



## Newsletter No 38 – May 2018

[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 bumper edition:

- From the editor
- Film: An Inconvenient Sequel
- Update from the Edible Garden
- Reports from Green Fortnight
- Millennium Green Walk
- Beaminster Green Eco
- Green Drinks

### **From the editor:**

This issue reports on the success of Green Fortnight 2018, which focussed on reducing plastic use in Bridport. TTB is very thankful to all who collaborated with us in any way on this fortnight. Dare we look forward to another one next year? Ideas for themes are welcome.

Another interesting event that took place during Green Fortnight was a meeting exploring the idea of a "Mission-Led bank for the South West". Organised by the RSA, the meeting took place in the grand surroundings of the Literary and Scientific Institute, and gave me a chance to look around this newly-restored and very handsome building. Tony Greenham, Head of Economics for the RSA, set out how creating a new, truly cooperative, mutually owned, democratic bank for the South West could contribute to the local economy in many different ways. In his introductory piece, entitled "Everyone a banker", he asks "What if we ran it ourselves?" That's such a Transition-style question! As chair of TTB I was asked to speak in support of the idea and of course I was happy to do so, emphasising that Transition is all about diversity, alternatives and challenges to mainstream systems. I talked about what we have already, such as Wyvern Savings and Loans, a credit union which offers limited banking services and low cost loans to people who don't have bank accounts; and our local LETS scheme, NETS, which allows trading between people without the need for conventional currency at all. I think a newly created bank with a mission, as described by Tony, would be perfectly compatible with our local initiatives and fill in the gaps to provide investment capital to small and medium sized businesses who have not benefitted much, if at all, from the billions of pounds magically created out of thin air as Quantitative Easing.

If we want to fix the environment, we have to fix the financial system, which, with its dependence on growth, is a driver for environmental degradation, resource depletion and climate change. So let's have a different kind of bank! CW



## Update on the Edible Garden at St Mary's school

*The Edible Garden is a joint project between TTB and Home in Bridport*



*Photograph by Robert Golden*

## Plastics are killing our seas

Polly Huggett and Diana Marsh worked with pupils of St Mary's school on the theme of plastic for Green Fortnight and produced this beautiful installation for display. Each bottle represents different degrees of marine pollution from, showing that plastics are killing our seas. The bottle are currently on display in Soulshine café.



## Update on Peas Please



This is a national Food Foundation campaign to educate people to eat more vegetables. At St Mary's we are employing a nutritionist, Mary Buesnel, to work with the children. Along with Theresa Perrella and teacher Claire Legg we have planned all kinds of exciting activities planned over the year, funded by a National Lottery grant. A special assembly launched these events last Monday, where we were joined by the wonderful and entertaining Martin Maudsley.

## Parent and Child Cookery workshops

Amanda, Bob and Mary will be the lead cooks on the family cooking course which is being offered to year two. Ten 'couples' will be cooking from scratch using the school kitchen, and garden. Much of the produce will be freshly picked. The recipes sound delicious, it is completely free and the prepared dishes will be taken home for the family.

## The Legume Castle

Mitch is busily preparing a construction in a newly prepared part of the garden. It has been overwintered under a tarpaulin, so the weeds have all died and there is a large load of organic manure waiting to be put on to give greater fertility to the soil. With the help of Polly, they are going to build a series of towers for beans and peas to grow up.

## Gardening Club

On Wednesday lunchtimes there is a frantic 50 minutes when up to 20 very enthusiastic pupils come and garden. This term we had many new and younger children who can make a real difference in getting jobs done in the fast-growing season. We realise that last term's team were becoming skilled, but the newcomers have still lots to learn. Luckily we have three adults to teach them.

## Dates for your diary:

Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer	Open Edible Garden, with Martin Maudsley.
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> June		Edible Garden participates in Bridport Food Festival, Askers Meadows
25th July		First veg box will be delivered to Cupboard Love, St. Mary's Church

The team are always looking for helpers either on a Wednesday or Thursday when the gardeners are working. Please contact Sarah via [our email](#). (Sarah Wilberforce)

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# GREEN FORTNIGHT 2018

## Launch Night

If the secret of effective communication is to have something for everyone, and deliver the message in varied ways, the green fortnight launch night ticked all the boxes. Matilda Manley from Litter Free Dorset opened with an outline of the range of initiatives to clean beaches, town and the countryside. Her discussion on how to present an environmental message in a positive way to get people on board was excellent.



*Sue at her crabbiest*

Martin Maudsley followed by two of his wonderful fair stories for adults, using his fascination for birds to weave allegorical tales of looking after our world – and the need to avoid plastics!

The second half consisted of short pitches by Mark Dicker, of the Chamber of Trade and commerce, on reducing plastic packaging; Rachel Davies from Marine Life, and Scott Morrison from Friends of the Earth who explained that plastic litter was not just down to vandals but

down to our packaged consumer lifestyles. Kelvin Clayton introduced the Bridport Bottle, and Lydia Wilson introducing Waste Not Want Not, a package-free shop in South Street where you can fill up your own containers.

However the highlight of the evening was a flash mob with singers dotted around the audience, introducing Green Weigh, a cooperative planning to deliver package-free goods to peoples' homes, using a crowd-funding campaign to be launched soon.

We are really lucky in Bridport to have three low-package outlets, with Fruits of the Earth celebrating 30 years of trading. We wish the two newcomers every success in helping us reduce our reliance on plastic. (Sam Wilberforce)



## Plastic-free directory now available

In the directory there are some small steps you can take that that are quite easy and almost take you back to how things used to be e.g. using soap rather than liquid soap, buying butter wrapped in paper rather than plastic coated paper. We also visited our local shops and were delighted to discover that so many had already taken steps to reduce the plastics they hold in their shops and were looking for other alternatives. All of the shops we spoke to were happy for customers to ask for food to be wrapped in paper or alternatively for you to bring in your own container.

