



Newsletter No 33 – October 2016

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:

From the Editor

Coming Up:

Talk on Passive Houses
Apple Day
AGM
Bridport Green Fortnight
Green Drinks

Getting Involved

Reports:

Eco Homes weekends
The Edible Garden
Melpash Show
Talks on retrofitting and CoHousing
Off grid Festival
Stir to Action courses
Landbase

From the Editor:

What a great evening happened in Bridport recently – the Bridport Soup! Organised by Jonny Gordon-Farleigh and Linda Hull, it was a crowd-funding event with a difference, where four local projects had a chance to pitch for funding to an assembled crowd who ‘paid what they felt’ for a bowl of delicious soup made by local cooks from locally-donated ingredients – and a bread roll from Leaker’s Bakery! The WI hall was full of people and the buzz in the room was deafening.

We heard passionate and committed people telling us their story (in four minutes) with a chance for questions afterwards. We heard from the Community Youth Project, dedicated to getting young people together to take a real role in their town and set up networking activities to engage widely; we heard from our own Tia about the Kitchen Collective, and its needs for more equipment to be able to train young cooks and provide local livelihoods; we heard from the People’s Pantry, who have already talked to supermarkets about collecting perfectly edible food that is going to be thrown away and setting up a pantry where anyone can go and pick up what they need, for free. And we also heard from a refugee support group, some of whom had been to Calais to work in a kitchen in the ‘Jungle’, looking for help to keep on providing necessities to refugees.

BRIDPORT SOUP



ALL YOU NEED TO MAKE INCREDIBLE PROJECTS HAPPEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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

W.I. HALL, BRIDPORT
SEPTEMBER 29TH
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



LIVE CROWDFUNDING

It was wonderful to see the passion and commitment expressed by those pitching for funds, and very hard to decide which to vote for. The voting was also innovative – we put our empty soup bowls into one of four baskets, labelled with the name of each project, and the one with the most bowls was the winner. During the counting there was a one minute ‘soup-box’ slot where people could speak about an issue they cared about. I spoke very briefly about the Home Start scheme for which I volunteer, which befriends families going through difficult times. In the harsh funding climate we have now, such schemes are in danger, yet they do so much good and save the statutory services so much money.

The winner was the Community Youth Project, taking home over £600 for their cause. Hats off, once again, to Jonny and Linda for this great event, and let’s hope it becomes a regular opportunity for those with inspiring ideas to present their projects to the community - Caroline

Coming Up:

Talk on Passive Houses

Nick Devlin is a partner in Fabric Building Physics, specialist consultants in low energy and sustainable building design. He will be talking about different approaches to designing houses which are cheap and easy to heat, and using materials with low embodied energy.

November 3rd at 7.30, WI hall, North Street, Bridport DT6 3JQ. Suggested contribution £3 or 3 NETs on the door

Apple Day



Apple Day at the Community Orchard is a great day to celebrate the season, listen to live music, see traditional crafts, sample the fermented juice of last year’s crop, and so much more. Come and try your luck on our Human Fruit Machine! **Saturday October 15th 11am - 3pm.** Click [here](#) for flyer.

AGM announcement

Transition Town Bridport AGM will take place on **17 November at 7.00 pm** at St Johns Ambulance Hall, Rax Lane, Bridport. Apart from the short but necessary matter of electing officers and examining the accounts, this is a good chance to review our work over the year, and to look forward to next year.

Everyone is welcome to attend, but only TTB members can vote. You can download a membership form [here](#). If you are not sure whether you are a member, please write to admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk.

Bridport Green Fortnight

We plan to run a green fortnight in **February 2017** to focus on reducing local energy consumption - personal and business, encouraging local production and consumption, adapting to change, and working in common to become more self-reliant. If you would like to get involved please [contact us](#) or come and talk to us at one of our events.



Green Drinks!



An informal gathering in the back room of the Tiger Inn, Barrack Street on the third Thursday of every month. The next one is on the **20 October after 8.00 pm**. Members of TTB and other green groups meet to discuss environmental and other matters and keep in touch. Everyone welcome.

