

Newsletter January 2012

www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk

Delivered by email, or for those who don't use computers a limited paper edition available from Fruits of the Earth, Victoria Grove, Bridport.

Transition Town Bridport - a project working to bring together the people of Bridport to plan a life beyond dependence on oil, to reduce the carbon footprint of the town and to make it resilient to change.

Happy new year everyone. Needless to say, 2012 will be a year for celebrating, and Bridport people are incredibly good at that. Amongst other things, here in Bridport there will be the Spirit of Bridport Festival, which will take place during the weeks between the Olympics and the Paralympics (3 weeks in August) where as many as possible of the groups and organisations in Bridport will be encouraged to showcase themselves.

We want to be involved in the festival and put on a good show, so we are hoping you will join us in putting together a worthwhile event which will represent TTB well.

We have a new Chair for TTB – Sarah Wilberforce was voted in by the new boards of Directors (who were voted in at the AGM in November.) I have been very pleased to hand over the reigns to Sarah, she will do a great job.

Short report on the AGM – by Sam Wilberforce

This took place on 6 November in the St John Ambulance Hall. Anne Rickard gave her chairman's report of the extensive work done over the last year, including working with young Transitioners at Colfox School, starting a lending scheme for electricity meters, raising awareness of peak oil, and involvement in a number of social events, and Green Drinks. The St John Ambulance hall was decked with display material from each of the main strands of the group.



Anne outlined five new initiatives for the coming year.

- The Energy Descent group plans to start "Draught busters", which will train people to reduce draughts simply, and to supply inexpensive materials.
- A survey by the Food group of vegetables sold by six small retailers in Bridport compared with five supermarkets.
- Reskilling workshops will be run in association with Bridport Local Area Skills Training (BLAST), to train young people to use hand tools.
- The Zero waste group will seek to persuade people to pledge to reduce and aim to eliminate household waste.
- The Awareness and Education group will launch a quiz around energy issues, with prizes for the best response.

After the official business was done, the tables were brought out for drinks and a "Pot Luck" feast - the activity we do best! The attendance was very encouraging, with about 25 people attending.

We do need practical help to get our many projects running. If you are interested in joining any of the groups, or just wish to be kept informed, please [contact](#) our administrator, Chris.

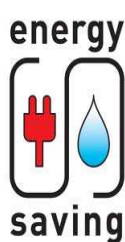
News from the Sub-groups

Awareness & Education



Having sorted out the display material for the Food Group's session in December, we are still working on the quiz – now the festive season is behind us (oh yes it is!) we will be getting stuck into it.

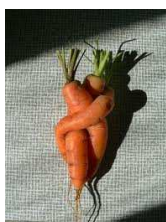
Energy descent



Draught-proofing: Chit is making good progress with the draught-proofing project. The first home to be draught-proofed has been selected, and some funding has been identified. Please let us know if you would like to take part in the project.

After working hard on draught-proofing homes, can we then watch heat escaping through the open doors of shops? No! There is a campaigning organisation called "Close the Door", encouraging shops and businesses to conserve energy (and money). Seems like a good idea. We might just have another project coming on!

Food



As part of the "Spend Less and Eat Better" project, the food group ran a stall to show that locally grown apples not only taste much better than supermarket bought imports, but that they are actually much cheaper. Passers-by were invited to sample the apples and all were able to guess which was which, although there were one or two who actually *preferred* the blander taste of the supermarket variety – there's no accounting for taste! Ali Edgley from "Out of the Box" provided the delicious Bridport apples.



Re-skilling



Transition Town Bridport (TTB) in conjunction with Bridport Local Area Skills Training (BLAST) is planning, under their Skills for Self Reliance program, a series of short courses on Workshop Practice. They will begin soon and will cover the use of hand tools for working with wood and metal. The course will also cover the elements of joinery, plumbing and electrical wiring. The initial course has been designed for 5 days duration, and there will be places for 6 applicants. The objectives of the courses are: to increase the self reliance of the course members; to improve their chances of employment in local businesses; to prepare them for more advanced courses in preparation by BLAST. TTB would be pleased to hear from people with the necessary skills who are prepared to give a day to the course, initially on alternate weeks. Please contact admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk .

UPDATE from Ian: The Skills for Self Reliance project now has a team of 6 instructors and three offers of tools. We also have offers of substantial discount from several tool supply companies. We have made a grant application towards the cost of tools, and we are awaiting a decision.

Young Transitioners



Sadly contact with Colfox School has ceased for the time being, but it is hoped that good contacts can be made maybe with other local schools so that our local Young Transitioners can join us on our journey towards reducing our use of the world's resources. Watch this space.

Zero waste



At the AGM a few people signed up to join the Zero Waste challenge. It is still to be properly launched and it WILL happen. New Year, new energy. Watch this space too.

What's On

Check the website too, as more events are being added all the time



Food Group

Beach and Barnicott (upstairs room) - South St, Bridport

Friday 13 January at 3.00pm

Come and help encourage all aspects of enjoying local food:
growing/producing/buying/eating.



Green Drinks

The Tiger Inn, Barrack Street

Thursday 19 January from 8pm. This event is every 3rd Thursday in the month.

Informal time for you to come and share your ideas. All welcome.

GETTING INVOLVED

IF YOU HAVE EMAIL AND USE COMPUTERS

All anyone has to do is to get in contact with admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk and you will be added to the Interested People list and/or put in touch with the group or activity you would like to join. If you are receiving this, you are already on it.

You can [download a membership form](#) and sign up as a registered/voting member.



Join our group on FB and chat with us there – you'll find us under Transition Town Bridport (where else?)

IF YOU DON'T USE COMPUTERS

Pick up this Newsletter at Fruits of the Earth – check often – copies are limited.

SUB-GROUPS (ACTIVITY GROUPS)

Just contact us and you will be put in touch with the group or activity you would like to join, or just get yourself to a meeting – check What's On here, or on the website.

OTHER BRIDPORT GROUPS

If anyone wishes to collaborate with TTB on any project, or has ideas for a new project, please let us know and you will be welcomed to the next Steering Group meeting. Please contact admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk

Visit our website – www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk

You don't have to wait for newsletters – it's an easy way to keep up to date with TTB.

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