wait? If the DTI was anticipating the enthusiastic response that the 2003 Energy White Paper got, by reiterating largely the same content, it's in for a sorry surprise. A policy document that hasn't had time to address bold new European renewables targets, and can't talk about nuclear because of the flawed review process, was always going to be an anticlimax. On renewables, page 23 of Wednesday's document surrenders without a fight:

"The 20% renewables target is an ambitious goal ... by 2020, on the basis of existing policies, renewables would contribute around 5% of the UK's consumption ... we will bring forward the appropriate measures, beyond those set out in this White Paper, to make our contribution to meeting these targets."

So the last two white papers have done enough to get us one quarter of the way there! It's now urgent we work up new policies for the other three-quarters.

The Planning White Paper, too, was less renewable-friendly than it could have been. A new Commission is to be established to adjudicate on planning applications for major projects. Because of the way these are defined, however, most renewables will not benefit from this more informed (and hopefully streamlined) approach. So, despite the warm words about decentralised energy, policy continues to favour centralised installations. Furthermore, as BWEA has pointed out, the new proposals won't come into effect for years, so are no help for hundreds of megawatts currently limping through the existing process.

All in all, beyond highlighting how much more still has to be done, the major carbon contribution of these white papers seems to be in the paper they're printed on. Source REA News.

### **Brown's Pledge On Zero Carbon Housing**

Gordon Brown has chosen the promotion of zero carbon housing as his first policy commitment, suggesting that leading-edge domestic design could enjoy a high profile under a Brown premiership. The chancellor said his sustainable housing drive would kick off with the development of five eco-towns of up to 20,000 homes each. Brown's green initiative has not come out of the blue. There is detail in his proposal already, including the naming of Oakington Barracks site in Cambridgeshire as the first in line. The barracks, suitably classed as a brownfield site, have already been purchased for development by English Partnerships.

In fact the announcement builds on Housing Minister Yvette Cooper's proposal in March to hitch the government's New Growth Points policy for housing expansion areas to a programme of showcase zero and low carbon housing developments. Some 45 local authorities had already expressed interest in bidding for New Growth status towards the end of last year, before Cooper put a new emphasis on low carbon re-use of brownfield land. Brown's imminent accession is clearly prompting Cooper to float new ideas on how to speed up the delivery of affordable homes; she has been quoted this week as saying that local authorities

should become directly involved in building new homes again, and is reported to have set up a taskforce to look at bringing back new town-style development corporations.

Source RIBA Practice Bulletin - No. 398 17 May 2007

### **Government Buildings Failing To Reach Sustainable Targets**

The majority of UK government departments and agencies are failing to meet targets to make their new buildings and major refurbishments sustainable, according to a report published by the country's National Audit Office.

The report found that most departments have started to consider sustainability in construction and refurbishment projects. But departments are not consistently carrying out the required environmental assessments on new projects. In 2005/06 only 35% (37 of 106) of new builds and 18% (61 of 335) of major refurbishment projects included, or planned to include, environmental assessments.

Full report at [www.nao.org.uk/pn/06-07/0607324.htm](http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/06-07/0607324.htm)

Meanwhile: The UK's Labour party has pledged to make up to 200 schools carbon neutral. Education secretary Alan Johnson said the plans, to be carried out over the next three years, would reduce schools' CO2 emissions by 5 million tonnes.

In Western Australia an environmentally-friendly builder is building a house entirely from recycled wine bottles. Around 13,500 water-filled wine bottles will be used in the walls of the house. [www.abc.net.au/news/australia/wa/bunbury/200703/s1867910.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/australia/wa/bunbury/200703/s1867910.htm)

Source RIBA World 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007

### **Pitching In: Eco- Villagers In Tipperary Turn Sod For Infrastructure Works**

Members of Ireland's first "eco-village" marked International Earth Day yesterday by turning the first sod for site works at the 67-acre farm they acquired for the project in Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary. The event was the latest milestone in the eco-village's development, which was first proposed in 1999.

"We are delighted to be celebrating the start of infrastructure works on our land," said Martin Maguire, chairman of the member-owned Sustainable Projects Ireland Ltd. "It is testimony to the hard work of many, many people, including eco-village members, the people of Cloughjordan, our architects and engineers and North Tipperary County Council, that we are now turning the first sod of our pioneering project."

