

## Newsletter No 22 - May 2014

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

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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.

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**Featured:**

### **Bridport Transition Skills Course**



Simon Larkin (left) re-seating a tap under instruction from trainer, Jim Shearman (right)

**You may have read about it in the local press, but if you missed it, here's the press release...**

#### ***Practical Skills course at North Mills***

"Last week [that was end of March] a course was run for five unemployed people in Kingston Maurward's North Mills workshop. The course covered practical aspects of carpentry, metalwork, wiring and plumbing, finishing with a project designing

and making wire strippers and a lamp to take home, with lampshades donated by Lilliputs.

The course was organised by John Lewis, of Transition Town Bridport, and was taught each day by qualified tradesmen who volunteered their time.

One of the trainees, Simon Larkin, said it was "not just an opportunity to sample the practical side of different occupations, but also to hear from the volunteer tradesmen about their real world experience." He hopes to take a domestic electrician qualification after taking advice from electrician Malcolm Drew.

Jim Shearman showing Blake Wyatt how to use a tap wrench



James Brown, an unemployed screen-printer looking for a new career, was inspired by the plumbing "It was good to get the basics of four trades, and I am now looking for apprenticeships or a college course in heating and plumbing".

Another trainee, Clive, has volunteered to help on another project of Transition Town Bridport, building raised beds in the St Mary's school polytunnel.

On the last day of the course, John Johnson, manager of Harbour Bonfield, and Terry McCormack of G R Edwardes talked to the trainees about interviews, CVs, and job applications. The Mayor Maggie Ray presented certificates to the trainees.

The course was supported by Bridport Local Area Skills Training, Bridport Youth Action Trust, West Dorset District Council, the Co-operative Society, Magna Housing, who also supplied overalls for the trainees, and Mac builders who supplied timber.

Coincidentally the Kingston Maurward North Mills centre was being used at the same time by a complementary course, run by Skills Training Bridport, which helps unemployed 19-plus youngsters into the job market helping them to identify pathways to their chosen careers."

**A great follow-up too** - further to this course John had an e-mail from James Brown, one of the trainees, to let him know that as a result of the course, especially the electrical part, he has managed to secure a job with Charmouth Caravans as a trainee maintenance engineer – brilliant!

**Communities Living Sustainably (CLS)**  
*(not a TTB project but we are running projects funded by CLS)*



**TTB's Open Eco Homes**

We organised this for the first time last year and it was extremely popular. This year's Open Eco Homes will be over the weekend of **Saturday and Sunday 13 and 14 September.**

Sam Wilberforce is making arrangements for this year's event, which are progressing well, with 12 homes around Bridport and 6 in Lyme Regis for you to visit. CG Fry are opening up their high spec buildings next to the Medical Centre in Bridport, and we have 4 houses that were not part of last year's event. Brochures giving full details will be available in due course – we will let you know when and where to pick one up.



**Draughtbusters**

Chit Chong runs courses on cheap methods of effectively draught-proofing doors and windows – get in touch for upcoming autumn dates – courses are FREE!

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**HOME**  
IN BRIDPORT

**Recent press release:**

**"Dig-In at St. Mary's school Bridport allotment and polytunnel"**

On another very changeable Spring Day, some parents came to support the school's cook and part time gardener at the school, in their exciting new adventure. This 'Growing, Eating and Cooking' project is being led by Transition Town Bridport, as part of the HOME in Bridport initiative. Last Sunday afternoon was the occasion to build a willow fence and weed the new polytunnel in preparation for the raised beds being built by Bob Pritchard. Very generous support was given by Groves who provided a load of top soil and potting compost, as well as Modbury Farm who donated as much well-rotted manure as they could transport.



Photograph by Robert Golden

Sarah Wilberforce of TTB said "this food garden belongs to everyone in the school and every person counts. We need to show up and help to build something together for the children. Connecting children with growing food is essential for their health, and the future resilience of our community."



The school cook was delighted to lift the first lettuce, ([her photo shown here](#)), to be shared with children taking part in an after-school club.

**TTB requires help on occasional Sunday afternoons. Anybody who wants to be part of this project should get in touch with [admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk](mailto:admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk)**

CLS money has been given to the Food project, to support two part-time gardening posts, for parents in the school. This will be for 20 weeks, in the summer period. We are in the process of organising interviews for the applicants and hope to appoint them very soon.

See also our 'What, where and who's doing it' section and the HOME attachment with this newsletter.

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### ***Energy monitors – borrow one (free) from Bridport Library and see why your electricity bills may be higher than they need to be..***



There has been a re-launch of energy monitors being loaned to the public via Bridport library. Drop by and borrow one for a while – it will show where your energy is going – and where you can save it.

If you have young family members who persistently forget to switch things off, maybe you could do a deal with them. Show them your current electricity bills for the past year, and tell them that if your bill reduces, for the same period in this year, you will give them HALF the

difference. We know of someone who did just this – it worked a treat, everyone was a winner and the youngsters ended up policing the grown-ups!

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### **Kirklees Campaign against Climate Change (not a TTB project, but we thought you might be interested)**

TTB has added its support to this campaign.

This is a group based in West Yorkshire called Kirklees Campaign Against Climate Change who have recently produced a 'Tipping Point Declaration'. This is an eight point summary of the latest science on the causes and impacts of man-made climate change. You can read it on their website <http://kirkleescampaignagainstclimatechange.wordpress.com/2014/01/24/stand-up-for-the-scientists-and-sign-up-to-our-tipping-point-declaration/> .

