

transitionarberth

Newsletter, September 2010

Welcome to the September edition of the Transition Narberth Newsletter. This edition features news of past and future events throughout the area as well as articles on climate change and peak oil.

Where sizeable articles have come to us for inclusion, we've included a short excerpt or review and then an attachment or 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

Contents

1. Transition Narberth News - Page 2
2. Narberth Group News – Page 3
3. Get Inspired, Get Involved! - Page 3
4. Peak Oil Update – Page 4
5. Climate Change - Page 5
6. Transition Network News – Page 6

1. Transition Narberth

- **Start Festival at Botanical Gardens**

Transition Narberth will be at the launch of Low Carbon South West Wales which will be held within the Botanical Gardens on the 7-8th Sept. TN are sharing a stand with other transition groups of the Pembrokeshire Transition Forum. LCSWW is part of the Start Festival, an initiative of the Prince of Wales.

On the TN stand will be an exciting demonstration showing a comparison of the food miles of imported food and local food, bought from shops around Narberth. But pride of place will go to the Transition Narberth Food and Allotment Group's "Narberth Goes Fruit and Nutty Project"

- **Zero Carbon Community**

Llanfallteg Community Association and Council supported by Transition Narberth are active in the Carmarthenshire County Council's Zero Carbon Community Project , below are some of the events and projects.

Trysordy held a craft workshop for the Friday Night childrens club and built a wind turbine, amongst other things.

Henllanfallteg Community Association has submitted its application for a £15,000 grant to Carms County Council for a solar PV installation on the Millennium Hall, Llanfallteg. They have received 4 quotes for a 4 kw system. They are in the process of applying for planning permission and expect to hear the outcome of our grant application in a couple of weeks time although indications are favourable.

HCA have been invited to present a display at the Princes Foundation Start Charity Event at the Botanical Gardens on 7 September.

They hope to arrange a Wood as a Fuel event in the autumn, working with CCC, as a morning event to present on wood fuel production and wood burning technologies.

They will hold a meeting with CCC reps in early September to discuss planning future events such as Community Energy Challenge.

- **Recycling Heroes Needed**

At the Narberth Food & Drink Festival, Transition Narberth have been offered space within the marquee. In exchange the NFDF Committee have asked for help in recycling the waste generated by the event. If you're coming along to the festival, how about donating an hour during the day or at the close of the event to help with the recycling?? If you're interested please contact communications@transitionarberth.org.uk

- **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**

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

3. Get Inspired, Get Involved!!!

- **Narberth Pantomime**

Auditions for Jack and the Beans Talk are at 7pm on Thursday, 9th September in Span. For all you luvvies out there, a pdf copy of the script can be obtained in advance of the auditions from

info@narberthpanto.org.uk

- **The Really Wild Food & Countryside Festival**

Takes place in St Davids on the 4th & 5th September. See their website at <http://www.reallywildfestival.co.uk/Welcome.html> for more info.

- **Narberth Food Festival**

Takes place on the 25th & 26th of September. Full details are available at <http://www.narberthfoodfestival.com/> . Transition Narberth will be at the Festival with displays emphasising our current initiatives and a novel food miles competition. (Well at least that's the plan!!)

4. Peak Oil Update

- **Report for Welsh Assembly Government**

A 2008 Research Paper prepared for the WAG provides a comprehensive and clear guide to the issue of peak oil. In particular it highlights the dependency of industrialised economies on a single fuel that is owned by just a handful of countries. It is attached to the email that brought you this Newsletter and the executive summary follows (for those of you exhausted by attachments).

Executive Summary

At some point, global oil production will reach a peak.

Peak oil does not mean the end of oil, but that about half of the total amount available has been used up. The oil that remains will be more difficult and costly to extract.

Some analysts contend that the peak has occurred already, and that production will decrease slowly over time. Others expect the peak to occur within the next ten years. Most government and industry sources contend that global production will increase for the next few decades, and decrease thereafter. One such source estimates that peak oil will occur in 2037. The UK Government believes that the world's oil and gas resources are sufficient to sustain economic growth for the foreseeable future.

The UK's oil production peaked in 1999, and the UK became a net importer of oil in 2006. Imports will form an increasing proportion of oil consumption in the UK. Authorities in the south Wales valleys tend to have a relatively low per capita use of fuel for personal road transport; rural authorities tend to have higher per capita use. One of the manifestations of peak oil will be a rapid escalation in oil price. Oil prices are currently the highest they have ever been, even accounting for inflation.

