



SOLAR SIMON AND BARN ED

Help make your home an eco-haven

Simon: Solar thermal is something most people will have seen on roofs because it is cheaper to install than solar photovoltaics. It comes in the form of either flat plate or evacuated tubes. Tubes are slightly more efficient and a bit more expensive. If it was a question of aesthetics then I would choose flat plate, but I think if you're trying to save energy then go for efficiency.

Ed: Great to see you are thinking about aesthetics as an electrician! Solar heated water is one of the most affordable products out there (about £2,500 per household). They have become a lot cheaper and are highly efficient – you can just about have free hot water from February to November.

Simon: Most systems will need to replace the old cylinder as they will require a twin coil cylinder, another cost consideration. Anybody having a new heating system or cylinder should give solar hot water serious consideration.

Ed: Just go into Simon's shop and check out his evacuated tubes to see how hot they get.

Simon: Not that good an idea as they do get incredibly hot. Of course, the biggest problem with solar energy is the weather and the fact that the months we most need energy is the winter and this is when we have the least sun.

Ed: All new houses should have a least one type of solar energy panel installed, it's about time it became a construction industry standard.

Simon: If we are to build zero carbon houses then this is the technology that we have got to incorporate.

Ed: Particularly barn conversions, as the cost can easily be lost within the overall budget. You don't even have to have a south-facing roof – you could have an east-west system to cover the sun rise and sunset, therefore hot water in the morning and then in the evening.

Simon: Don't worry about payback because energy bills will continue to rise. So you there is every chance you will get your money back before you know it.

Ed: Now we just need to tackle cars, due to their increasing cost.

ECOBARN – THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE

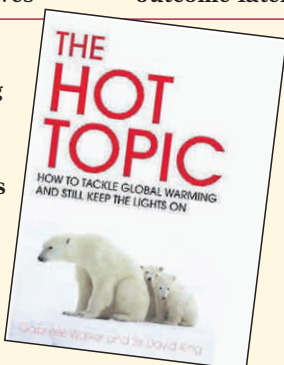
Our attentions have turned to the finer detail of the second fix and one fixture we are giving a lot of thought to is what type of guttering to use. The options are plastic, cast iron or steel. All of them have their positives



and negatives – the “cost, aesthetics, and ethics debate”. I will let you all know the outcome later.

PRODUCT

The Hot Topic – How to Tackle Global Warming and Keep the Lights on by David King and Gabrielle Walker is for global warming sceptics and eco warriors alike. It's full of facts and ways we can solve the problem of global warming. It is a good read and also a great reference book. Available from bookshops, £9.99.



TOP TIP

Use recycled paper it takes nearly twice as much energy to make fresh paper as it does to make recycled paper.

CRACKING THE CODE:

SOLAR POWER

Grid connection: Where the micro-generation such as PV is connected to the mains electricity supply.

Import/export meter, or two-way metering:

A meter that measures both the incoming electricity from the grid

and the surplus energy supplied from your micro-generation to the supply grid.

Load shifting: This means timing the use of high-energy appliances, so use your iron after the washing machine has finished, this is used to get the maximum from PV installations as it cuts down on energy surges.

Solar radiation: The energy carrying electromagnetic radiation emitted by the sun.

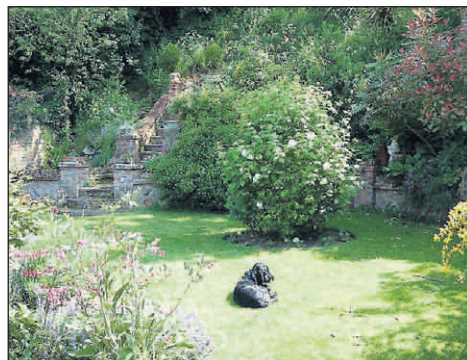
■ If you have a question, get in touch with Ed and Simon by e-mailing caroline.culot@archant.co.uk. To contact Ed Masters at Barnmasters, ring 01379 852111 or visit www.barnmasters.co.uk For Simon, either pop into his shop on Church Street, Harleston, ring 01379 854840 or visit www.allthingsgreener.co.uk

Cottage nestling in riverside village

This impressive detached thatched cottage, full of character and located in the sought-after riverside village of Horning, at the very heart of the Norfolk Broads, is for sale for a guide price of £375,000 with Waterside Estate Agents.

Gable End, Horning, is believed to date back to the late 17th century and offers a reception hall, sitting room, dining room, utility, kitchen, breakfast room, shower room, master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, second bedroom with an en-suite shower room and a third bedroom. Lovely features in the property include two staircases, exposed timbers, wooden latch doors and an open fireplace.

Outside there is off-road parking and an enclosed, established and private rear garden. The current owners have carried out an extensive



programme of improvements that have successfully managed to modernise the



property whilst losing none of its original charm and character.

■ For more information contact Waterside Estate Agents on 0845 458 4342.

How historic gem will help start a new era...

By CAROLINE CULOT

A late 19th century Victory Hall, which was dedicated as a monument to the Great War, is now to be sold by estate agents Hawkins Countrywide after residents in the villages of Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf celebrated their own victory this week by being awarded Lottery cash to build a new community centre.

As reported by the EDP, residents have been campaigning for more than a decade for a new hall and earlier this week came the good news that the Victory Hall charity was awarded £177,000 from the Lottery's Community Buildings programme to build a hall in Neatishead.

To raise the balance of the finance needed, the existing



Victory Hall is to be sold by tender by Hawkins Countrywide for offers in the region of £150,000, with bids to be submitted by Friday, July 18.

The hall, on the Street, was built by the Preston family as the parish's reading room before being acquired in 1919 by the village as a monument to

the Great War and it has been in constant use ever since.

Victory Hall has outline planning consent for conversion to a single dwelling and offers 1,500 sq ft of single-storey accommodation. The village has a shop, primary school, pub, restaurant, church and chapel. For the sailing or

fishing enthusiast, there are public moorings at Lime Kiln Dyke, which gives access to Barton Broad, the River Ant and the Norfolk Broads.

Victory Hall offers a main hall, side entrance lobby with toilets, a kitchen, rear store and outside a side and rear garden.

It is a condition of the planning consent that the hall remains available for use by the community until the new building is ready, therefore the successful purchaser will be required to exchange contracts no later than August 2008 with completion late spring/early summer 2009 (subject to contract). The commemoration plaque must be kept visible on the front.

■ Victory Hall is for sale for offers in the region of £150,000 with Hawkins Countrywide on 01603 783838.

Quiet city home tucked away on private lane

This semi-detached, two-bedroom cottage set in a private lane in Norwich is for sale for a guide price of £125,000 with Sapey & Co. The property, Marionville Road, Off St Clements Hill to the north of the city, offers two receptions, a kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside, there are enclosed gardens. There is an open day tomorrow between 2pm and 4pm for people who are interested in viewing the property.

■ Sealed bids should be submitted to Gareth Broom, Sapey and Co, Bank Plain, Norwich, by noon on Thursday, June 12.

