



## Newsletter No 24 - September 2014

[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.

### In this edition:

- Funding news
- Green Drinks
- AGM date
- Draughtbusters workshops
- Transition Free Press
- Disruptive Innovation Festival
- Resilience.org
- Eco-Homes Weekend Report
- Apple Day
- Good news for keen recyclers
- News from CLS

### Upcoming events featured:

- One World Week
- 'Make More, Use Less' Workshop, Charmouth, 9 October. [Click Link](#)
- Introduction to Bushcraft, One-day course, Marshwood Vale, 4 October. [Click Link](#)
- Launch of The New Working Woodlanders project. [Click Link](#)
- Real World Economics Workshop, St Michael's Bridport, 4 and 5 October. [Click Link](#)

### Funding news:

We can announce that TTB has been awarded £100 from the Bridport Area Community Fund and £100 from Bridport Town Council, for which we are very grateful. These grants will cover the cost of our leaflet reprint.

TTB is delighted to have received £6091 from Awards for All for a project called 'Go, Grow and Glow' offering cooking skills sessions and farm visits to parents attending Bridport Children's Centre and also cooking workshops to parents and children as an after-school activity at St Mary's School. This is part of TTB's partnership with the HOME in Bridport project and is aimed at reskilling local people and promoting local food.



### From the Editor:

In this newsletter we offer a suggestion of how to deal with some hard-to-recycle items by passing them on (via TTB members) to a local charity who will make some money by, presumably, selling on to a processor. Whilst this is great, in the short term, for bypassing landfill and benefiting a charity, perhaps we should take a 'systems' view of the situation and ask: why, of the mantra 'rethink, refuse, reduce, recycle,' do we only seem to be able to manage the last one? And do those of us who diligently take so much trouble to recycle everything we can actually let manufacturers off the hook? Should we also be asking why manufacturers continue to make things that are 'hard-to-recycle'?

McDonough and Braungart, in their book *'Cradle-to-Cradle: Rethinking the way we make things'* suggest that everything manufactured should be composed of materials and parts that can fit into two cycles: a biological nutrient cycle (things that can be composted) and a technological nutrient cycle (things that can be reused). This also, of course, requires manufacturers to remain responsible for the items they produce and sell and to take them back when finished with. A real-life example: the Think Chair, made by Steelcase ([www.steelcase.com](http://www.steelcase.com)), which is easily disassembled at the end of its life to provide parts for a new chair (the technological cycle) and material for composting (the biological cycle). Both materials flows are benign to the environment, because parts are being reused, not landfilled, and composting the material returns valuable biological nutrients to the earth.

Looked at like this, it seems crazy that we allow companies to make money out of producing stuff that fits neither the technical nutrient or biological nutrient pathways. We either have to expend a lot of energy in finding ways to recycle it, (effectively this means 'downcycle') or we just despair and throw it away, making it someone else's problem. The companies that make this stuff have no responsibility for what happens to it once we have bought it: they have effectively outsourced the clean-up to us, to local authorities, and, in the case of electrical goods, to small children on waste dumps in Nigeria who take them apart with their bare hands in order to make a bit of money from materials that can be salvaged. It's a massive failure of design: recycling is a 'downstream' activity, a bit like standing in the river rescuing a steady stream of drowning infants, rather than going upstream to find, and stop, the person who is throwing them in.

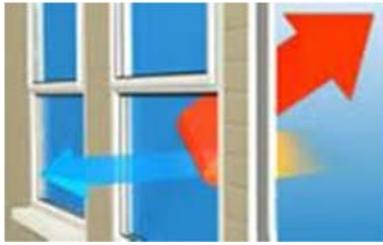
End of rant! CW



**Green Drinks this month is on  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> at The Tiger,  
Barrack Street, Bridport from 8pm.**

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.

**Date of AGM:** Transition Town Bridport AGM will be on 20<sup>th</sup> November this year at 7 pm. Please make a note of the date. Venue will be confirmed!



## Draughtbusters

Chit Chong runs courses on cheap methods of effectively draught-proofing doors and windows – courses are FREE! Next dates 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November: get in touch for more details.

Information about **Transition Free Press** – a good read on all things Transition – is available [here](#). Rob Hopkins' [blog](#) is also well worth looking at on the Transition Network site.