Once the engineering works are complete, the building phase will begin. Houses, some of which include work spaces, as well as apartments and community buildings, will be constructed to the highest ecological standards, as stipulated by the members. A few sites in the eco-village are still available for sale, Mr Maguire said. "Our efforts to create a prototype for a sustainable community are ever more important as the magnitude of the planet's impending climate crisis becomes clearer every day," he added.

Full details of the plans are available on the website [www.thevillage.ie](http://www.thevillage.ie)

Source: The Irish Times, 14th April 2007

## **Events**

### **Open House – Eco-Renovation Demonstration Project**

You are welcome to visit our demonstration project at the times and dates below. This conventional home possesses many of the usual problems to be encountered when refurbishing and the project aim is to develop a suite of choices that can be transferred to any other existing property. Come and see what could be applied to your home.

We would encourage you to come on a weekday if you are able as the weekends are predicted to be busy. For larger groups, please contact us in advance on 0208 296 0863. We are aligned with London Sustainability Weeks which runs between 3-17th June

6/7th June 10.00 to 18.00, 8th June 10.00 to 20.00, 9/10th June 10.00 to 18.00. 78 Carshalton Grove, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4NB. For more information visit [www.parityprojects.com](http://www.parityprojects.com)

### **The Low Carbon Innovation Exchange, Network Meeting, Olympia, 14<sup>th</sup> June**

The Low Carbon Innovation Exchange, a meeting of the Network, will be taking place on June 14th at the Olympia 2 Conference Centre in London. The day will consist of a range of discussion groups and case studies that will enable Network members to learn from each other and share best practice.

Some of the discussion groups that will be taking place on the day include - Policies to secure low carbon buildings - Encouraging the Private sector to insulate their homes - Local Authorities leading by example to address climate change - Are Developers meeting our expectations on renewable energy installations - Installing Solar Panels on a Residential Housing Estate

The full programme can be seen at: [www.carbon-innovation.com/programmeCMS.php](http://www.carbon-innovation.com/programmeCMS.php)

Full details of the Network and Exchange can be found at: [www.carbon-innovation.com](http://www.carbon-innovation.com)

For more information contact Dominic Matthews, on 01883 344 799 or email [dom@carbon-innovation.com](mailto:dom@carbon-innovation.com).

25% discount to AECB members, please mention AECB when booking.

### **Energise London About Climate Change! 16<sup>th</sup> June, London.**

What can we do about Climate Change in our local communities? What is already being done? How can we work together to inspire more action?

Energise London! is a one-day workshop for anyone concerned about Climate Change. It is being run by London21 and Planet Positive in partnership with COIN and BLACKOUT BRITAIN as part of London Sustainability Weeks 2007. Whether you're just getting involved in work on Climate Change or you've been active for years, gather to share your ideas and actions, learn and be inspired by what others are doing. Find out how you can get involved and work together on plans for taking action on Climate Change in your local area.

We invite community organisations, faith groups, black and minority ethnic groups, local authorities and environmental groups to take part in a positive and open event to strengthen grassroots Climate Change Action across London.

King's College, Stamford Street, London SE1, Saturday June 16th 10.00 – 16.00 Entry by donation. Advance booking is important. To reserve a place and find out more contact :- Sharon Turley on 0208 5253975 or 0777 6062651 or email : [admin@planet-positive.org.uk](mailto:admin@planet-positive.org.uk)

### **Designing Sustainable Buildings, Genesis Project, Taunton, June 20th**

Throughout our history the design of buildings has played a major role in meeting the challenges faced by society. Today the greatest challenge that designers face is how to reduce the negative impacts of construction. The industry's well documented contribution to carbon dioxide emissions, rapid resource depletion, landfill waste, loss of biodiversity and indoor air quality have all contributed to an international consensus that construction, above all other sectors, must learn to operate in a more sustainable manner.

