



## Newsletter No 34 – January 2017

[www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk](http://www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk)

*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.*

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### From the Editor:

Someone wrote recently that 2016 was the last year of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An interesting thought. There does seem to be an air of moving into a whole new era both on the international and national level. The unthinkable has happened in the UK and the US – and we don't know what surprises France and Holland may have in store. Yet the dismay appears to be tempered – in the spheres I move in at least – by a certain feeling that now all bets are off, anything can and may happen, and this provides opportunities for imagination and innovation: the unthinkable in a good way.

A post cropped up on my Facebook page which exemplifies this: an open letter to Jeremy Corbyn in which the writer (not a politician) asks the Labour leader to consider forming an alliance with the Lib Dems and Greens to agree to field no candidates in opposition to one another in the next election, with the aim of defeating the Tories (and UKIP), getting into power, and immediately implementing electoral reform to ensure that our outdated, damaging, divisive and unstable two-party system can never again re-emerge. The country's governance could then rest on "painstaking argument and negotiation rather than one-issue rhetoric and soundbites". I wonder if this idea resonates with others? Do desperate times sometimes require such desperate measures?

Calls for collaboration in the face of the serious social, environmental and economic challenges we face are coming up everywhere. Which is what makes this relevant

to Transition: Jay Tompt, in Stir magazine and on the Transition network site, proposes an aligned, joined-up movement of all those “working to create an alternative to neoliberal economics”. What is needed now, he argues, is for community groups, ‘convergence networks’ and local authorities to support “incubators, co-working spaces, design labs, mentoring workshop and training programmes” to revitalise the local economy. Building resilience requires we also build land use and food production in to the mix. We have lots of good examples in West Dorset already.

The bit that resonates most with me is when he says, *“It makes no sense for people working in the same geographic space on green energy, climate change, new economics, food sovereignty, land access, housing to work in isolation. Connections can begin simply through meeting people for coffee or attending each other’s events.”*

We are hoping that the Green Fortnight, (see below) bringing together as many local groups as possible, will make those connections and be the beginning of a great local collaboration. CW

## **Bridport Green Fortnight: 28 March to 8 April 2017**

Bridport will be going green for a fortnight this spring, when the Town holds its first ever “Green Fortnight”. Its aims are to celebrate Bridport’s local shops and products and inspire local people towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

Transition Town Bridport are heading the fortnight and we are working with other groups, businesses and individuals to promote a greener and more sustainable local economy. Bridport Town Council will show their support for the Fortnight by turning the Town Clock face green for the duration of the event!

Bridport is lucky to have a high street full of greengrocers, butchers and bakers and unique local businesses. One of our key messages will be that we want people to **‘Buy Local First’**. This helps keep money and jobs in the local area and reduces the mileage that goods have to travel from producer to consumer. We are obviously not the only organisation that has promoted this message - we aim to work together with others so that the message can have a greater influence and impact. If you belong to other organisations within the town who would like to play a part in Green Fortnight please get in touch.

As well as the campaign to promote local shops and products there will be a number of events including a showing of the film Before the Flood starring Leonardo DiCaprio, and a Green Quiz.

Climate change creates issues on a global and local stage and will effect everybody whatever age or background. Following a green lifestyle more in tune with the planet’s ecosystems will help reduce the burden that future generations will suffer. We know already that there is a lively interest in the town around these issues. Transition Town Bridport has been the source of many innovative initiatives including the St Mary’s Edible Garden project and annual ‘Open Eco Homes’. The Green Fortnight is a way that we can celebrate all the ‘green projects’ in the town. We can build on existing work and promote sustainable living to a wider audience, encouraging the local community to tread more lightly on the surface of the earth.

Unlike many New Year resolutions, that falter after a while, we want the messages of Green Fortnight to have a lasting effect and those new habits to become a normal part of life.

(Sarah West)

## News from the Edible Garden

TTB has been awarded money from Trusthouse Charitable Fund which will help us to keep two part-time gardeners at St. Mary's school in 2017. This is a match-funding scheme: the generous crowd funders of last February helped this to become possible. All of us at TTB and HOME in Bridport are so thankful to those big-hearted people who have helped the Edible Garden project for another year. Not all the fund applications have been successful, so that the chicken coop and run project will have to wait a while. For all those who support this ongoing educational project, promoting children's healthy eating, please look out for the 'Community Matters' Box in Bridport Waitrose, during the month of February. All the green discs you receive, while shopping in this store, could be put towards our Edible Garden vote – the more discs we get, the more money is given to the project.

