



transitionarberth is part of the transition movement, a community based association helping to prepare local communities to move from a high carbon economy to a more sustainable, low carbon society.

Narberth Digs New Allotments

After a fifteen year wait Narberth finally has its own allotments. The allotments were officially opened on St Davids day by Amber Wheeler, tireless allotment campaigner and Transition Narberth steering group member, by cutting the ceremonial garden string with her trusty shears. Many Narberth residents turned out to witness the event, enjoy a bowl of cawl and to get their onions in.

History

The fight for allotments in Narberth began back in 1994 when six Narberth residents applied to the County Council for allotments. Under section 23 of the 1908 Act, authorities are duty bound to provide allotments for residents in their areas if six people ask for them. Sadly no suitable land was owned by the Council in Narberth and attempts to procure some were unsuccessful. After a 10 year campaign all hope for Narberth

Allotments was lost.

Success

Last September with recession looming and the need for people to be able to grow their own food becoming ever more important a small group of people decided to take the initiative and set up an allotment site

themselves. Led by Amber they approached a local landowner on the outskirts of Narberth who agreed to lease them a field. During a poster campaign over twenty people requested an allotment. Some of these people had been waiting for 15 years. Everybody was delighted.

The Future

Alongside the allotments there will be a community garden. This will be open to everybody to visit and enjoy, maybe do some gardening,



take a gardening course and more.

Get Involved

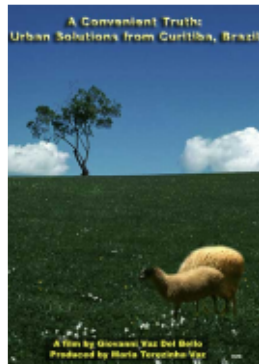
If you are interested in getting involved, would like an allotment, wish to help with the community garden or if you have plants, equipment or funds you could donate, then Narberth Allotments would love to hear from you.

Contact

narberthallotments@hotmail.co.uk
or phone Amber Wheeler on 01437 731 472.

A Convenient Truth

A film and discussion evening on Wednesday March 18th 7.30pm at Narberth Primary School.



There will be plenty of time to share our experiences of the film, to help further the work of our local Transition Initiative. Free entry, donations invited.

Organic benchmark figures show good results

"Benchmarking data collected for 38 Welsh organic farms by the Welsh Farm Business Survey based at IBERS, Aberystwyth University, show that Welsh organic farms were generally producing better returns than conventional farms in 2007/8, before the credit crunch started to impact on the organic market. Output was higher or similar in all cases, with lower or similar variable

costs. Where organic yields per ha were lower, overhead costs per kg. were higher, as were the value of own resources used and support payments. Despite this, overall net returns per litre or kg were higher, although this does not necessarily translate to better per ha performance." Simon Mookes, IBERS, Aberystwyth University.

Book Review: 21st Century Smallholder

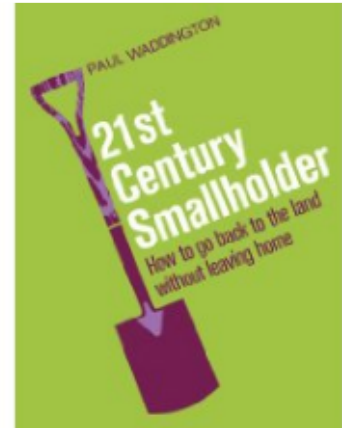
by Paul Waddington. Eden Project Books ISBN 190391969X

The book's tag line is 'From window boxes to allotments: how to go back to the land without leaving home'. It is an ideal read for those starting to look at how to grow their own food, and use whatever space that is available to them. It covers everything from preparing the ground, compost, and planting, to organic practices and pest control. There is a useful section on planning your site, with three sample designs which show how to have an outside space that provides for food, leisure and wildlife, whether you have a small courtyard, an average-sized

garden, or are lucky enough to have a large garden. There is an excellent year planner, with a month per page, covering growing and raising your own food tasks, as well as jobs for building biodiversity. As an often forgetful person I particularly liked the format of simple task reminders.

The book also addresses the challenges in making our houses more self-reliant. A comprehensive chapter describes energy saving techniques, and technologies for generating energy, giving an honest opinion of each. Overall, the book is beautifully presented and easy to read, and although it will not provide all the information you need, it is a great starting point.

This book definitely provides food for thought, and should give ideas and inspiration to all of us with an outside space, no matter what the size. Available from Pembrokeshire libraries, and can be reserved on line.



Review by Linda C. 03/09

News and Events

News: Narberth Town Council

Tuesday 3 March A presentation on Transitionarberth by Chris Lawrence to Narberth Town Council.

Meeting: Transitionarberth Steering Group

Sunday March 8 3pm-5pm. Please phone 01437 563 936.

Film: A Convenient Truth

Wednesday March 18 7.30pm. An informative inspirational film from the city of Curitiba where they have shown that cities can be part of the solution not a problem. For 40 years the city has focused on innovations in transportation, recycling, social benefits including affordable housing, parks and the processes that transformed Curitiba into one of the most livable cities in the world. There will be plenty of time to share our experiences of the film, to help further the work of our local Transition Initiative. Free entry, donations invited.

Film: Grow Your Own

Sunday 29 March 7:30pm. The Queens Hall Narberth. Presented by Narberth Film on Sunday. There will be a Transition Narberth display and steering group members present.

Jumble Sale

Saturday 4 April 2.00pm St Andrews Church Hall, Narberth. Please save your jumble. It can be delivered prior to the 4th to Greenbush tel. no. 01437 563 936. or on the day at the church hall between 10am and Noon.

Film: The Age of Stupid

Sunday April 19 7.30pm Narberth Queens Hall "Wales One World Film Festival" presented by FOE with Narberth Film on Sunday.

News: Chartered Managers Institute

A presentation on Peak Oil and the Transition Initiative by Chris Lawrence on April 22nd



transitionarberth
beat the crunch, grow your lunch

If you would like to contribute an article or promote a local event in Changing Times please contact Dan Jackson by email at dan@shanilawrence.co.uk or call (01239) 831838. For Steering Group information please contact Chris Lawrence by email at chrislawrence@cooptel.net or phone (01437) 563936