

Transition Town AGM 18 November 2021 Chairman's report

Many of the campaigns and activities which TTB carry out are in collaboration with other organisations:

- **Home in Bridport** is our partner for the Edible Gardens in the two primary schools
- **Seeding our Future** and **Bridport Food Matters** to promote local food and work towards a local food hub
- **Plastic Free Bridport**, which arose out of our Green fortnight in 2018
- **Bridport Tree Planting group**
- **Dorset Climate Action Network**, which developed responses to Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency, and Dorset local plan. We also ran the Open Greener Homes with DCAN
- **West Dorset Environmental Alliance** with representatives of TTB, Friends of the Earth Turn Lyme Green and Beaminster Ecological group. We were formed to meet Chris Loder every three months and provide him with briefing on points we can agree on.
- **Friends of the Earth**, especially in relation to COP26.
- **Bridport community Food stall**, weekly at St Swithuns church, distributing surplus food and cooking equipment to all comers and running occasional catering events

2021 began under Covid restrictions, which have gradually eased over the course of the year.

In **January** we were part of a zoom meeting, Digging Deeper into Local Food, with Seeding our Future. Robert Golden's film "This Good Earth" should have been premiered at the Arts Centre but had to be streamed due to restrictions. This is based around farms within 10 miles of Bridport and looks at issues of soil, chemicals and biodiversity.

In **May** St Mary's school edible garden became an allotment ambassador was open as part of an open veg and fruit garden event.

In **June** TTB ran a stall in the Open-Air Food and Drinks market, a stand-in for the Bridport Food festival, with some 30 stalls promoting local food through Bridport Food Matters.

In **July** we were able to resume Green Drinks in the garden of the Woodman's Inn, and these have continued in the bowling alley. The next Green Drinks is next Thursday 25th from 7.00

In **August** work was started on Edible Garden 2 at Bridport Primary School – more on that later.

September saw the Great Big Green Week, organised by Friends of the Earth with a rich program of events to focus attention on COP26. The Opening gathering on Millennium green was a joyous event. TTB was part of a meeting looking at practical Local Climate change Responses, organised by Alan Heeks.

Over two weekends, 50 homes across Dorset were open for a day to demonstrate Greener Homes, This was the successor to West Dorset Open EcoHomes, and was run through DCAN.

Finally in **October** Raja Jarrah, Kit Vaughan and I gave talks on COP26 – Fair COP or COP-out? – to show what to look out for in the news coverage of the climate conference.

Coming up TTB with Seeding Our Future are inviting Bridport local organisations to meet in a Climate Forum to develop ways to respond to the climate crisis both to work on lowering emissions and raising reliance and emergency preparation.

There has been a significant change in the way TTB communicate with its 260- odd subscribers. Our newsletter used to come out every 2-3 months, often including reports of events that had happened in the past. These were placed on the website, with a short note to subscribers as to where to find it. With lockdown this seemed inadequate, and we moved to a monthly bulletin focussing on events coming up in the future. Unfortunately Mailchimp, which is our main way of sending out information, is very laborious and it takes several goes before it looks more or less right. This became so onerous that our excellent administrator, Sue Bird decided to resign. Anne Rickard very kindly agreed to step in, but with other commitments she feels it is time to pass on the baton. I'm sure you would like me to thank her for her untiring and efficient efforts as administrator – Thank you Anne. A new member, Chris Uren has offered to take her place as administrator.

I would also like to thank our excellent treasurer, who has done the job quietly and efficiently. A marked improvement on our previous treasurer! He has also agreed to take notes at minutes and write up the minutes. Thanks Nick.