There has been work continuing during the winter months; Tia and Mitch have completely changed around the large poly tunnel. The aim is to make the garden more productive, and especially to beat the slugs, snails and woodlice which decimate our crops. All wooden dividers have been removed and the layout simplified. At the same time the smaller tunnel has become more pupil-friendly with benches, tools and equipment to hand in germinating and potting on food seedlings. Plans are afoot for more celebrations in the spring. Volunteers are always welcome.

(Sarah Wilberforce)



Children with the produce from the Edible Garden



## AGM report

TTB held its Annual General Meeting on 17 November. Sam Wilberforce reported on a successful year including our Eco-Homes open weekend, and the Edible Garden at St Mary's School, plus our regular speakers and film events. Sam was thanked for his work as chair and organiser of (among other things) Eco Homes, and Sarah

for her work as treasurer and lead on the Edible Garden. Officers elected for next year are Caroline Walker (chair) Sam Wilberforce (treasurer) and Anne Rickard continues to do her sterling work as secretary. We are very happy to welcome Sarah West, elected as a new Director.

## Should we buy our vegetables from local suppliers?

In October we did a survey of prices of all the greengrocers and supermarkets in Bridport. A basket of vegetables and apples was priced at each outlet, and we enquired where the food was grown.

The results are on the net page. Please bear in mind that this represents one week in October and may be different at other times.

Retailers	Price of basket	Notes
Nina's	£10.74	Local Supplier
Bridget's	£9.88	Local Supplier
Charmouth Dragon	£14.39	All organic, locally grown, very fresh
Washingpool Farm	£10.92	As local as possible
Fruits of the Earth	£12.80	All organic, local if possible
Bothenhill and Elwell at Farmers' market	£14.19	All organic and local, supplied via box scheme, farm gate and market
Lidl	About £7*	Shrink wrapped in plastic. Europe
Spar	£9.91*	Shrink wrapped in plastic. Europe
Waitrose	£9.25	UK
Morrisons	£7.24	UK
Co-operative	£8.97	UK
Chapman's van on Wednesday	£7.23*	No provenance stated. Bristol market?

\* Prices estimated as not all items on the shopping list were supplied

So should we go for the cheapest vegetables? How much is reasonable to spend for a week's vegetable box? Perhaps price should not be the only consideration:

The cost of driving to the supermarket needs to be factored in.

We should ask how old the vegetables and fruit are. On average supermarkets groceries are over 10 days old, and have lost much of their goodness (see <http://supplychainanalysis.igd.com/>). Local suppliers' food is much fresher which can preserve its nutritional value.

The Multiplier Effect on local economy. Every pound you spend on local goods boosts the local economy by £2.50.

Who gets the money, a small business or a shareholder? Do the big food companies pay a fair rate of tax?

Local food, especially organic, is in general better quality and more nutritious than produce from industrial farming, grown with fertilisers, pesticides and weedkillers. And it tastes better!

Local food has few food miles, and therefore has a lower carbon footprint.

Whilst recognising that many families are struggling on low incomes, we need to ask: should price be the only consideration in food choices? For instance, a battery farmed chicken is certainly cheaper (3 chickens for £10 in one supermarket). But have they been raised humanely? What have they been fed? Have antibiotics and hormones been used to increase yields? Have the workers been given a fair deal?

Whether we like it or not, our food choices have personal, political, economic and social implications ... (Sam W)

## A Second Helping of Bridport Soup

Bridport is getting ready for another serving of a special soup that makes a difference - Bridport Soup 2!

The innovative fundraising evening is inspired by the format of the original Detroit Soup - four local projects that will benefit the community pitch for four minutes each to an audience that's allowed to ask them four questions. The audience has paid on the door for a delicious soup supper and after they've eaten and discussed the projects there's a vote - and the winning pitch is given all the takings from the evening for their project. Instant crowd funding - with soup.

Jonny Gordon-Farleigh, local supporter of social enterprises and founder of Stir to Action has long been excited by the potential of the Detroit Soup model and worked with Linda Hull from Communities Living Sustainably to bring it to Bridport. He says "In five years in Detroit they've raised \$127,164 for community projects and in the process helped to develop a local culture of collaboration and democracy that's creative and social".

