

Newsletter February 2011

www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk

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.

This will be the first newsletter for a very long time which will reach those not on computers. For the sake of economy I have therefore tried very hard to make 5 pages fit into 4!

Latest News

'A Rubbish Talk' by Tracey Smith



Photo and writeup: Sam Wilberforce

Tracey Smith, writer and broadcaster on sustainable living gave an entertaining talk on Thursday (17th February) organised by our Zero Waste Group. Tracey is the author of "The Book of Rubbish Ideas", she has a regular slot on BBC Somerset Radio, and is a trustee for the National Association of Children of Alcoholics. She founded National Downshifting Week which will be celebrating its 7th year in April. She manages to find time to help with a hospital radio, run workshops on sustainable living and reskilling.

Tracey gave an animated and entertaining talk on how we can use cast-offs and recycled material to live a sustainable life. Buying clothes from charity shops, making her own scents from lavender and other garden flowers, washing clothes with soap nuts (from a soap tree) and Ecoballs, and making seedling pots from paper were some of the ideas she put forward to save money and reduce the rubbish we produce.

She spoke about a visit to a landfill site, and described her feeling of shock for how much we throw away and the environmental hazards of burying

mixed waste in the ground.

Tracey suggested we swap and share our abundances, for instance by forward giving – making a donation to someone on condition they give an equivalent gift to someone else; or through Freecycle or Freegle. Her talk was an inspiration on how to move away from consumerism and a reliance on chemical solutions to every household problem.

After the talk, Tracey said "They were a great crowd and there was a vibrant mix of souls doing all sorts of things....I always hope that when I leave a talk, people have taken just one or two things from the discussion and above all, they feel that all of their small and simple eco actions are worthy and count for a great deal....and perhaps more importantly, they feel inspired to help spread the message to one or two other people, who in turn are encouraged to do the same"

Tracey certainly challenged our perspective on rubbish - rubbish doesn't have to be a dirty word.

TTB's Young Transitioners have been busy

TTB's Eco Club On Friday, February 11th, The Eco Club at Colfox School (part of Young Transitioners) was fortunate to have a visit from Carolyn Brightwater (Community Gardener). Carolyn gave freely of her time to introduce the students to basic vegetable seed sowing. Both organic and peat-based composts were used to compare germination results of pea, broad bean, cauliflower and purple sprouting broccoli. Issues around the use of peat-based composts were also discussed. The students were each given a pot containing three 'tubes' enveloped in a plastic bag 'mini greenhouse' to take home to raise. This first session revealed that approximately three quarters of the group had no knowledge or previous experience of seed sowing. They all, however, thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the greenhouse and would happily have carried on through afternoon lessons!



Photos: S Wilberforce

A further session in March will, it is hoped, provide the bulk of the vegetable plants for our stall in April.

This event held on Saturday, April 23rd at the Arts Centre will give the students the opportunity to encourage others to 'grow their own' by giving away the 'tubes' of vegetables. **Any other donations of 'home raised' vegetables would be gratefully received. Please contact Amanda Copp or Sarah Wilberforce (via TTB) with any offers of help, expertise or materials.**

Amanda Copp



News from the Sub-groups

Awareness & Education

At our recent Steering Group meeting it was decided that for several reasons our Green Teas meetings would discontinue after the next one on March 2nd. Thanks for all the support you have given. We are developing other ways of awareness-raising.

Green Drinks will continue as usual, at The Tiger Inn every 3rd Thursday evening from 8pm.

Energy-saving



Get them to close the door!

We wondered whether we could encourage local shops and businesses to keep their street doors closed during the cold weather – saving energy and money. **You can help** – just make a comment when you see it – **nicely of course!** Would they leave their own front doors open in the dead of winter? Probably not!

Food



The Food Group has lots of ideas – currently they are collecting information to develop a database of all businesses supplying/selling/growing/processing local food. It is intended to put this on our website for all to access. You can help by sending information in to us. Obviously no organisation would be added to any database without their permission. All welcome to the meetings – see **What's On** for the date of the next one.

Young Transitioners

See above for the latest news on our Young Transitioners.

Zero waste

Tracey Smith's 'Rubbish Talk' was well attended and very entertaining – see our news item above.

With the issue of our local waste site in the balance, there is plenty to discuss at our next meeting to see what we can do to eliminate our waste at source. Wouldn't it be great if we didn't need a local dump?

We will be meeting in The Ropemakers' Arms on Wednesday 9th March at 6.30. All welcome – bring your ideas along.

What's On

Check the website too, as more events may be added

Course - Ecological Facilitation: A gritty and creative approach to leadership

(not a TTB event)

Schumacher College, Devon

27 February – 5 March, 2011

Follow link for details

<http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/courses/ecological-facilitation-a-gritty-and-creative-approach-to-leadership>

Jennymac@netgates.co.uk

Spring Bridport Community Lunch

(not a TTB event)

United Church Hall, East St, Bridport

Wednesday 2nd March, 12.30pm onwards

The Spring informal quarterly bring-and-share lunch where representatives from local voluntary and community groups and charities in Bridport and the surrounding area can meet and share ideas, expertise and information.

RSVP: Jo on 01308 427851 or Karen on k.jones@volunteeringdorset.org.uk

Please do pass on this invite to those who you feel may be interested.



TTB's Green Teas

PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT WILL BE DISCONTINUED AFTER THIS MEETING

Red Brick Cafe - far corner of the St Michael's Industrial Estate, off St Michael's Lane

Wednesday afternoon, 2nd March, 2-4pm

Delicious locally-produced refreshments on offer. All welcome.



TTB's Zero Waste Group

The Ropemakers' Arms, West St, Bridport

Wednesday 9th March, 6.30pm

Developing ideas and projects to help reduce all forms of waste in our community. All welcome.



TTB's Food Group

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

Friday 11th March at 3.00pm

Currently developing a database of all local food producers/growers/processors/retailers. All welcome, see you there.



TTB's Green Drinks

The Tiger Inn, Barrack Street

Thursday 17th March from 8pm. This event is every 3rd Thursday in the month.

Come and join our chat on 'green' issues.

WWF's Earth Hour

(not a ttb event)

Everywhere in the world

Saturday 26 March, 8.30-9.30pm

Douse your lights and unplug the TV for Earth Hour, 2011. It's only one hour but you'll be joining millions around the world and taking a stand against climate change. The WWF hopes that this year's event will send a clear message to world leaders: climate change is real, it is happening and we have to do something about it.

Go to their [website](#), signup, and put Dorset on top of the league table for taking part - we were 16th when last checked (8.2.11) - not bad, could do better!

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.

IF YOU DON'T USE COMPUTERS

AT LAST we have a scheme to include our non computer users. We now have a signup sheet available from the upstairs desk in **Bridport Library**. Details will be collected regularly and paper newsletters will be either hand-delivered or posted. Comments and suggestions (constructive, please!) can be left at the library too, in the folder.

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.

OUTSIDE GROUPS

People have been asking how outside groups (of which Bridport has many) can get involved with TTB now that our Steering Group's structure is different.

If anyone belonging to an outside/associated group 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

TTB - Situations Vacant Contact admin@transitiontown.co.uk

TTB Newsletter Editor/or assistant

To collect information for the newsletter and put it together once a month, liaising with the sub groups for news and photos and distribute electronically

Non computer users support (newsletter/telephone)

To deliver paper copies by hand or post & phone reminders of events

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

www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk

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