We were approached as a group to 'sign up' to the Tipping Point Declaration, and after checking it out, we agreed as it was totally appropriate for us to do so. The declaration was to be sent to national media, party leaders in parliament and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. There is a further extensive list of bodies to whom it will be sent, and since those initial contacts, also now an impressive and very long list of organisations which have signed. You can view all this on their website.

Currently the organisers are considering asking two of their local MPs who support the Declaration - Mike Wood and Barry Sheerman - if they would table an Early Day Motion in parliament that contains the eight-point summary, and they have asked us if we have any objections. We don't, but if they have even one objection from any other signatories, they won't proceed.



## What, where and who's doing it

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### Bridport Community Orchard Group – latest update – from Jill Lloyd (Chair BCOG)

#### 1. Working morning on Sunday May 11th as usual 10 until 1pm

We shall be doing various tasks, weeding, raking, etc. The blossom is looking fabulous just now.

#### 2. Extra working evening Thursday May 22nd from 7pm

**During the summer months we will be having an evening each month to keep up with the growth of the grass.**

We now have 5 scythes, and will be cutting a large circle around the trees (if the mower goes too close it damages the trees) and then raking it and bagging the grass for removal. All welcome.

If that sounds too strenuous, there will be lighter tasks.

Maybe the evening will end with a transfer to the Woodman, (pub in South Street) for a pint, or whatever.

Do hope to see you on one of these occasions.

#### 3. Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallett, May 30th /31<sup>st</sup> (Friday/Saturday)

We are again having a stand in the Cider and Orchards tent, and have **two free tickets for each day** for people to look after the stand.

**On the Saturday, we need someone able to bring the display boards** back to Bridport (in a case, and need maybe a sack truck to transport?).

**If you could do that, please let me know – tel 458480**, and I can arrange to let you have the tickets.

NB. you can leave one person on the stand, or even no-one for a while, so you can see the rest of the show, but the cider tent is quite fun anyway!

Cheers all

[www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk](http://www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk)

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**HOME**  
IN BRIDPORT

### Wednesday 14 May - Saturday 31 May

An exhibition exploring how culture, food and the arts can help rebuild lost connections between people and their communities

Talk / Discussion - *'Rope walks and Chopsticks'*

Saturday 24 May, Allsop Gallery, 3pm, FREE

*Robert Golden and participants of the HOME IN BRIDPORT exhibition will pose questions and discuss how Bridport is unique and how the 'HOME' project is evolving.*

Film screenings by project participants: Tuesday 27 May, 7pm, FREE

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### TTB - Green Drinks – the next two:



**Thursday 16 May and 20 June from 8.00pm**

**The Tiger, Barrack Street**

Join us for informal discussion on anything relevant to the cause - you can find out more, get involved, or just enjoy a drink and a chat. Hope to see you there.

## Presented by STIR - Film – Grasp the Nettle



**Wednesday 21 May, doors 6.45, screening 7.15, followed by Q&A session with film-maker**  
**WI Hall, North St, Bridport**

**Tickets £5 from Fruits of the Earth (Victoria Grove, Bridport) or on-line:**  
<https://www.wegottickets.com/event/272642>.

More info on the poster (attached with this email)  
Here's the trailer: <http://www.graspthenettlefilm.com/>

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## Friends of the Bridport Borough Gardens

(Taken from recent press release written by the coordinator)

### Success at the Borough Gardens Great Planting Day

On a showery day in May, hardy volunteers, including Jack the dog, turned up to the First Great Planting Day of 2014. to brighten up the Bridport Borough Gardens.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, we were able to purchase many more plants to fill out the borders in Phase 2 of the Bridport Borough Gardens Community Project. The Community Group, chaired by garden designer Sarah Wilberforce, was set up in 2012 to transform the former tangle of dank overgrown vegetation into a tranquil, colourful space to be cherished and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Heritage trees have been expertly pruned so that they can grow back to their elegant Victorian proportions. A copse of birches at the far end of the garden will eventually mask the building behind, while hops and honeysuckle will cover the ugly fencing. Spring pansies and roses now grace the new raised beds outside Whetham House, together with a mature hawthorn kindly donated by Waitrose.

Garden designer, Gill Massey, said "Future stages will see the replanting of the south-facing walled garden border, once the scrubby growth has been pulled out and the depleted soil has been refreshed. All the planting is bee-friendly; an "Insect Hotel" will eventually be installed to encourage them to visit regularly. Co-ordinator Maggie Ray added "Having attended Hedgehog Day in the Community Orchard last month, we are also now aware of the need to keep some areas untidy, and we will have some "hedgehog boxes".

The project is supported by the AONB, Magna Housing and the Bridport Environment Group and, in particular, Bridport Town Council.



If you would like to join the "Friends of the Borough Gardens Group" to be kept informed of future events, contact Co-ordinator Maggie Ray at [magieray@aol.com](mailto:magieray@aol.com) or at the Town Council offices at Mountfield. All welcome.

**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.**

**We expect our next newsletter to be published in mid July. If you have any events of a local and eco-friendly nature that you would like us to advertise on our website or here, 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.**

## GETTING INVOLVED

Contact [admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk](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.**

From the website, [www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk](http://www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk) you can [download a membership form](#) and sign up as a registered/voting member.



[Join our group](#) on Facebook and chat with us.

Come along to any event/workshop. Check out our **What's On** section here, and/or 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.