

transitionarberth

Newsletter, March 2011 / Newyddion, Mawrth 2011

Welcome to the March edition of the Transition Narberth Newsletter. This edition features news of past and future events throughout the area. There are also relevant articles on climate change and peak oil. Plus, news from around the Transition movement.

If you have any suggestions for future content or comments on the format of the newsletter please email me at communications@transitionarberth.org.uk

The deadline for articles to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter is the 26th of the preceding month.

Many thanks, Mike

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1. Transition Narberth News

- **On the 17th March, Transition Narberth have organised a 'Community in Transition' evening in the balcony room at the Queens Hall in Narberth.** Cris Tomos(Hermon; Glogue; Llanfranach) and Graeme Perks(Ludlow, twinned with Narberth) will be the speakers on the evening. Please see the 'Get Inspired, Get Involved !!!' section of this Newsletter for more information and the attached poster.

- **The Future of Compost Corner**

Compost Corner, TN and other groups are looking for the best solution for the future of Compost Corner.

Compost Corner is a local initiative, developed due to a local demand, at the time, to compost green waste. Compost Corner has involved much hard work in maintaining the facility, and increasing the resources for waste composting locally. With membership of the Compost Corner scheme declining (due to a number of developments in local government facilities dealing with green waste in the area), and a lack of new volunteers to form the management committee at the recent AGM, the future of this initiative is uncertain.

Can you come up with viable options for the future development of Compost Corner that could use the resources available for the most community benefit. It would be a great pity if the scheme was mothballed.

A meeting has been organised for the 5th April 7pm. to seek the best way forward. If you would be interested in attending the meeting please ring Chris on 01437 563 936.

- **Fundraising;**

TN needs funds to continue with its work. At a recent meeting a brainstorming was held, and the following ideas came up. Can you help to realise any of the ideas, or can you do or organise something to help us raise cash. Please ring Chris on 01437 563 936

Transitionarberth greeting cards

Jumble Sale

Plant Sale

Art Sale

Music event

Membership fee

Transition Community Cafe

- **Earth Hour;**

Organised by WWF. Join in with millions across the world to demonstrate our willingness to do something to help the planet. Turn Your Lights off March 26th. For 1 hour, 8.30pm- 9.30pm.

- **Plant Sale;**

Span Plant Sale, Transitionarberth need plants to sell, please grow good quality plants for donation to TN's stall, contact Chris 01437 563 936. Thanks

- **Scything;**

An Austrian scything workshop will be arranged in the middle of spring (when the grass grows tall enough and there is a reduced risk of frostbite), watch this space!!

2. Group News

- **Hearts, Mind & Soul Group**

The next meeting of Hearts is on Thursday April 13th 7.30pm We will be watching a DVD on Sustainable Communities around the World. Yesterdays meeting was very good. A very interesting discussion followed the film, The Man Who Planted Trees.

Anyone interested can contact Chris at chrislawrence@cooptel.net

On Sunday the 20th March members of the group will be attending the following event organised by GreenSpirit.

Walk the Story of the Universe

On The Sunday afternoon we will walk the story of the universe, from the big bang to the present day. We will stop at various points along the way to hear a story based on science about the unfolding universe. And we will discover ideas about our place and purpose in the cosmos.

Science tells us that the Universe flared forth about 13.7 billion years ago. From then appeared the stars and galaxies, planet Earth, life on Earth and finally the appearance of modern day humans.

Not only is this story fascinating from a historical and scientific perspective, it can also give us hints and clues about our spiritual journey and our purpose on this Earth. Because this story is one of beauty and awe, diversity, creativity, death and destruction and more. We learn from this story how the whole universe came from a single source, how all humans are related, and how we have just this one precious planet in which to live.

