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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

March 2022

Save the Dates

Here is an outline calendar of planned TTB events

Green Drinks	3rd Thurs of every month 7pm	Tiger Inn, Barrack St
Bothenhampton Green Fair	26 March 3-5.30	Bothenhampton village Hall
Raise the polytunnel at Bridport Primary school. Launching EG 2	7 April from 3.00	Bridport Primary School
Charter Fair	14 May	
Mini Food Fest	17 June 3.15 - 4.30	St Marys School
Food Festival: Food without Waste	18 June	Askers meadow
Melplash Show	25 August	West Bay Showgrounds
Energy Fair (provisional)	September TBA	Plottingham
Open Green Homes	1-9 October	Dorset-wide

Bothenhampton Village Green event

Sat 26 March Bothenhampton Village Hall 3.00-5.00



cars {things I wish I'd known before buying one} and bikes).

TTB will be running a stall among others. A great chance to wander round and talk to people from different green groups, join in a discussion/Q&A.

- Home insulation (how small improvements can save you money and help combat global warming)
- How we can use the land in and around Bridport, including through tree planting or growing our own food;
- Transport (including electric

Bring your kids -children's activities include - "An Evolving Installation of Play" with Jo from Oops Wow Messy Art, at John Holt Play Area (under 10s must be accompanied).

Edible garden at Bridport Primary school.

Bridport Primary School entrance on Coneygar Road. Thursday 7 April 3-5

Eight years after we raised a polytunnel at the edible garden of St Mary's school, we are covering a new tunnel at Bridport Primary school. Please come and take part in developing this great resource to teach children about forest gardens, wildlife and growing food.



Photo by Robert Golden

If you are feeling strong come on 31 March at 1.00 to help dig the trench.

Soil your Undies for Science

Meanwhile at St Marys Edible garden...

Tomas and Electra from Springtail Farm visited Year 5 pupils, who are studying sustainable farming. Tomas brought agricultural implements used at Springtail farm which preserve the structure of the soil. (You may recognise them from the stall in Bridport outside Carphone Warehouse.)



The class then went on a bug hunt and heard of the importance of biodiversity in our soil.



Photos Robert Golden

This was illustrated by a piece of citizen science. A fresh pair of cotton pants was buried in the ground of the St Mary Edible Garden. An identical pair will be buried at Springtail farm. In three months time we plan to dig both undies up to compare how the organisms in an organic farm compare with those in the school.

You could try this in your own garden!



Positive Tipping Points

MONDAY, 28th March, 7pm - 8.30pm, on Zoom



Most of us have heard of the point of no return, the point where the climate reaches the tipping point beyond which we cannot stop runaway global heating.

Tim Lenton, Chair in Climate Change & Earth System Science, University of Exeter, and Director of the Global Systems Institute will be introducing how the tipping points in social movements can make change happen quickly.

Tim will apply these ideas to : agriculture, ecosystem regeneration, transport, politics and public opinion.

- What are tipping points?
- How do they happen?
- What is social contagion?
- When and how can a small push create a big change?
- How can we apply tipping point science to achieve change in our communities?

For more details on the evening, and booking your place, please click [here](#).

'Climate and Ecology Crisis' Study Group U3A

The title of Bridport U3A's monthly talk in January was "Climate and Ecological Crisis – What's all the fuss about?" The speaker, David Ramsden, MBE, gave a riveting talk with lots of illustrations. Because of the heightened concern about Covid infections, it was a Zoom presentation.

It stimulated the creation of a new Study Group which is meeting on SECOND THURSDAYS each month at 2.30 at Bridport Youth and Community Centre (BYCC), Gundry Lane.

Whether you want to join us or not, you can watch a [similar talk by David Ramsden](#) on YouTube (Start at 3 minutes 50 seconds).

All U3A members are welcome [Please [send an email](#) before first attending]. Not a member yet? Only £15 a year to [join](#).

Of course, there is much more to think about than personal carbon footprints but even if you don't want to join us, you might want to look at 'How bad are bananas?' by Mike Berners-Lee. *New edition £10.*

Joe Burlington, Group Leader

Dorset Green Open Homes

TTB have organised this event since 2014 every year except 2020. Last year we partnered with Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) to [open fifty homes](#) across Dorset.

We are planning to run a similar event this year on the two weekends of 1-9 October. If you think you might be willing to open your house for a day to talk about saving energy, resources or wildlife then please get in touch. [Here are further details](#). Your house does not have to be perfect, or high tech – we like simple and low-cost solutions as much. And we wish to include community buildings, churches, and schools.



Other DCAN activities

DCAN was created last year to formulate responses to Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency, and then DC's Local Plan. Out of this campaign grew "Dorset Deserves Better", a policy statement questioning the need for 40,000 new homes in Dorset, many on the Green Belt. For details see [here](#).

From this has arisen a number of groups:

- The [Great Big Dorset Hedge](#), which aims to create wildlife corridors across the county.
- The Energy group have been looking at on-shore and offshore wind and home insulation, and other solutions to the energy crisis.
- This August (2022), Henry, Dorset CAN's Great Big Dorset Hedgehog mascot will travel in relays through each of the 35 parishes that stretch the length of the Dorset coastline. Henry will be promoting positive ways to mitigate climate change and reverse biodiversity loss and signing up new members of Dorset CAN. See [here](#) for details.

Involving Young People

Obviously it is the next generations who will be most affected by climate change. This initiative with Weymouth College and Extinction Rebellion may point the way forward.

Caz Dennett writes:

"The local Extinction Rebellion group were delighted when they received an invitation to take part in Weymouth College's Environment Week 8th-12th November, during COP26.

XR activists were present every lunchtime with a stall in the canteen, chatting with students and staff. "Heading for Extinction" (H4E) talks were given to several tutor groups during the week's timetable and to staff at lunchtime.

People's Assembly-style workshops provided students with the opportunity to share and listen to each other's' views in facilitated small group discussion groups. They explored the questions: *What changes do you think need to be made to have a good future for yourself and for the planet? What's most important to achieve that change?*

Impressive action plans were created! The biggest themes were around 1. Morals, Society and Politics, 2. Transport, 3. Nature and Biodiversity, 4. Land Use and Food and 5. Consumption and Economy.

In another workshop students reviewed the College's impact on the environment and potential actions to protect nature and prevent climate change. Another awesome action plan covering the key areas; Outside space, Buildings, Canteen and Travel.

The College has already done amazing things; planted 840 trees since 2019, solar panels on every building, water fountains now back in service (post-covid) in every building and using local farms / growers for many food items in the canteen, to name but a few.

The feedback from students and staff was resoundingly positive.

We returned in February to give a H4E talk to all staff during their Sustainability training day, along with Cllr Dr. Jon Orrell who spoke about the implications of the C&EE on Dorset, and on health. This month we will take part in a Q&A session at the College, to discuss suggestions and questions on any aspect of sustainability.

A massive thumbs up to the College for this motivational program and a huge thanks for inviting XR to be a part of it!

Magic Tenner Campaign

Totally Locally are about to launch a campaign to encourage you to buy local. That tenner is worth £50!

There's a bit of maths that says if you spend £10 in a local shop that sells stuff from local producers the amount of money that goes back into your local economy can be over £50!*

Well if you imagine that when you buy a locally-made pie from a local shop, a big part of your money is passed on to the local piemaker. The shop employs a local accountant or even a decorator. In turn the piemaker who sources his meat from a local farm spends a big percentage of his money with the farmer. The farmer then spends some of his money at his local garage, the garage owner... etc. etc.