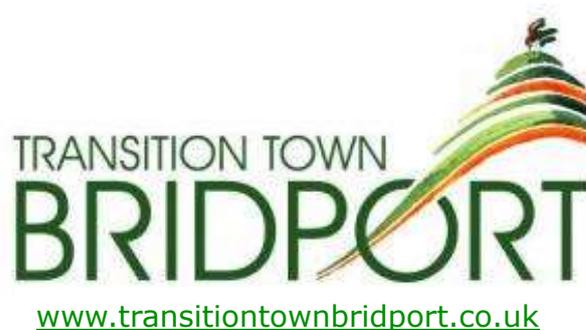


Transition Town Bridport - a project working to bring together the people of Bridport to plan a life beyond dependence on oil, to reduce the carbon footprint of the town and to make it resilient to change.



Newsletter No 45 – October 2020

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From the editor:

This year we had to cancel many of the Green Fortnight events on Fast Fashion, and we hope to restart that campaign next year. Open EcoHomes has also not taken place, and we all miss our monthly Green Drinks at the Tiger.

However as you will read below, there has been a lot going on, particularly around the topic of food, making Bridport resilient to stresses on our food supply, threatened by Covid, Climate Change and Brexit. There are many opportunities for a wider group to get involved with creating a sustainable food system around our town.

If you are a member of TTB you will shortly receive an invitation to our AGM (online) on 19 November at 6.30. Anyone can join us and we welcome your input into how we can go forward. The link to the zoom meeting is [here](#). Save the Date!

This newsletter is available in full or in abridged form – click on the 'Read more' or 'Read less' to toggle between the two. - Sam Wilberforce

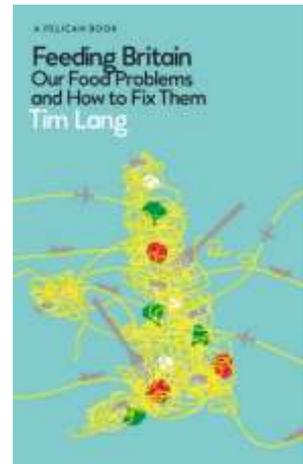
Does it matter if and how Britain feeds itself?

Some of us in TTB, and others interested in food issues, attended this webinar by Professor Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy, on October 6th. It was hosted by Tina and Robert Golden. Robert has made a film, to be launched in January 2021, called This Good Earth. The trailer can be seen [here](#).



Tim has written a book called *Feeding Britain: Our Food Problems and How to Fix Them*. His presentation gave a broad overview of the numerous issues affecting food supply and food security in Britain, which at any time would be serious enough, but in the context of Brexit, have the potential to be very scary. He very kindly let us have a copy of his presentation slides which can be viewed [here](#). Who was it said 'we are three meals away from anarchy'? We know that when the lorry drivers went on strike the just-in-time supermarket distribution system nearly collapsed. Nine big companies control most of our food system. Most of the UK's food is stored in lorries driving up and down our motorways.

[Read more...](#)



News from St Mary's Edible Garden, Glut stalls and future plans.



The collaboration between TTB, HOME in Bridport, Opera Circus and St Mary's Primary School has lasted for over 7 years and has been highly successful. Generosity, kindness, sharing of skills and the focus being on the children, parents and the staff of the school has created a sustainable project called The Edible Garden. This has developed the school garden at St Mary's and all the linked projects this has supported, trips to farms, garden and eco clubs, funding to build the Cob Oven, the new Tree House, wild flower areas, the main poly tunnel, the new orchard and edible hedges, new gardening equipment and to fund the two brilliant gardeners, and the volunteers, who grow the produce, enable the events and work with the children.

[Read more...](#)

A Food Hub for Bridport?

Consultations are continuing about the possibility of creating some kind of food hub for Bridport: this has included an online Round Table for consumers and community groups on Sept 23, with another planned for producers and retailers on Oct 20. There are widespread forecasts of more crop failures and food shortages in the years ahead, and a main reason for considering a hub is to increase local food security by raising demand and production of sustainable, healthy local food. There is considerable interest in the idea of a physical location for a hub, which could encourage more people to buy local produce through activities such as cookery classes and shared meals and social activities. A hub could also provide information about existing suppliers and resources, and could provide support for the food poverty initiatives which are already happening.