If you are interested in attending please contact Chris at chrislawrence@co-optel.net

- **Food Group**

This 1st phase of the fruit and nut tree planting project is very nearly complete. A map will be available to view all the sites in and around Narberth showing what fruit and nut trees have been planted and who the sponsors are. Many, many thanks to all who have sponsored, and all those people who have helped in the project so far, and don't worry if you have missed out with the fun up to now. There will be ample opportunity to get involved, and feel good about the future of Narberth in the 2nd phase starting next winter..

Narberth Swimming Pool has been delighted to be part of the Transition Narberth Fruit and Nut Tree Project. Jenny Price, the manager feels privileged to be

included in this forward thinking scheme. The Friends of Narberth Pool and Junior Survival have donated some funds to help with the planting. They will also take part in the after care of the trees.

For information on Narberth Swimming Pool, E-mail narberth.swimmingpool@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Open for business everyday, during the holidays we offer free swimming to the under 16's during certain times.

60+ are free for swimming and Aquafit classes, all year. All you need to do is call in and we will supply you with a card to use in any of the centres in Pembrokeshire. If you would like to book a party or just hire the pool do not hesitate to call them on 01834860940.

For details of forthcoming Food Group meetings please email Geraldine@transitionarberth.org.uk

- **Narberth Area Renewable Energy Group.**

Narberth Area Renewable Energy Group is hoping to constitute a group to start the process of getting local energy for the Narberth area. Imagine Narberth people actually producing our own energy and making money that can be used to benefit the local community. To get involved with this exciting project contact PLANED. Narberth future Forum AGM; The AGM will be held at the Bloomfield Centre on Tuesday March 8th 7.30pm.

3. Get Inspired, Get Involved!!!

- **6th March 2011 Fruit and Nut Tree Planting**

10.30 am at Millpond Lane, Narberth Bridge. Contact Chris on 01437 563936 for more details.

3pm near Gardenia Windows. Contact Carol on 01834 860152 for more details.

- **12th March 2011 Food in Transition: co-operative solutions**

11am to 4.30pm Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth

This is a pioneering event looking at the challenges that food retailing and the supply chain will face in this century and ways in which those challenges can be addressed.

The event will examine the effects that the tightening of the supply of energy, fertilisers and land, together with an increased demand, will have on both centralised and local distribution systems and look at how resilient systems are likely to be in facing economic and social uncertainties. (Please see attached poster for details on how to attend)

- **17th March 2011 Community in Transition; Public Meeting;**
Cris Tomos(Hermon; Glogue; Llanfranach); Graeme Perks(Ludlow, twinned with Narberth)
Thursday March 17th 7.15pm Balcony room Queens Hall, Narberth.

- **30th April 2011.** TN are having a plant stall at the SPAN plant sale on Sat 30th April and as ever it would be great if people could donate plants for us to sell.

4. Climate Change

A new report on UK energy policy, written by 16-25 year-olds, is calling for the rapid uptake of renewable energy and for greater youth consultation on energy and climate policy

The first ever report from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Youth Advisory Panel, Energy: How Fair Is It Anyway?, looks at the UK's energy policies from the perspective of people who will spend their adult lives living with the consequences of decisions being made right now.

The findings, which were presented to energy and climate change minister Charles Hendry, show huge support for renewable energy among young people. Of those questioned, over 90% were in favour of solar power, offshore wind, and wave energy as a 'fair' energy technologies. Opinion was most divided on nuclear energy, while only 2.2% supported coal.

Focusing on whether or not different ways of generating energy are fair to young and future generations, the report states that the government must not lock them into ecological debt where natural resources are depleted beyond the Earth's ability to regenerate them. The government must "think hard before cutting investment in renewables", the youth panel states. "No deficit is so large that our future should be gambled."

The document also acknowledges a need to reduce energy demand and improve efficiency, and is based on DECC's 2050 Pathways calculator – a project and interactive tool exploring different ways to reach the UK's target of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

Organisations such as the National Grid, the Centre for Alternative Technology, and the BEDzed eco-housing development in South London, were visited by the panel so that they could investigate energy and climate issues first hand. They also met with experts, industry, pressure groups and innovators, to look at how we keep the lights on in 2050 while reducing carbon emissions.

