

**Newsletter No 30 –
December 2015**

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

You may remember that during the General Election campaign there was a proposal by the Green Party for a Universal Basic Income, or Citizen's Income, which sparked a lot of [controversy](#), some commentators suggesting it would make poorer people worse off. But interest in the topic is growing: it was recently the subject of an online webinar on the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's [Disruptive Innovation Festival](#). The speaker, [Gaspard Koenig](#), explained how a basic, universal, unconditional personal income would improve social stability, cohesion, and inclusion, and free people up to be contributing members of society. The labyrinthine, inefficient and [in some cases downright cruel state benefits system](#) is based on the outdated notion of full employment which is rapidly falling apart; and it forces people to take what [David Graeber](#) calls 'bullshit jobs', meaningless work of no use to society, or lose the means to survive. The rise of food banks, and increasing numbers of working households (never mind workless households) in poverty, lead some [commentators to ask](#) if we can afford not to implement a basic income, because, surely, in a civilised society, everyone has the right to have their basic needs met? This is all the more pressing as we face a future where [many jobs will disappear](#) as a result of automation; someone recently asked the simple question: "What is everyone going to do?" Michael Braungart in his [DIF lecture](#) suggested that an ideal balance would be one third 'traditional' work, one third social work in the community, and one third gardening for food. A guaranteed basic income for all could make this a possibility.

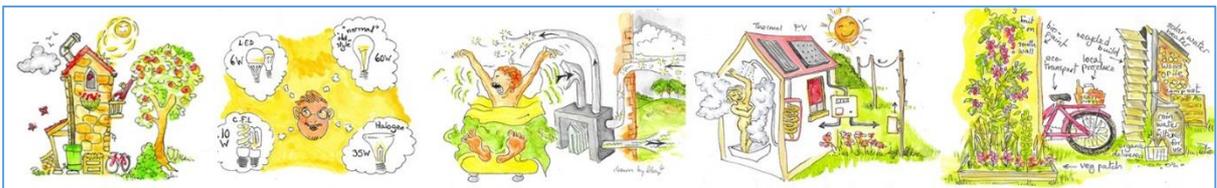
Researching this certainly leads one to interesting websites! [Here](#) is a well argued article about the potential of a basic income for Finland. (And it seems [they are going ahead](#) with it!) This short [cartoon leaflet](#) comes from the

campaigning [Citizen's Income Trust](#); and a long-time advocate offered [this](#) recently on the LSE website. There's also [this short film](#) which explains the concept in terms of human rights.

Could a Citizen's Income improve individual and community resilience? If we were to implement it while we still can, (i.e. before the next financial meltdown) people could use the resulting freedom and security to contribute to their community, and spend more time building their own personal resilience, learning skills, sharing knowledge. Of course, people could and would still choose to work to top up their basic income and the tax system would tax earnings; but no-one would fall below the guaranteed basic level, and we would get away from the current ideology – [criticised by both John Major and Gordon Brown](#) just recently – of 'deserving' and 'undeserving' poor, and blaming people who are in fact victims of an unjust system. And if, through Citizen's Income, a truly new economy were to emerge, maybe we could avoid the next collapse!

So – could a basic universal income offer us a way out of the present mess? As the poet John Cooper-Clarke says, "Think about it." CW

Open Eco Homes Feedback



Illustrations by Petra Hughes

The feedback from visitors to our Eco home events was very enthusiastic. But did the inspiration they gained convert into action to make changes to their home? See the full results of our survey [here](#). If you have not yet completed the survey, it is still open, and CLS are offering a further prize draw for participants. The survey is [here](#), and will take less than 10 minutes.

A film was made of some of the visits this year. It can be viewed [here](http://bit.ly/1T7KlZg)



TTB supporters Alex and Lesley spent that weekend visiting as many open eco homes as possible. Read their great report [here](#).



Good COP Bad COP: meeting on 19th November, Bridport Town Hall – by Raja Jarrah

It's that time of year again. For the past twenty or so Decembers, governments have met under the auspices of the UN to discuss what if anything to do about climate change. Officially the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, we all know it as COP – this year it's COP21, in the troubled city of Paris.