With a multitude of technologies, methods and materials available to use, this CPD seeks to assist architects, looking to design more sustainable structures, in developing a design strategy that can be applied to any project without compromising the architect's natural flair. Sustainable buildings can all look very different from one another, but the underlying targets they seek to achieve should all be very much the same. Through the formulation and adoption of a 'sustainability check list' each project undertaken can be designed in a manner that seeks to address the key areas of importance.

The price of this event is £149 + VAT and includes tea, coffee and lunch. For booking details please contact Gillian Hawkey 01823 252934 email [gillian.hawkey@somerset.ac.uk](mailto:gillian.hawkey@somerset.ac.uk). For further information please contact Tim Simmons 01823 366528 email [tim.simmons@somerset.ac.uk](mailto:tim.simmons@somerset.ac.uk).

### **REA Annual Conference 2007**

The REA is delighted to confirm that its Annual Conference 2007 will be held once again at the Natural History Museum in London, on the 21st June.

This conference will follow the publication of the Energy White Paper, and will be an excellent opportunity to debate and network with leading industry players, senior civil servants, NGO representatives and investors.

For more information visit [www.r-e-a.net](http://www.r-e-a.net)

### **Built Ecologies - Translating Landscape Into Architecture – Lewis June 2007**

The theme of the Exhibition is translating landscape into architecture. This will involve issues of sustainable development such as sourcing local materials, incorporating renewables and recycled materials. It will however also be addressing the idea that we are creating a new contemporary vernacular architecture for the South East.

The Exhibition will start at the Star Gallery in Lewes as part of Architecture Week in June. It will then be housed at our new research building at the Faculty of Arts & Architecture at Grand Parade Brighton in the autumn, and then hopefully onto the RIBA in London.

For more information contact Duncan Baker-Brown on 01273 480533 or email [duncan@bbm-architects.co.uk](mailto:duncan@bbm-architects.co.uk)

### **AECB At Glastonbury Festival**

This year the AECB will be at Glastonbury again and as usual we will be in the Green Futures Field. We will be promoting the AECB, as well as giving talks and demonstrations, with the theme on sustainable building, energy and materials. Helping this year are Amazon Nails who are planning to do Straw Bale Building Workshops. If any members wish to supply promotional material for the displays, please email [cath.hassell@ech2o.co.uk](mailto:cath.hassell@ech2o.co.uk). Unfortunately there are no spare tickets, but if you are going please come along for a chat.

### **DGS Construction Stand At Glastonbury Festival**

The aim of the stand is to promote both traditional and modern methods of sustainable construction, and in particular the products used within the main fabric of the building. The intention to construct the festival stand from timber panels, and then utilise a variety of different insulation and finishing materials to highlight and compare the many ways of achieving high levels of insulation and/or airtightness in homes. Within the stand they would like to promote other sustainable construction products and books.

For the construction of the stand, the following products and accompanying literature would be really useful: Cellulose, Hemp, wool & recyclables derived insulation also sustainable cladding systems, cedar, lath & lime, clay, hemp etc as well as sustainable roofing felts, green roof products, membranes etc.

Books, magazines & leaflets for within the stand would also be very helpful.

Any suppliers wishing to help with this project please contact Matthew Stewart on 01908 503147 or email [matt@dgsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:matt@dgsconstruction.co.uk).

### **Bristol's Ecohome's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

An amazing 10 years have passed since the Ecohome at the CREATE Centre was built to promote greener living and building – and you and your family are invited to a free 10th birthday celebration there, Sun 1 July, 11am – 5pm.

Come along to find out how far things have moved on in a decade and try out some new, easily available materials we can use to reduce our impacts and those generated by our homes and gardens. Just turn up and try out clay-plastering, hurdle and garden sculpture-making and a whole lot more. There'll be free walks, talks, wandering minstrels as well as a café and a bar. There'll be gifts for grown-ups and lots on offer for children to make and do too – they can even make a party bag and fill it up with eco-things they have made at the party.

The family birthday party is part of a series of events reviewing the issues, the actions and the great future for Ecohomes. The events are helping to make Bristol Green Capital the low carbon city with a high quality of life. For more information ring 0117 925 0505.