If you are interested in new approaches to the economy, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation will stage the first **Disruptive Innovation Festival** (DIF) in 2014, 'bringing together thought-leaders, entrepreneurs, businesses, makers, learners and doers to catalyse system-level change for a future economy. Over four weeks using a mix of online and face-to-face events participants have an abundance of opportunities to explore the economy through a different lens'. [see more about this innovative event here](#)

In case you haven't yet discovered this really useful digest of global material on economics, food and water, society, energy and environment, [Resilience.org](#) is highly recommended.

## Bridport Open Ecohomes

*Sam Wilberforce writes:*

This year 11 homes were open around Bridport, along with another six in Lyme Regis. These all showed ways we can save energy and resources around the home. But here the similarity ended, with very distinct approaches emerging, providing a fascinating contrast between the homes.

Pat Bowcock, who runs an organic farm in Litton Cheney, has developed a wide range of solutions to living off grid, and with only rain and river for water. She and her team of helpers have insulated her home with reclaimed materials, lighting it with LED strips fed by batteries which are charged up by solar PV panels and a wind turbine. Food is kept fresh with a river fridge, and compost is provided from comfrey beds, a local organic farm, and the composting toilets (the manure is not used on food crops). Jyoti Fernandes at Fivepenny Farm similarly lives off grid with David and their four daughters, growing and processing food with a cooperative of organic farmers. Ele gave an inspiring talk about growing up in a home with no mains electricity or TV.



Pat demonstrating her river fridge



Ray Explaining an air source heat pump

At the other extreme, Chit and Lucy opened their new house built with very high thermal performance, with porotherm blocks finished with lime render and mechanical heat ventilation. Chit used all his experience with Low-Carbon Know-How to design a very efficient building. At the opposite end of the cost spectrum, the newbuilds on West Allington reached high thermal specifications while keeping costs low.

Other low cost solutions included Rob and Mary's house, with extensive recycled building materials; Arnold, with a self-built water recovery system; and Steve who has built a straw bale extension himself on his cottage in Burton Bradstock. He has become an expert on the renewable heating incentive for his wood pellet boiler.



Fivepenny Farm's famous hand made barn and food processing centre.



Arnold discussing water recovery systems



Ray explaining off grid energy storage using batteries

The engineering of low energy use is at the forefront of Ray and Monica Peto's home, with very efficient insulation in the extension they have built. Ray is developing a DC48 volt system and batteries to be able to live comfortably in the event of extended power cuts, and eventually off grid living. His explanation of how to use low voltage supply and control systems was very informative

All these approaches to cutting energy were supplemented by tips for low-energy living from Dave and Anne, and meticulous record keeping by Sarah was of great interest to visitors considering installing PV panels.

From simple low-cost solutions to technical approaches to the future, there was plenty for the 300 or so visitors to take in. All the visitors spoke of their gratitude at being able to share the experience and enthusiasm of our wonderful hosts. Thank you all! (*And well done to all involved! Ed.*)



## **Bridport Community Orchard's Apple Day**

### **Community Orchard**

**(behind St Mary's Church, South St)**

**Saturday October 18th, 11-3**

Full programme of entertainment, refreshments, woodworkers, bees, pond dipping, cider and stalls, plus information about the orchard, including the allotment. TTB will be there with our popular "Apple Fruit Machine"

## **Good news for keen recyclers!**

Do you wonder what on earth to do with:

- Plastic milk bottle tops and other bottle tops with a recycling "2".
- Activia, Shape and Actimel yoghurt pots
- Any brand of baby food pouch
- Any brand of baby wipes packaging
- Kenco Eco refill coffee pouches
- Any brand of coffee jar lids, single serve coffee sachets, eco refill pouches
- Any brand of whole/ground coffee bean pouches/bags
- Tassimo coffee t-discs
- Any brand of biscuit packet wrappers including multi-bar outer packet and individual wrappers eg Penguins, etc
- Any brand of mobile phone (not chargers or batteries)

They are not easily recycled locally, and often (except for the phones, one hopes) end up in landfill. The answer is you can bring them along to Green Drinks at The Tiger, Barrack Street, Bridport, third Thursday of every month from 8pm (except August) and hand them to Jim Shearman, Anne Rickard or Dave Rickard, who will pass them on to one of our members who has found a collection point where they can be recycled to help a local charity.

## News from Communities Living Sustainably in Dorset

### **76% want to do more to be environmentally friendly.**

If you took part in our survey earlier in the year, you can check out the report [here](#) – we found that 76% of people want to do more to be environmentally friendly, and while many respondents are very committed to recycling there is lots of room for improvement when it comes to insulation and water saving devices.