Youth panel member Tom Youngman, 17, who also represents Eco-Schools and Green Flag Schools, said: "As young people we have the opportunity to view these long-term decisions with a much increased sense of urgency and tangibility. We do not want to inherit a diminished planet, as it often seems we are being asked to, and

this is a huge step towards ensuring a sustainable and equitable future for our generation and subsequent generations.”

Guy Shrubsole, director of the Public Interest Research Centre, which was consulted by the panel, described the report as a clear call for a rapid and progressive transition to a low-carbon future. “As someone who will be turning 65 in the year 2050,” he said, “I hope the Government heeds their recommendations and ensures our generation is not burdened by ecological debt.”

The report is a first of its kind achievement from a demographic keen for recognition in climate change politics and it attempts to put the cracks in existing government policies under the spotlight. “[It] is a remarkable piece of work,” said energy and climate change minister Charles Hendry, “which gives a fresh perspective on our energy policies.”

Although there are aspects which allow the report to stand alone, it shadows DECC's existing policies. These are less ambitious when compared to reports such as Zero Carbon Britain 2030, in which the Centre for Alternative Technology outlines how we can achieve a 100% reduction in carbon emissions within 20 years.

Martin Kemp, coordinator of the Zero Carbon Britain 2030 project, said of the youth panel: “The group made a valuable contribution to filling the gap as a ‘critical friend’ of government.” He added: “Subsequent work could provide more radical and clearer policy recommendations, ready to be implemented.”

However, Martin praised many of the report’s proposals: “Its suggestions to implement the FSC mark as the minimum standard for timber products in the UK, to develop carbon capture and storage technology as open source, to limit the use of biomass in phasing out coal, and also their strategies for gas use, are indeed nuggets of wisdom.”

The youth panel’s report also highlights the potential for offshore wind in the UK, which was missed by DECC’s 2050 Pathways calculator. “Now is the time to be investing in our future by tapping the UK’s unparalleled offshore wind resource,” said Guy Shrubsole. “It has the potential to allow us to become a net exporter of clean electricity as part of a pan-European super grid.”

More information:
youthpanel.blogspot.com
www.decc.gov.uk

5. Peak Oil

With political and societal uncertainty in the Middle East, oil prices have soared with resultant increases in the cost petrol and diesel. It increases the focus on how we can adjust as we move through peak oil.

Hardly a day goes by now without reports of new demonstrations against the established order in some corner of the world. What started in Tunisia, spread to Egypt, has now metastasized in many Middle Eastern states. Even China seems to

be to be vulnerable to popular uprisings made possible through widespread access to the Internet, social networking and cell phones.

So far Libya is the only major oil exporting country in which the upheavals appear likely to threaten oil exports in the near future. Benghazi in eastern Libya has fallen into the hands of the demonstrators and a local tribal chief is threatening to cut off oil exports unless Tripoli stops using violence against demonstrators. Libya exports about 1.5 million b/d most of which goes to Europe.

Over the weekend there were demonstrations in Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco, and Djibouti. Iranian security forces violently suppressed attempts at demonstrations in Tehran and other cities. The rebellions are moving so fast it is difficult to believe that at some point, some nation's oil exports will not be interrupted, either by internal developments or possibly by trading partners outraged by the brutality of the repressions.

Initially there was general agreement that the gulf oil kingdoms that have large oil revenues in relation to the size of their populations would not be as vulnerable to popular unrest. Developments in Bahrain last week, where the majority of Shiites rebelled against their Sunni rulers, are casting doubts on this thesis. There are already reports of small demonstrations in Saudi Arabia where a minority of 2–3 million Shiites has long been discriminated against by the kingdom's Sunni majority. Continued suppression of mass demonstrations by police and military forces will depend on the loyalty of these forces to the government ordering the violence against its citizens. In Libya we have reports that military units in the east have joined the demonstrators and religious leaders are calling on security forces not to attack fellow Muslims. This outbreak of popular discontent with oppressive governments clearly has a long way to play out and could easily result in interruptions, perhaps even large ones, to the world's oil supplies.

