

## Energy Saving

### **Informing and educating local people**

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Yealm U3A Environment Group of Newton Ferrers ran a Sustainable Energy Fair at Newton and Noss Village Hall. The fair attracted an incredible 127 people – well over the target number of 100. There were morning and afternoon sessions to accommodate the large numbers. The aim was to inform and educate local people – especially those at risk of fuel poverty – about ways of saving energy and reducing heat loss, and to help them with grant applications.



*Learners listen to a talk about energy saving methods*

### **Reducing carbon footprint**

Learners attended five different talks and demonstrations, which discussed and examined issues such as micro-generation, insulation and infrared imaging. Eleven display stands were manned by different experts, who informed and discussed specific issues with learners on a one-to-one basis. One learner, Peter Holt, described the fair as ‘very informative. Excellent. Some of the things I learned are particularly useful to me because I’m heading a project to convert a community building to solar energy.’ Also, Peter

reported that he has spread the word by passing on information to others. Husband and wife Susan and Roger Hallett found the fair ‘definitely helpful. At the event we made two appointments for energy-saving experts to come to our house, one to talk to us about the possibility of installing solar heating, and the other to assess our house for energy efficiency. We were also made aware of what is available in the way of grants.’ The day was so successful that Yealm plan to repeat the fair next year, with a long-term aim of progressively reducing the community’s carbon footprint and lessening the risk of fuel poverty.



*The local primary school created this display about the ways that they recycle materials and reduce energy consumption.*