

# LandMatch

A gathering for those wanting to live on the land in a low impact way and find others with compatible ideas

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008  
10.30am – 4.30pm  
Crewkerne, Somerset

Many are looking for a more sustainable way of life, would like to live in the country with some land, and see co-operating or sharing with others as a means to achieve this. Some will have clear ideas of the setting in which they want to live, others a vague one. Some want to live in community, others to be quite separate, combining with others for financial reasons only. There are many positions in between, and many ways in which we can support each other to live sustainably on the land, from the traditional good neighbour to the integrated commune.

This is a get together for anyone who wants to become part of a group, or gather members for an existing group. The day will include:

- Sharing visions
- Hearing from formed and forming groups (Five Penny Farm and Future Roots affordable eco-housing project)
- Briefing on planning issues from Simon Fairlie of Chapter 7
- Getting to know one another and our varying aims and practical requirements
- Swapping information
- Fun
- Food – please bring a dish to share. There will be soup and bread and teas, coffee etc provided.
- Activities to facilitate group 'matchmaking'

The day is being organised by Gill Westcott and Rebecca Laughton. Both of us have experience of joys and difficulties of sharing land and living situations and are committed to finding and helping others reach a way of life gentle on the earth, and meeting our needs from the ample resources close to us.

Details of how to get to the gathering and the programme for the day will be sent to you when you book. We request a donation of about £5 towards expenses (hall hire, advertising etc).

*Please pass on this flier to anyone you know who might be interested.*

**LandMatch**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008**  
**10am – 4.30pm**  
**W.I. Hall, Misterton, Crewkerne, Somerset**

Thank you for deciding to join us at LandMatch. Here are some more details about what to expect from the day and where to find the event.

*What we are hoping to achieve* – More and more people are wanting to gain access to land. Whilst most share the aims of wanting to live sustainably and derive at least some of their needs from the land, there is great variation in the details. Some would like to be as self-sufficient as possible, whilst others are more interested in setting up commercial enterprises. Some would like to keep animals for meat or dairy production, whilst others object to such activities on principle. For those who are wanting to buy land in a group, either to manage communally or to divide up into small holdings, it can take several meetings to discover the differences between what each person or couple is *hoping* for. Sometimes it is impossible to accommodate the differences and the group will split. LandMatch aims to fast-track some of those early meetings, by enabling people to identify others whose visions are compatible with their own. We hope that one or more land-buying groups may arise out of the contacts made at LandMatch, but if that doesn't happen we hope everyone will have an enjoyable day anyway. We don't intend to establish one big project, encompassing all who attend LandMatch, but rather to facilitate networking and the meeting of like minds.

### **Programme**

10.30	Arrive – Teas and Coffee
11.00	Introduction by Gill and Rebecca
11.15	Vision Sharing Go-round – Each person is invited to briefly outline what kind of land project they are interested. There will be an opportunity at the end for people to ask each other questions to clarify points, perhaps leading into a discussion if time available.
12.15	Activities to explore the similarities and differences between our visions.
1-2pm	Lunch and networking time
2-3pm	Open Space Discussions – Chapter 7 Planning Advice, Five Penny Farm and Future Roots Affordable Housing and Land Project.
3.00	Question and Answer Panel - All come together either for final chance to question people from discussion groups or, if people prefer, to have a more general, wide ranging discussion.
3.30	Gill and Rebecca to close and ask for feedback.
3.45-4.30	Tea and cake and and more time to talk
4.30	Tidy up and wash up in preparation for leaving hall at 5pm.

