

transitionarberth

Newsletter, October 2010

Welcome to the October edition of the Transition Narberth Newsletter. This edition features news of past and many future events throughout the area. There are also relevant articles on climate change. There is a film night on Sunday, the 10th October featuring 'Permaculture in Practice'. Details below, we'd love to see you in the Queens Hall Balcony Room.

Where sizeable articles have come to us for inclusion, we've included a short excerpt or review and then an attachment or a link to a webpage which has the full article.

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

- **Radio Stars**

Amber and Chris of TN's coordinating group both gave interviews on Radio Pembrokeshire; the interviews were broadcast during the last month and were regarding the Transitionarberth's Fruit and Nut Tree Project. Unfortunately nobody took up TN's Mike Ashbridge fun challenge of travelling up Narberth High Street on a space-hopper to celebrate World Car Free Day.

- **Hold The Front Page!**

TN had three articles in the local papers over recent weeks

a) Western Telegraph; Town goes nuts over free food. A report on the Transition Narberth's Fruit and Nut Tree Project

b) Western Telegraph; Royal visitor calls in at festival stand. A report on the Prince of Wales visiting the TN Food Miles stand at the Start Festival held recently at the Botanical Gardens of Wales. (Prince Charles is the one on the right).



c) Tenby and Narberth Observer; Narberth Food Festival chairman, Jackie Palit, was seen planting a sweet chestnut tree on the Town Moor as part of Transition Narberth's fruit and nut tree planting scheme. The event took place during the successful food festival weekend which attracted thousands of visitors.

- **Food Miles Challenge**

At the START event and also at the Narberth food festival, the Transition Narberth stall featured a popular Food Miles Challenge. Starring a wide range of delicious fruit and veg, the Challenge drew attention to the thousands of miles that much of our food travels despite local alternatives being available.

Many visitors to the stall found it a fun way to find out more about where our food comes from. If you are part of a local group or school and would like to find out more about food miles and have some fun tackling the Food Miles Challenge, please contact communications@transitionarberth.org

- **Timebank**

On Friday 1st Oct Bloomfield Community Centre hosted a meeting of the "Time for Action" project, which is being piloted in South West Wales, with aims to adapt the timebanking methodology to bring about increased levels of participation and action around sustainable development and carbon reduction.

Part of this project, is to engage with local/regional groups and organisations to co-design an organisation of timebanking. TN had a representative present and hopefully the Timebank will take off in the area enabling greater advances in local community resilience and environmental sustainability.

- **Future Films**

Permaculture in Practice. (50mins)

Directed by Malcolm Baldwin

In the Queens Hall Balcony room at **7.pm. Sunday 10th Oct.**

A fascinating little film giving a clear overview of permaculture in four different settings. This will be followed by a discussion. Tea and coffee will be available. Free entrance; donations welcome.

Beyond the Tipping Point; (30mins) November date and venue to be arranged.

Directed by Stefan Skrimshire

Conversations on Climate, Action and the Future.

This is a film about Climate Change and our responses to it; how the imagination of the future shapes actions in the present. Followed by a discussion. Refreshments available; Free entrance; donation welcome.

More info go to, www.beyondthetippingpoint.com

2. Group News

- **Hearts, Mind & Soul Group**

Through the work of Joanna Macy, the H,M and S group continues to examine the philosophical and theological basis to this time of transition. All welcome , please telephone 01437 563 936

- **Food & Allotments Group**

With the recent grant of £3000 from PAVS, the Food and Allotment group's Community Orchard and Garden project is now progressing well. The group will be looking for volunteers to help in the practical work of the project. Also progressing well is the groups Narberth Fruit and Nut Tree Project. This is based on community groups and individuals, around Narberth, sponsoring trees. A sweet chestnut, sponsored by the Food Festival, was planted during the Food Festival, by Jackie Palit chair of the Food Festival Committee

The Fruit & Nut initiative continues to go from strength to strength. For details of forthcoming meetings please email Geraldine@transitionarberth.org.uk

- **Energy Group**

If you are feeling suitably bewildered by the blizzard of information that is available about energy conservation and generation, the energy saving trust website is a good place to start. The Energy Saving Trust is a non-profit organisation that provides free and impartial advice on how to stop wasting energy. Their web address is, <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

For further advice on all the schemes offering free solar panels, visit <http://www.lovemoney.com/news/see-the-big-picture/the-environment/free-solar-panels-the-small-print-exposed-5423.aspx?source=1000456>

3. Get Inspired, Get Involved!!!

- **6th October, Wednesday; Connecting Communities**

PLANED along with community group representatives and individual residents will be hoping to start working together to plan ideas for the benefit of our area. The evening will be based around the draft Narberth Hub Area Development Plan.

- **9th October, Saturday: SW Goat Club - Foraging talk with Yun Hilder**

Find out more about Yun at www.mountainfood.org (looks fascinating!)
The talk is at 2 pm Bloomfield. Non members £2. Enquiries 01437 532969

- **16th October, Saturday : Start Thatching! -1 Day Introductory Course From the Reedbed to your Roof.**

A hands-on day introducing you to the craft of Thatching for beginners and enthusiasts.

In the morning Alan Jones, (info at www.thatchingwales.co.uk), will give a background to the history of thatching and why it is so important as an eco-build material for the future – for local economics; conservation of habitat and species, and as a renewable roofing material. The afternoon will put the theories into practice with an opportunity for everyone to have a go.

