



CANARIES IN A COAL MINE

NEWSLETTER 2

October 2007

THE COMPETITIONS ARE LAUNCHED

Individual posters for each of the competitions (Photography, Video, Song, Writing and Art) were given out to those attending the meeting held on October 1st or sent to those schools that wish to take part but were unable to send a representative. We are confident that, because of the generosity of the firms who have donated prizes, pupils will be keen to take part in one or more of the competitions. We also believe that, by becoming involved in this way, they will come to a better understanding of how an imaginative approach to the issue of Climate Change will inspire them to do something constructive about this most pressing of challenges facing the world today.

GENEROUS DONATIONS

We have been impressed by the generosity of many of the firms and businesses we approached to support our project. Many of the managers we spoke to were genuinely concerned about the issue and keen to help in some way. The following have made a contribution: Sainsbury's, Halford's, PC World, Cross's Art Shops, CanvasRus, Photocare, Kent Lighting, Allworks photographers, Revolution-events.com, John Adams Bookshop, Waitrose, Arriva Buses, Kent Transport, Ightham Mote (National Trust), MATTEON Software Ltd, and we expect others to come on board soon. The donations and value of prizes range from £500 to £10, from a £200 bicycle to a £200 digital camera and printer package to a day in a recording studio, and we are very grateful to those who have supported us. Other donations are in the pipeline waiting to be confirmed.

OUR FIRST SPEAKERS ARE CONFIRMED

We are delighted to announce that our first speakers have been confirmed. Michael Redclift, Professor of Geography at King's College, an eminent lecturer on Climate Change has agreed to come down to Tonbridge in March to speak to us about his work in this area (<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/geography/people/acad/redclift>). Ben Saunders (www.bensaunders.com), arctic explorer and youngest man to ski solo to the North Pole is also keen to speak about his most recent trek during which he saw at first hand how fast the polar icecaps are melting. We have also made contact with various other big name experts and should know in the next few weeks whether they will be able to be added to our list.

NEW INITIATIVES

We have decided to set up an **Eco-Fayre** on the Saturday Morning (March 29th). We are already gathering names of companies who specialize in selling clothing and other items made from recycled materials as well as inviting, booksellers who specialise in publishing books on the subject of Climate Change and companies who offer advice on improving one's carbon footprint or offer carbon-offsetting ideas. We are currently looking for a suitable venue for the Fayre and once we have booked that we will send out invitations to these companies and firms to take part.

REVOLUTION-EVENTS.COM

We are very lucky to have this Tonbridge based company not only offering us free advice on how best to organize our big events but also willing to donate a significant prize for the Video or Song competition. Revolution have been organizing successful events for Local Authorities for many years now and we will value their continuing input as we move towards the end of March next year and our two very full days of events. We expect their help to be particularly beneficial in the setting up of the Business Forum on Climate Change which will happen on the Friday (28th).

THE COURIER

The next article in the Courier should appear on Friday October 5th and will outline the progress made since August. We will acknowledge, as promised, those companies that have already pledged their support as well as outlining our evolving plans for the two days. However, we intend to use the opportunity of this article to introduce the competitions which are at the heart of this project to as many schools as possible. Having been given so many and such generous prizes we now want to make sure that the entries are numerous and of a high standard. The Courier will continue to print articles every few weeks on the project as it takes shape as they recognize that this will be a major event in Tonbridge by next March.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

If this newsletter is your first contact with our project and you would like to know more or to become involved in what we do, then please contact either:

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Charlotte Lane (clane@tgs.kent.sch.uk) OR
Gill Chadbon (ChadbonG@hillview.kent.sch.uk)

Our website (www.canariesinacoalmine.com) will soon be online and will be another source of information and point of contact.