In July 2008, the Deputy First Minister wrote to HM Treasury to raise concern over the impact of increasing fuel costs on businesses and consumers in Wales. There is broad agreement that peak oil will have profound economic impacts, and that these will in turn have social repercussions. There is also a consensus that those countries that do plan and prepare for peak oil will have an advantage over those that make no preparation.

Sweden is the only country that has an explicit government commitment to breaking its dependence on oil.

Amazing how it has been so easy to turn a blind eye to such a crucial issue and ignore the lessons of history. As Sara Wheeler says in her book *The Magnetic North: Travels in the Arctic*, when considering the sudden collapse of a Norse community 'I thought of the ruined church at Hvalsey, the sudden failure of the Norse who had flourished for so long, and the uncomfortable truth that the unifying theme of collapsed civilisations is collective blindness to the depletion of natural resources. One wonders how historical hindsight will judge our own pursuit of oil at all costs. '

The good news is that governments around the world are now waking up to the problems associated with peak oil and the need to reduce our oil dependence.

5. Climate Change

- **Top climate sceptic now calls for \$100 billion fund to fight warming**

The world's most high-profile climate change sceptic is to declare that global warming is "undoubtedly one of the chief concerns facing the world today" and "a challenge humanity must confront", in an apparent U-turn that will give a huge boost to the embattled environmental lobby.

Bjørn Lomborg, the self-styled "sceptical environmentalist" once compared to Adolf Hitler by the UN's climate chief, is famous for attacking climate scientists, campaigners, the media and others for exaggerating the rate of global warming and its effects on humans, and the costly waste of policies to stop the problem.

But in a new book to be published next month, *Smart Solutions To Climate Change*, Lomborg will call for tens of billions of dollars a year to be invested in tackling climate change. "Investing \$100bn annually would mean that we could essentially resolve the climate change problem by the end of this century," the book concludes.

Examining eight methods to reduce or stop global warming, Lomborg and his fellow economists recommend pouring money into researching and developing clean energy sources such as wind, wave, solar and nuclear power, and more work on climate engineering ideas such as "cloud whitening" to reflect the sun's heat back into the outer atmosphere. (Source: *The Guardian* 31.8.10)

6. Transition Network News

• **Budding Transition Authors Needed!!**

New online magazine focussing on 'Relocalisation' to be launched in the US

We love to see new communications and voices telling the transition story, and there's a new one soon to be launched over in the US.



Transition Voice is an emerging online magazine devoted to peak oil, Transition culture, and climate

change that is looking for content contributors.

The Transition Voice format is journalism-based, with a clear editorial positioning and limited monthly content reviewed by the editors prior to publication online. Transition Voice takes as its model print magazines such as Yes, Grist, and Good. While those magazines are broadly dedicated to the environmental movement, and Green issues in general, Transition Voice is primarily focused on peak oil and the transition into a new economy based in relocalisation.

Transition Voice seeks volunteer content contributors in areas of assignment writing; journalistic video and audio; comics; movie, website and book reviews; along with select opinion pieces. The content areas include Energy, Ecology, Economy, Transition, Arts, Spirit, and Politics, with sub-content areas under each of those navigational fields. Transition Voice hopes to one day pay contributors but at this time can only work with volunteers. The publisher and editor are also volunteer at this time. Contributors need not already have journalism experience--Transition Voice can train volunteer contributors.

For further information please email the publisher at erik@transitionvoice.com or the editor at lindsay@transitionvoice.com.

• **Bioneers!!!**

Looks like Transition is going to feature prominently at the Bioneers 2010 conference in Findhorn, starting on 30-Oct.

In various roles - presenting, training, facilitating, discussing - roles will be:

- Naresh Giangrande (co-founded Transition Town Totnes with Rob Hopkins; co-founded Transition Training)

- Sophy Banks (co-founder of Transition Training; facilitated the Heart & Soul group in TTT and is helping it replicate in initiatives everywhere) - tbc
- May East (a Findhorn villager, and in addition to her myriad achievements is also bringing a crucial global south perspective to transition)
- Eva Schonveld (co-founder of Transition Portobello in Edinburgh and coordinator of Transition Scotland Support) - tbc
- Carin Schwarz (coordinator of Transition Town Forres)

The rest of the programme looks fascinating, and the Bioneers (look at <http://www.bioneers.org/about/> if you don't know anything about them) have been at the cutting edge of social entrepreneurialism and social redesign, particularly in North America, for quite a while.