The youngest pitchers from the night Matt McCourtie and Joe Hewetson from the Community Youth Project won the first Bridport Soup four months ago and were given over £600 from the takings on the door that night plus £250 from Stir To Action. They were up against The People's Pantry project to create a waste food cafe, Refugee Solidarity building community links with the camp in Calais and Kitchen Collective's plans for a prep and teaching kitchen. Joe says "We were delighted to receive this support from the first Bridport Soup and as a young organisation it gave us a huge confidence boost - the funds we won will be a big help for the promotion of our networking event this spring."

With so much positive feedback from the first event Jonny and Linda quickly set about organising Bridport Soup 2. It's on **Thursday February 2nd 7pm at the Women's Institute on North Street, Bridport**. Local chef Masaki Dew will be cooking the hearty soup for this second event and it will be served once again with bread generously donated by Leakers Bakery.

**Midday Friday Jan 20th** is the deadline for applications to pitch - they can come from any local project with a community benefit and Linda emphasises what a valuable experience it will be for all four participants, "the four selected projects will receive pitch training from Caroline Walker, Chair of Transition Town Bridport, and the event itself is a great chance to make new contacts and sources of support".

Applications can be found on [the Bridport Soup Facebook page](#) or hard copies can be sourced from

**BRIDPORT SOUP**

4 COMMUNITY PROJECTS  
4 MINUTES to pitch  
4 QUESTIONS from you  
4 POUNDS gets you

a bowl of soup and a vote

ALL YOU NEED TO MAKE INCREDIBLE PROJECTS HAPPEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

BRIDPORTSOUP.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK • FACEBOOK.COM/BRIDPORTSOUP

W.I. HALL, BRIDPORT  
Thursday 2 February 2017  
FROM 7 PM

JOIN THE CROWD: PAY WHAT YOU FEEL + BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE  
PITCH: VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR FORMS AT T.I.C OR LIBRARY

KITCHEN COLLECTIVE  
STIR  
Communities Living Sustainably

**LIVE CROWDFUNDING**

Bridport Library and the Tourist Information Centre. Places to attend the Soup can be booked on [Eventbrite](#) on the Facebook page. *(Ines Cavill)*

## Landbase

A new initiative to teach a variety of land-based skills – bee-keeping, seed saving, micro dairy, animal husbandry, soil regeneration and many more - to local people launched at the Real Farming Conference in Oxford in January and is now offering courses. Upcoming for this spring:

- [Getting to know our soils and what they need from us](#) at Monkton Wyld Court 13 and 14 March details [here](#)
- [Making a successful Market Garden](#) – tutors Ashley Wheeler, Charles Dowding and Hugh Chapman. 8–10 April. Details [here](#): The course is based at Monkton Wyld and visits the gardens run by the tutors – should be amazing!

Further information from [contact@landbase.org.uk](mailto:contact@landbase.org.uk).

## Building Bridport's Entrepreneurial Economy

A well-attended workshop was held on 7 December as part of a process to develop a picture of the local economy in and around Bridport in three sectors – Food, Health & Social Care, and Building Materials & Resources.

Amanda Streatfeild (Bridport Area Development Trust) and Frances Northrop (working on Community Economic Development) gave inspiring presentations which led to some great discussions facilitated by Tim Crabtree, Jay Tompt and Claire Smith. A full event report is available from Candida Blaker ([candida.blaker@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:candida.blaker@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk)).



## Green Drinks!



The first green Drinks of 2017 will be on January 19<sup>th</sup> in the back room of the Tiger Inn, Barrack Street Bridport. Please join us for drinks and sandwiches from 8 pm in the back room. A great chance to meet other supporters of TTB in an informal setting. We hold green drinks on the third Thursday in every month.

## Getting Involved

**Contact** <mailto:admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk> and you will be added to our mailing list and/or put in touch with the group or activity you would like to join. If you are receiving this you are already on the mailing list, but if you'd rather not be, just [tell us](#).

Come along to any event /workshop. Check out our What's On section [here](#), on our website.

If your local group wishes to collaborate with TTB on any project, or has ideas and energy for a new project, just let us know.

We are very keen to expand the pool of active people for the above projects and to get other strands going. Please [get in touch](#) if you would like to help. If you have any events of a local and eco-friendly nature that you would like us to advertise on our website or in the newsletter, please [contact us](#) and we'll see what we can include.

NB We do not use our mailing list other than for our own regular mailings.

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