The consultation is being led by Seeding our Future, a small, local non-profit team: see more at www.futuresscanning.org. If you'd like to see the latest proposals and comment, please contact Candida Dunford-Wood: candida@dunfordwood.com. The deadline for the consultation process is Oct 22, and updated proposals will be issued in November.

– Alan Heeks

West Dorset Environmental Alliance.

A group including two members of TTB, West Dorset Friends of the Earth, Turn Lyme Green and Beaminster ECO group has formed to establish communication with our MP, Chris Loder. In August we had a fruitful meeting with Mr Loder on transport including bus travel and cycle paths; green homes grants; planning for the future; farming and land use; renewable energy; and plastics. Our next meeting will focus on renewable energy, particularly Dorset community energy's work on setting up local networks; and the green homes grants to retrofit heat-saving measures in homes (see Lesley's piece below).
- Sam Wilberforce

The new Green Homes deal

'Build Back Better' is what we heard last week from the government, 'Spread opportunity more widely and fairly!'

Having waited since the originally promised date in July for the Green Homes Grants to be launched I am disappointed to say it can't be done in Bridport.

The maximum standard grant is £5,000, but some benefit recipients get double. For most people the state offers it as vouchers to pay as much as two-thirds of energy improvement costs, up to a max £5,000 for most. So if it costs £4,000, you pay about £1,320 and get the rest in vouchers. Some on benefits get 100% of costs, up to £10,000, covered. So it seems to tick a box for inclusivity..... [Read more...](#)

- Lesley Windsor

Plastic Free Bridport



Our mayor, Cllr Ian Bark, has declared his intention that Bridport should achieve 'plastic free' status during his current term of office, joining the 700 plus communities around the country who have already achieved this. The objective is to tackle avoidable single-use plastic - from the town and beach, all the way back to the brands and businesses who create it.

With this in mind, a small working group, including the Mayor, Friends of the Earth and TTB members, has been established to:

Gain widespread community support, by recruiting allies from organisations within the community who agree to minimise use of single-use plastic items, help to publicise the campaign, and declare their support by formally signing a pledge.

Gain support from local businesses to reduce their use of single-use plastics, so that they can be awarded a 'stamp of approval' and spread the word to their customers and colleagues.... [Read more...](#)



For more background, have a look at the [Mayor's blog](#)

- Robin Boston

From What is to What if

Unleashing the Power of Imagination to Create the Future We Want

Rob Hopkins' [book](#) has spawned many podcasts, webinars and online conferences. The last, run by Transition Network over three days included many glittering speakers and inspiring stories. You can catch up on these on the [Bounce Forward website](#).

The Great Unravelling

For an unflinching analysis of climate change in Australia, read [The Great Unravelling: 'I never thought I'd live to see the horror of planetary collapse'](#) by Joëlle Gergis

Poignant excerpts:

It breaks my heart to watch the country I love irrevocably wounded because of the Australian government's refusal to act on climate change

Australia's horror summer is the clearest signal yet that our planet's climate is rapidly destabilising.

We are the generation that is likely to witness the destruction of our Earth.

Recording-breaking ocean temperatures triggered the third mass bleaching event recorded on the Great Barrier Reef since 2016..... [Read more...](#)

Online Retreat: Deep Adaptation - a spiritual exploration 6-8 November (Not a TTB event)

Deep Adaptation is the term used by Jem Bendell to invite us to face the radical changes climate change will bring within the next decade. This weekend retreat will focus on the spiritual aspects: seeking purpose, healing, mutual care from a bigger perspective. It is led by Alan Heeks, a member of Bridport TTB, with Amrita Bhohi and Karim Hadden. Six sessions will be held over Zoom with lots of time for personal reflection and practices in between. Costs: £30, concessions £22. For full details and bookings, [click here](#):
- Alan Heeks

GETTING INVOLVED

Contact admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk and you will be added to our mailing 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 the mailing list, but if you'd rather not be, just [tell us](#).

Come along to any event /workshop. Check out our What's On section [here](#), and/or on our website.

Membership of TTB is open to all on application via an email to admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk. Membership allows voting at the AGM and eligibility to stand for office. We welcome new members.

If your local group wishes to collaborate with TTB on any project, or has ideas and energy for a new project, just let us know.

We are very keen to expand the pool of active people for the local projects and to get other strands going. Please [get in touch](#) if you would like to help.

If you have any events of a local and eco-friendly nature that you would like us to advertise on our website or in the newsletter, please contact us and we'll see what we can include.

NB We do not use our mailing list other than for our own regular mailings.