Kit Vaughan and Raja Jarrah, who both live in West Dorset, are climate activists who first met at COP13, and since then have attended most of the COPs as part of the delegations of non-governmental organisations that lobby the talks. At a lively meeting in Bridport Town Hall attended by over 100 people, they explained how COPs work, the main issues at stake, and how to tell real progress from 'greenwash'.... [More...](#)

Editor's note: at the end of the meeting Jim Shearman came up with the brilliant idea of people in the audience who were not currently signed up with a 'green' energy company partnering with someone who was. He collected names at the end of the evening, and has since found matches for people who are willing to change their suppliers. He also suggested, that as (for example) Good Energy offer £25 if an existing customer introduces someone, that the £25 could be donated to a good cause ...(TTB for example)? The customer also gets a £20 drinks voucher.



Square Meal Debate

Communities
Living Sustainably
in Dorset

CLS is thrilled to have attracted more than 100 delegates to the Square Meal Debate at Kingston Maurward, Dorset's premier agricultural teaching centre. Watch the film, read the [report](#), find your place in the partnership of farmers, food businesses, activists, policy makers, all of us consumers, setting out inspiring ideas to make a food revolution here in our county. – Linda Hull

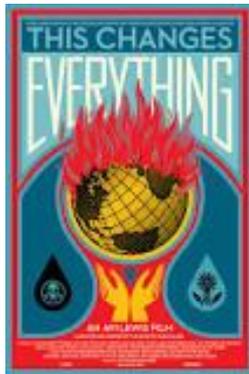
Crowd Funding for the Edible Garden



In January we are launching our crowd funding project, to increase the growing of food for St. Mary's school and Skilling community. This will bring benefits through healthy eating, cooking, socialising and educating in the Edible Garden. We need to raise £3500 to keep this project going for another year so that the school kitchen can grow much of its own food for and continue the great work in teaching about healthy eating. Please save a few pounds over the Christmas period. Look out for the email and Facebook launch in January; we cannot make this happen without your backing.



This Changes Everything



We will be screening the film '***This Changes Everything***' at the Bridport Arts Centre on 15th January 2016. The film is based on the book of the same name by Naomi Klein. *"Klein and Lewis paint a picture of a post-fossil-fueled, post-capitalist future that seems not only within reach, but like a place where we actually want to live"*

The evening will start with a report back from the Paris COP21 by Kit and Raja. So please look out for publicity and bring friends!

Details of the film can be seen [on this link](#) and a trailer [here](#).



Bridport Community Fair:

We will have a table as usual at the Bridport Community Fair in the Town Hall on February 6th 2016. Please drop by!



Apple Day

it.

TTB volunteers participated in this event and offered the ever-popular 'Human Fruit Machine'. Lots of fun was had and we raised about £15. Thanks to Lesley, Alex and Sarah West for organizing



Green Drinks

No Green Drinks in December – too much going on and the pubs get too busy. Next Green Drinks Thursday 21st January in the back room of the Tiger inn, Barack street. We hold this informal gathering on the third Thursday of every month. Even if you are not a regular 'pub person' you will be feel most welcome in this mixed company, chatting (mostly) about all things green.

Hooke Park

For those who do not know, Hooke Park is the Architectural Association's woodland site just outside Beaminster. They run an interesting programme of winter talks which unfortunately finished just before this newsletter. There are also woodland-related events and volunteering opportunities that look very inviting. Visit their website for more information.

<http://hookepark.aaschool.ac.uk/events/>



Big Ideas Challenge

Do you know any bright young people who have ideas that will make your community more environmentally friendly? You can choose to work on clothes, energy, water, waste, food, or travel, and grants for £250 are available from CLS.

Click [here](#) for details and [here](#) for a video.

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](#). NB We do not use our mailing list other than for our own regular mailings

Come along to any event /workshop or green drinks. Check out our What's On section [here](#), and/or on Facebook page.

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. 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.

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.