### **Report: How can Bridport adapt to severe weather?**

On 30th July, over 40 people attended a workshop in Bridport Town Hall to give us their views on how the local community is affected by severe weather and what they think can be done to prepare for climate change. Visit [www.clsdorset.org.uk](http://www.clsdorset.org.uk) for more information and to view the scenario.

### **Free solar panel offer for village halls and schools.**

Dorset Community Energy Ltd, with support from CLS in Dorset, can provide free solar panels (PV) for a limited number of village halls and schools. The building will receive free electricity from the solar panels. For further information, contact Pete West [p.west@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:p.west@dorsetcc.gov.uk) 01305 228530 Mob 07532 339582

*This offer is available in Dorchester, Bridport and surrounding parishes.*

### **'Make more, Use less' Free workshop for businesses – see flyer**

The aim of the workshop is to help small businesses with sustainable life-cycle business issues including: supply chains; reducing materials; packaging; water; energy; transportation and waste. [James Dorrell](#) from Bloom Sustainability will be facilitating the workshop and business advisers Kathryn Hughes and Huw Robson will be on hand to offer their expertise advice on brand messaging/marketing/packaging etc. Being sustainable is important but so is getting the message out to your customers/suppliers and buyers!

The workshop should be of particular interest to businesses based in the food & drink sector but it's open to any local business that wishes to attend.

### **Call for an artist to work with CLS in Dorset**

We're looking to recruit an artist to engage local people in voicing their views about how climate change could affect them and what the community can do to prepare for local changes in our climate. This will be used to create an artwork to share with the wider community. For more information, visit [http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/news\\_articles.aspx?id=169](http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/news_articles.aspx?id=169)

### **CLS in Dorset ONE WORLD WEEK 2014: Living Differently**

The One World Week 2014 theme "**Living Differently**" recognises that we all need to make changes now to secure a fairer, more satisfying, life for everyone whilst protecting the planet's resources for future generations. The focus is on:

- Sourcing food differently
- Reducing wastefulness
- Using money ethically to support the changes we want to see.

For more information, [http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/one\\_world\\_week.aspx](http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/one_world_week.aspx)

### **Personal resilience: Staying Happy in Changeable Times**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October Chapel in the Garden, Bridport 2-5pm**

A life skills taster workshop with Alan Heeks and Serenna Davies, organised with West Dorset FoE in association with CLS.

*"Life is getting more changeable for most of us: how can we stay positive when we feel overloaded? This event offers you practical skills to handle life's challenges, find the gifts in the problems, and raise your personal resilience. The aim is to help you handle challenges in your life and work generally, including such wider pressures as food costs, service cuts, climate change, and general overload".*

BOOK via Serenna [info@serennatherapy.co.uk](mailto:info@serennatherapy.co.uk) or 07798 578186. Cost £7, concessions £4.

### **Waste Less, Spend Less**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Bridport Town Hall & Buckydoo Square 12–6pm**

A whole host of treats including FREE scrumptious soup from surplus food, pedalling to keep the music playing, repair your bicycle puncture, aquaponics in action, crochet carrier bags from plastic bags, upcycled wrist warmers for winter, and plenty of information on reducing wastefulness, saving money and going green.

FREE! No booking required.

### **An Evening with Jamie Catto: Deeper Roots of Sustainability: Grow the New World from Within**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Lyric Theatre, Bridport 7.30–9.30pm**

CLS in Dorset is bringing film maker, musician and creativity czar Jamie Catto to Bridport to show us that it's not just about what we eat and where we buy it, but how we relate to the whole world around us and each other. Jamie will argue that we need to change who we are altogether. Jamie Catto is the creative catalyst, producer and director behind the award-winning global philosophy and music project "Giant Leap"<sup>TM</sup>. Jamie is also a founder member, singer, art director and video director of dance music group Faithless.

FREE! But book via [http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/one\\_world\\_week.aspx](http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/one_world_week.aspx)

### **Plugging the Leaks: Local Economic Development as if People and the Planet mattered.**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Town Hall, Dorchester 9.30am–1.30pm**

Hosted by CLS in Dorset and delivered by the New Economics Foundation (NEF), this free workshop will help individuals and organisations explore how we can reduce waste and keep money circulating locally.

FREE! But book via [http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/one\\_world\\_week.aspx](http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/one_world_week.aspx)

**Communities Living Sustainably (CLS) in Dorset** is a three year initiative funded by the Big Lottery to support communities in and around Bridport and Dorchester to adapt to climate change and live more sustainably.

<http://www.clsdorset.org.uk/>



## 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](#).

**Join:** 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.

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 November. 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.