Reports

Eco Homes weekends



This year we had fifteen homes, including five which had not opened before. Tracey and James at Dorset Forest Garden rely heavily on passive heating through their huge picture windows, while they pursue permaculture methods on forest garden and aquaponics. Olly and Kerry at Fivepenny farm have built a timber-framed house insulated with straw bales and other materials with low embodied energy, which allow for a very cosy home off-grid. Several people were particularly interested in Kerry's small-holding farm.

[Read More](#)

News from the Edible Garden



On Tuesday 4th October over 50 mayors and their consorts from all over Dorset came to visit the edible garden. Cllr Ros Kayes, Mayor of Bridport, held part of the town's Civic Day in the school; She wanted to showcase the TTB/HOME initiatives that are running at St Mary's.

Helen Farmer, head teacher, gave a power point presentation to the visitors about the developments in the school recently. As part of the great improvements in the past three years she mentioned the increase in pupils eating school meals, with 96%

uptake in the first three years. Also the popularity of the edible garden and school cooked meals among parents. We can be proud of our contribution to the outdoor learning and healthy eating in the school and community, as well as the increase of pupil numbers on roll.

During this event, after Daryl Chambers, Borough Surveyor and Sarah Wilberforce had spoken, Helen asked 'What about chickens Sarah?'

[Read More...](#)



TTB at Melplash Show

A beautiful, warm and sunny day brought crowds flocking to the 2016 Melplash show. Our Transition Town Bridport display was located in the Bridport Marquee amongst 'all things Bridport'. Lesley, once again did us proud, organising the display boards and as this time as team leader, coordinating volunteers. The main focus was the 'Open Eco Homes weekends, which took place this September, over two weekends, the display boards acted as a great prompt for discussion.

[Read More ...](#)

Talks on Retrofitting houses and Community Cohousing

On 14 September Mukti Mitchell gave a fascinating talk on retrofitting insulation on old houses. His experience with his company, Cosy Homes, was invaluable in describing how even listed buildings can be insulated, in particular by using plexiglass secondary double glazing. Sam Goss, of Barefoot Architects, introduced his work on Bridport Community CoHousing by outlining his approach to designing for a community. All the houses use passive heating keep them warm, and use efficient insulating materials. The common house has a variety of shared facilities for the community including dining, meeting, kitchen and laundry spaces - all to enable residents to share resources in a more sustainable, more affordable and more neighbourly way.



Communities Living Sustainably (CLS) - Three years on.



The 'Communities Living Sustainably' in Dorset project was one of 12 test- and-learn projects funded by the Big Lottery, to encourage a wide diversity of communities, cultures and communities to develop projects designed to engage the wider public in awareness of climate change, its causes and its mitigation and also the benefits to individuals and communities of being part of the solution to our addiction to fossil fuels and wasteful use of resources in general.

[Read More](#)

The off grid festival August 15th 2016



Five TTB supporters went to this new festival, near Exeter, and experienced all kinds of interesting events which continued over a wonderful sunny weekend; it was all powered with off grid renewable energy.

In particular we were there to support Bridport's own Jonny Gordon-Farleigh; He was there representing his organisation STIR, in collaboration with Jay Tompt of the Totnes REconomy project. A varied series of talks was put on during that day which included economics, as well as political topics.



[Read More...](#)



Stir to Action

Jonny has organised a brilliant set of workshops to re-energise our local economy. Click [here](#) for details.

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 will be launching soon. Please check out www.landbase.org.uk for details of the courses to be offered. Based mainly at Monkton Wyld Court, the courses will use the wealth of local small scale agriculture and horticulture initiatives in West Dorset as a resource to build up skills in the sort of land-based industries which heal rather than wreck the planet.

GETTING INVOLVED

Contact <mailto:admin@transitiontownbridport.co.uk> and you will be added to our mailing list. 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](#), 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.

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