Time: 9.30 prompt - 4.30 Lunch included, in the panoramic Glasshouse Cafe
Cost: £100 Payable in advance. [Concessions available]
Booking Essential; subject to numbers

Venue: Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran (4 miles from Cardigan),
Pembrokeshire Contact: 01239 621600

- **16th October, Saturday: Nature Exchange Day**

10:30am at Slebech Park Haverfordwest, SA62 4AX
Join PLANED in welcoming **Steve Leonard** (BBC Wildlife Presenter & Vet) to celebrate 2010 Year of Biodiversity and exchange information about Pembrokeshire's wildlife.

Cost £8 per person (children under 16 free) Price includes lunch & refreshments. Places are limited, please book by Monday 11th October 2010
Send enclosed RSVP card & full payment in the prepaid envelope.
For further information, contact Bethany Lloyd _01834 862105 Or
bethanyl@planed.org.uk

- **30th/31st October: Compassion in Communication led by Penny Spawforth and Gayano Shaw**

Penny Spawforth is a member of Transition Calon Teifi and is co-running this workshop that is very relevant to a cooperative and more sustainable future. It will be run at the Steiner school near Narberth.

Compassion in Communication

2 days of sharing and exploring topics such as sustainable communication in relationships, choices towards authentic expression and staying present when meeting conflict.

Where: Ysgol Nant-y-Cwm Llanycefn Pembrokeshire

When: 30 & 31 October 2010 10.00am—5.00pm

Contact: Penny: 01559 362510/penny@headweb.co.uk or

Gayano 01558 650747/gayano@ymail.com

Cost: £10.00 per person for venue plus a voluntary contribution for the workshop of between £0 and £75.00 as per individual circumstances.

Please bring lunch to share

Bookings: Please contact Penny for a booking form.

4. Climate Change

- **SUMMER SIZZLE: EARTH'S LAND AREAS HAD WARMEST SUMMER ON RECORD**

By Doyle Rice, Science Fair

The summer of 2010 surpassed the previous warmest summer on record for the Earth's land areas, which was 1998. For the year-to-date period (January-August), the Earth is enduring its warmest year since records began. Climatologists define summer as the months of June, July and August. The climate centre is a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Global temperature data go back to 1880. Warmer-than-average temperatures were present this summer across most of the world's land surface, according to the data centre. The warmest anomalies were seen in Eastern Europe, the eastern half of the contiguous USA, parts of eastern Canada and eastern Asia. Western Russia had a phenomenally warm summer. In Moscow, July had its warmest month in 130 years. Readings consistently reached above 100 degrees. When the Earth's oceans are included, the summer of 2010 was the second-warmest on record, just 0.06 of a degree behind 1998. On a hemisphere level, the Northern Hemisphere as a whole had its warmest June-August on record, surpassing the previous records set in 1998 and 2005.

- **BBC BUSINESS NEWS**

16TH Sept 2010

"The UK needs to prepare itself quickly to deal with the impacts of Climate Change government advisors warn

The Committee on Climate Change says climate effects are already being felt in the UK in the form of higher temperatures and changing seasons."

5. Transition Network News

- **Beware the Killer Clones!**

Clone Town Britain 2010: High street diversity still on endangered list!

15 September 2010

41 per cent of UK towns are clone towns and a further 23 per cent are on the verge of becoming clone towns, according to the widest ever Clone Town survey results released today by leading independent think-tank **nef** (new economics foundation).

Only 36 per cent of the high streets surveyed retain their distinctive character with more than two thirds of their shops being independents.

The **nef** report, Re-imagining the High Street: Escape from Clone Town Britain, also brands the multiple chain outlets as “fair weather friends” who have either abandoned the high streets entirely or given up so-called secondary locations.

The report says that overall trend towards “Clone Town Britain”, continues, despite widespread publicity about the loss of local identity following the 2005 Clone Town report.

- 41 per cent of the towns surveyed were “clone towns” (more than half the stores were chains); 23 per cent are on the verge of becoming clone towns (border towns); and 36 per cent were “home towns” (more than 2/3rds of shops are independents).
- Cambridge is the UK’s most cloned town, managing only 11.6 on the diversity scale (out of a possible 100). Only nine varieties of shops are found on the main high street.
- Richmond has the most cloned high street of London’s “villages”, with only five independent shops found down its length.
- Whitstable, Kent is the best performing “home town”, according to the survey, scoring an impressive 92.1. on the diversity scale.
- Nine of the 13 west London village high streets surveyed registered as “clone towns”.

Paul Squires, the co-author of the report said: “The towns most dependent on the big chains and out of town stores have proven to be most vulnerable to the economic crisis. The government’s “Big Society” idea cannot be built on these fractured local economies, represented so clearly by the empty shop fronts along our high streets.”

“It’s not all doom and gloom,” Paul continued; “we found many towns that are thriving with initiatives to retain local diversity. The local currency schemes in Lewes and Brixton, for example; community buy-outs of post offices and pubs from Yorkshire to Cornwall; and loyalty cards for shopping at independent retailers from London to Penzance.”

Elizabeth Cox, co-author of the report added: “We need to completely re-evaluate what we use our high streets for now that the age of mass retail is juddering to a halt. Our high streets could become places where shopping is just one small part of a rich mix of activities including working, sharing, exchanging, playing and learning new skills. As the hub of our communities, the high street could become the place where we begin to build a more sustainable world.”

nef is calling for action from:

- Individuals: “Use them, or lose them”. Residents should put their money where their mouth is and seek out independents and locally sourced products.

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Local government: Establish High Street Transition Hubs in key vacant shops to help develop local economies. These could range from local currency development (like Brixton £) to local food distribution and tool share/exchange schemes. They would not be general “community centres”.

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Central government: Give local authorities powers to offer discretionary business rate relief for new and established independent enterprises to move onto the high street and commit to reducing their carbon footprint.

Original article on **nef** website, [click here to go to nef](#)