### **The Business Case For Sustainable Homes: Adding Financial Value"**

This will be held at the London Underwriting Centre in Central London, on July 2nd and hosted by Zurich Buildings Guarantee. The event will explore the market value of sustainable housing, and how the value of GHA housing can be enhanced, as well as the costs, investment decisions and funding availability. The event will include a wide range of leading speakers from EST, Igloo, Cyrill Sweett, BioRegional Quintain and the Ecology Building Society, and is sure to be a lively event, in a beautiful space. Once again, all members can attend for free, but non members must pay £117.50 (£100 plus VAT). Places are limited, so please let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to attend.

For more information ring 020 7841 8909, visit [www.goodhomes.org.uk](http://www.goodhomes.org.uk) or email [info@goodhomes.org.uk](mailto:info@goodhomes.org.uk)

### **Implementing Sustainable Cities: Planning For Climate Change**

Bringing together professionals in planning, environment, sustainable development and regeneration, Regeneration & Renewal and The ENDS Report presents an exciting insight into one of our most pressing agendas of the moment: driving sustainability and fighting climate change through our cities. In one key day, take the chance to network with and hear from top-level professionals.

Implementing sustainable cities: planning for climate change: interpreting policy to integrate sustainable environmental strategies and meet targets through quality urban planning and development. A One-Day Conference, 4 July 2007, Ibis Hotel, Central London, [www.sustainablecities2007.com](http://www.sustainablecities2007.com)

- Delivering Sustainable Cities: gain expert overviews of how you can realistically deliver sustainable cities for the future.

- Reducing Carbon Emissions: examine how you can integrate low carbon technologies into developments and ensure homes are carbon neutral.
- Implementing Renewable Technologies: understand what technologies are appropriate for particular schemes and how you can deliver an effective renewables strategy within a development.
- Driving Urban Quality: identify how you can capture uncompromised sustainability within a masterplan.

Hear from our most exciting line-up of experts on climate change and sustainable cities. Take one day to understand how you can work to effectively deliver a sustainable city.

Also there will be a comprehensive range of workshops

Book online [www.haymarketevents.com/conferences/?fuseaction=eventRegistration&eventID=2920](http://www.haymarketevents.com/conferences/?fuseaction=eventRegistration&eventID=2920).

For more information on this insightful conference please call Lauren on 020 8267 4011.

### **Camp For Climate Action**

The Camp for Climate Action comes to Heathrow Airport in 2007, for a summer of sustainability, solidarity and sanity, 14th - 21st August 2007

Aviation is the fastest growing source of Greenhouse Gas emissions in the United Kingdom, and all our efforts to tackle Climate Change in other sectors will be undone by the massive growth in air travel. Holding this year's Climate Camp at Heathrow aims to highlight the lunacy of the Government's airport expansion plans, target industry giants profiteering from the Climate crisis, and raise awareness of the need to fly less. The camp will also support local residents in their long-term struggle against the building of a third runway and the destruction of their communities.

Camp for Climate Action, 14th - 21st August 2007:- [www.climatecamp.org.uk](http://www.climatecamp.org.uk)

### **Central Europe towards Sustainable Building CESB 07**

This international conference will be held on 24 - 26 September 2007 at Faculty of Civil Engineering, CTU in Prague. You can find all the information about the Conference CESB 07 on [www.cesb07.cbsservis.eu/en](http://www.cesb07.cbsservis.eu/en). There is a deadline of the "early bird" registration which is on 30th June 2007.

Direct link to the PDF version of the Final invitation is [http://cesb07.cbsservis.eu/final\\_invitation\\_en.pdf](http://cesb07.cbsservis.eu/final_invitation_en.pdf)

## **Courses**

### **Earthen Floors, Clay Plasters And Finishes-Nr Venice, Italy 19th-25th July**

This is a 6 day course, the Sunday will be a day off, with a guided tour of Venice by your host Stefano Soldati as guide! The other six days will cover theory and practice in the use of clay for earthen floors and for plasters. The clay is already dug from the earth next to Stefano's house in the traditional manner, where a pond will be sited.

**Earthen Floor:** You will learn how to make a durable, non-toxic, warm, easily repairable and beautiful natural floor under which you can lay under floor heating. We will cover the theory of earthen floors, rammed and poured, simple and complex and will look at different finishes for natural floors. You will learn how to make test samples and how to mix and apply the different layers. We will include some lime work.