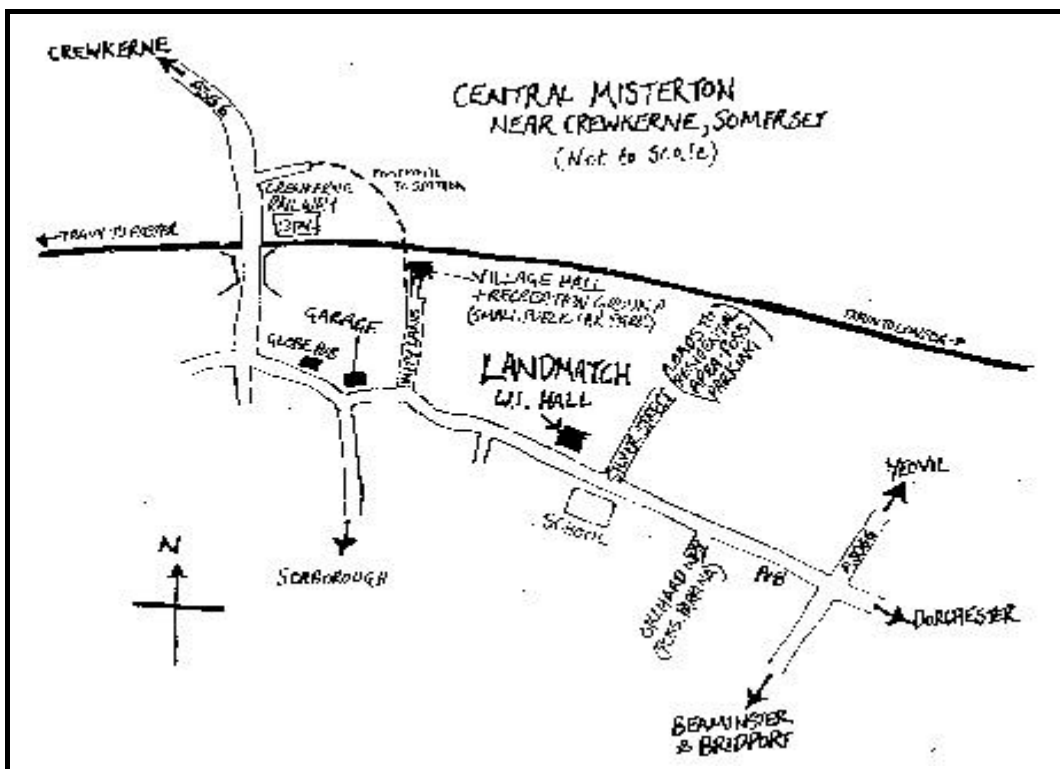
To get the most out of the day, we have tried to balance structured activities with free time for talking. The open space discussion session will give you the opportunity to question people who have experience of setting up low impact land projects. Anyone who is already in the process of getting a land group together, and is seeking more members, is invited to bring display materials or to host a group during the open space discussion session if they wish. People will have the option to stay with one group or join in two or three during the allotted hour.

We have already invited three people to host open space discussions:

- *Simon Fairlie* runs Chapter 7, a free planning advisory service for small holders, caravan dwellers and other low impact and low income people. He is one of the founders of Tinkers Bubble low impact agricultural community in Somerset.
- *Jyoti Fernandes* bought 43 acres in Dorset four years ago, with her family and another family. Although Five Penny Farm is run as two separate holdings, the families co-operate closely, sharing a market stall, a tractor and looking after each others animals when they go away. They gained five years temporary residential planning permission for their two low impact dwellings in 2005 after appealing at a public enquiry.
- *Susie Bottoms* started organising Future Roots, an affordable ecological housing project, in Autumn 2005. The group of eight households have set up a housing co-op to buy land communally on which they will live in privately-owned, mobile, wooden cabins and have the opportunity to produce some of their own food. Future Roots are already in dialogue with the local authority about suitable places to locate the project, and are viewed by many as a model solution to the affordable housing question.

### Getting there?

LandMatch will be held in the W.I. Hall in Misterton, near Crewkerne. The W.I. Hall is on the main road (A356) through Misterton, opposite the village school. It is fifteen minutes walk from Crewkerne Railway Station, on the main line between London Waterloo and Exeter and on the route of the number 47 First bus between Bridport and Crewkerne (phone 01305 783645 for times). Unfortunately there is no car park for the hall, so if at all possible please come by public transport or share cars – we're sure you would want to anyway!! We can put you in touch with others coming from your direction. If you do have to come by car, it is possible to park on the road opposite the hall and other parking options are marked on the map below. We will put a banner on the railings outside the W.I. Hall to let you know you've found LandMatch.



### Other Details

Children are welcome, but please be aware that there is no provision for child care. If you are bringing children you will need to be responsible for them and bring something to keep them entertained during the event. Please bring food to share for lunch. The hall has a kitchen, so we have access to plates and cutlery. We will provide teas and coffee.

Please can you let us know:

- Names of everybody coming with ages of any children
- Address, or where you are coming from
- How you are planning to travel (If you have to come by car will you have space to give anyone else a lift?)
- Contact telephone – home, and also mobile if relevant

Best wishes

Rebecca and Gill