6. Transition News & Stuff

- **Local Food Distribution Project**

Transition Ealing in west London are looking at ways to get more local food onto the plates of people in the area. Links with other community groups are being made and a number of options are being considered including a community owned shop where members of the community own a share in the shop. As an example of how this could work they were inspired by The Peoples Supermarket, which aims to bring independently produced food and a more sustainable, communitarian form of grocery shopping to people living and working in cities in the UK: www.thepeoplesupermarket.org

- **A Suffolk town has set up England's first community supported agriculture scheme specifically for beekeeping, where members share the honey harvest**

Bungay Community Bees, in East Anglia, is a community supported agriculture (CSA) scheme where members own shares in the harvest and take part in the beekeeping year. Claimed to be the first purely bee CSA in England to date, the project is aiming to 'preserve pollinators' by increasing the numbers of bees and beekeepers locally and promoting more sustainable ways to farm for honey.

Membership of the scheme is £20 per year and benefits include: visits to the hives to learn more about beekeeping; an opportunity to have a hive in your garden; regular email updates; a chance to attend a beekeeping course paid for by Bungay Community Bees; and an invite to the end of season honey harvest and party.

"We are not a commercial venture. Honey production is viewed as a bonus rather than a prime motive for beekeeping," says beekeeper Elinor McDowall. "We aim to use two or three systems over the next few years until we find one that suits us and the bees best. The share of honey and wax will increase as the hives grow in strength and number."

How do you set up a Transition Bee Project? First step: have a plan. In its first year, Bungay Community Bees aimed to recruit around 20 supporters. They also wanted to invest in two hives, two bee colonies, give training to two beekeepers, provide them with insurance and supply some basic equipment.

Second step: allow the idea to catch people's imagination. Elinor says: "Getting coverage in the local press helped hugely at the beginning to raise awareness. Having started a bee blog, to talk about all the different visits and what was going on in the hives, attracted people to ring and write from all over the world."

Third step: let it go where it wants to go. The group membership has now grown to 37, and produced enough funds to train another two new beekeepers. A pair of extra hives and two swarms were donated, as well as offers from gardens in and around the town to place them.

Fourth step: keep busy! Each time the hives are opened, the group is invited to come along. This includes children, who can participate in activities such as making frames for the hives.

Meanwhile, a sub-group has recently formed within Bungay Community Bees, to encourage people to grow bee-friendly plants. They hope to publish a 'bee calendar' to advise gardeners to select the plants that bloom when bees need food the most, or when pollen is very scarce, or autumn flowering varieties that help them build a winter store.

Contact: Sustainable Bungay,
43 St. Johns Road,
Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 1DH
Website: www.sustainablebungay.com

- **The "Growing Fruit in Powys" report is out now!**

The report contains the results of the Powys Orchard survey, which was conducted in response to the demand for knowledge on fruit growing in Powys. In 2009 and 2010 22 orchards were surveyed and gathered the experiences of fruit growers from all over the county.

The report will enable future orchardists to make more informed decisions - by learning from those who are already growing fruit in the locality. Please take a look, and spread the word to anyone you know with an interest in growing fruit.

The report includes -

- Details of the survey and results
- Advice on planning your orchard
- Recommended apple, pear and plum varieties for Powys
- Case studies of real people and their orchards
- Information on grants for planting fruit trees
- Advice on earning an income from fruit growing
- A comprehensive list of resources

Many thanks to Glasu who funded the project.

"Growing fruit in Powys" can be downloaded for free from the website -
<http://www.dyfivalleyseedsavers.org.uk>