**Clay Plasters:** You will learn how to mix the clay with the right sands to make different mixes; we will cover soil analysis tests you can perform yourself; how to test, mix and apply beautiful, durable, healthy clay plasters and finishes to your walls. We will look at the benefits and unique properties of clay as a plaster in hot and cold climates and look at how to apply clay to different substrates so you can plaster your own home from your own local materials. You will work with a mixture of hand application, tools use and spray machine, and we will use a traditional clay plaster mixer, so the hard work is taken out of it! We will also be fitting simple in-wall heating, a kinder and more effective heating system to your body than under floor heating. And we will be introducing opportunities to learn how to sculpt with clay onto the walls.

Working with clay is therapeutic, creative and fun!

The course costs 390 euros for 6 days (65 euros/day= £45/day) and include all tuition, food, refreshments, accommodation (you may sleep in dormitory style within the strawbale house or camp within the gardens. We can supply details of nearby B&Bs if required). For those that wish to stay on and continue plastering

for a further 6 days, there is the opportunity to earn back part of your course fee at the rate of 33 euros per day (£22) whilst having your food and accommodation provided.

The food is heavenly – the site is next to a vineyard so local wine means local! The site is a short train or bus ride from Venice itself and its major rail, boat and airports. For booking and further details, contact amazonails [info@strawbalefutures.org.uk](mailto:info@strawbalefutures.org.uk)

### **Low Impact Living Initiative (LILI) Courses**

Residential Weekend Course: straw-bale building, July 13-15 2007

Residential Weekend Course: natural paints and lime, July 20-22 2007

Location: Low-impact Living Initiative, Redfield Community, Buckinghamshire, cost: high-waged £180 / waged £150 / unwaged £120. All food and accommodation included - plus free beers, wine, tea and biscuits!

For more details, visit [www.lowimpact.org](http://www.lowimpact.org)

### **Hands On Cob Building Courses**

Are you interested in furthering your education/skills at an intensive, hands on course about cob building? As you know, cob is the ultimate in environmentally friendly building materials. Cob can be made from the earth dug to build your foundations and so it has no embodied energy costs and little environmental impact.

An experienced cob builder based in Norfolk I'll be running three 7 day courses this summer that will cover all practical and theoretical aspects of cob building – including building control and planning permission issues. As someone specialising in eco building, you'll find a knowledge of cob building an invaluable asset.

For course dates (June, July and September) and more info please give Kate Edwards a call anytime on 01493 369952 or 07949 241815, or visit [www.edwardsecobuilding.com](http://www.edwardsecobuilding.com).

## **Situations Vacant**

### **Rammed Earth Contractor**

Specialist rammed earth contractor required for a domestic project in Rickmansworth. Contact Andy Simmonds ([simmondsmills@f2s.com](mailto:simmondsmills@f2s.com)) for tender information. Please attach examples of previous rammed earth walls built by your company.

### **Ragmans Lane Farm Requires A General Manager**

Day to day management of Ragmans Lane, and development of our Educational Programme. Full time post Salary Circa £30,000

This is an opportunity to apply your skills to a job at the leading edge of rural sustainability in Britain. The successful applicant will have proven experience of managing a work force of paid and voluntary staff, and bring a sound understanding to the challenges of running the core farm enterprises. They will also have a creative approach to developing our educational programme.

Please visit [www.ragmans.co.uk](http://www.ragmans.co.uk) to discover more about our work and to see postings on the job advert.

### **Architectural Technician/Technologist Wanted To Work Full Or Part Time**

Around 3 days/week for 2-3 months, maybe longer, near Hereford on design of meditation centre and innovative ecological housing. Must be CAD and partially/fully building regs literate, but if you are young and inexperienced try me. Salary negotiable, start immediately. Please contact Simon Clark on 07737 762313

*If you have any news, events or courses you would like to publicise in Network then please email details to [network@aecb.net](mailto:network@aecb.net), phone 0845 456 1290, or post to Chris Lord-Smith, y Graig, Llidiart-y-Waen, Llanidloes, SY18 6JT.*