The plastic free directory can be found on our web site pages and is broken down into various categories:-

- [Food and Drink](#)
- [Kitchen and Household](#)
- [Toiletries](#)
- [Bags and Straws](#)

We cannot guarantee that the information is complete or accurate as things are constantly changing (including developments at Waste Not Want Not and Green Weigh) but it may provide a quick guide to reducing unnecessary plastic, and at the same time support the initiatives that are taking place in our local shops.

(Sarah West)

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### **Local shops**

Many of our shops, and charity shops had green-themed windows. Here is just one – Instant Redress - check out the others on our [Facebook page!](#)  
(Sarah West)

### **Julia Hailes**

We knew Julia would be provocative after a few members heard her on the Jeremy Vine show sounding off about approaches to plastic waste. As a seasoned campaigner, author, blogger and activist on the environment for the last 30 years, she is very well informed and has done her research. Her talk ranged from packaging (showing the incredible amount of plastic and cardboard used by the White Company to send a tiny dress), to beach cleaning, to milk delivery (a contentious topic), to electrical waste. We also touched on food waste, compost, transport and economic growth. There was a lively question and answer session from the large audience. I think her presentation just confirmed what we all know – this is a very complex topic where you can't "only do one thing", and there are many diverging views. (Caroline Walker)

### **Going Green – a matter of belief**

Approximately 40 people gathered at Bridport United Church on the evening of April 18<sup>th</sup> to consider environmental issues in the light of faith. The main focus concerned Christianity but it was noted that all the major world faiths are concerned not only with humanity but also with care of the natural world and there are multi-faith initiatives which reflect this concern.

The wide-ranging evening referenced statements made by different Christian groups including the Pope's recent encyclical letter. The global nature of climate change and its impact on the poor were noted. There was a specially written Creation Parable from Rev. Peter Clark. The Othona community brought us an

insight into the sustainable lifestyle of the 'White Ladies' of Othona in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They briefly described its current care of the land to improve biodiversity fostered by the community's spiritual base. Joe Burlington focussed on energy production and use describing the seriousness of the problem and offering examples of good practice from around the world. People can pay attention to their own actions and can join with campaigns to challenge their political leaders. A number of people joined in the activity to write to their MP or MEP. There was opportunity for discussion in small groups and encouragement to take action, not be discouraged and to rejoice.

Bridport initiatives to cut waste were advertised. A wide range of books were reviewed and available to look at. Information from organisations such as Green Christian, A Rocha and Operation Noah were available to take away.

Thanks to all the contributors and Bridport United Church for hosting.  
(Gill Bumphrey)

### **A Visit to Broomhills**

We had two visits to the Broomhill recycling centre during Green Fortnight. More than forty people attended and the hour visits were very instructive - and people asked lots of questions, too! I learned that nothing stays at Broomhills for longer than a few hours. There is a speedy turnaround and all the plastic bottles are recycled ... they are shipped off to North Wales along with the newsprint and cardboard. Secondly I learned that there are no more landfill sites in Dorset, except for a small one near Poole. So that left a question neither I nor others asked - where do the "landfill" items we pay for - the rubble, bricks and broken concrete, for example - go? I was impressed by our tour guide's knowledge and desire to help. So thanks to Dorset Waste Partnership, who are open to other visits if anyone wants to organise a party. (Joe Hackett)

### **The Dorchester Sewage Works Experience**



"We wish more people would come and see what we do here!" said Bill Hollyoak, the Wessex Water Treatment Manager. He and two experienced colleagues gave us a two hour guided tour of the Sewage Treatment Works in St Georges Rd Dorchester - one of the largest ones in Dorset.

We had asked for a tour of our local West Bay one, but it is mostly sealed and too small to demonstrate the whole process. Whereas the Dorchester site spreads over several acres, and we could track the journey of Dorchester's raw effluent from where it surged in to

deep tanks, through to the clear water flowing out toward the River Frome and the sea at the other end.

Our group of 18 was divided into 3, each with an experienced and friendly member of staff. This meant we could hear easily and take time to ask many questions.

We saw a great heap of filtered out and extracted wet wipes and plastics waiting to be compacted and taken away to be stored, because at present nothing can be done with it.



We saw cricket-ball sized fat balls floating in clusters in the swirling effluent tank-the end result of people washing their cooking fats down the sink.

The 'pooley' smell was only slight, and since the site was outdoors it was surprisingly bearable. Nobody covered their nose or did a runner!

The site had been designed by engineers decades ago, but was still working efficiently. It could now be overseen on a daily basis by one person since the processes are all automated. The engineering was impressive.

It was a secret world - quite thrilling to most (if not all) of the group who came.

Wessex Water is very keen to encourage more groups to contact them to organise visits. If only it could be a mandatory part of the school curriculum!

(Jenny Hackett)

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The library joined in with green-themed storytelling and a display of sea monsters made out of plastic rubbish by children at Lodders School. These were created during a workshop at the school run by artist Peter Margerum, supported by TTB. ( Joe Hackett)

## Green Day

Despite challenging weather, Green Day in Bucky Doo Square attracted lots of attention and many people stopped to look at the stalls run by Transition Town Bridport, Wessex Water, Dorset Waste Partnership, Friends of the Earth, Caring in Bridport, the Living Tree and Turn Lyme Green.

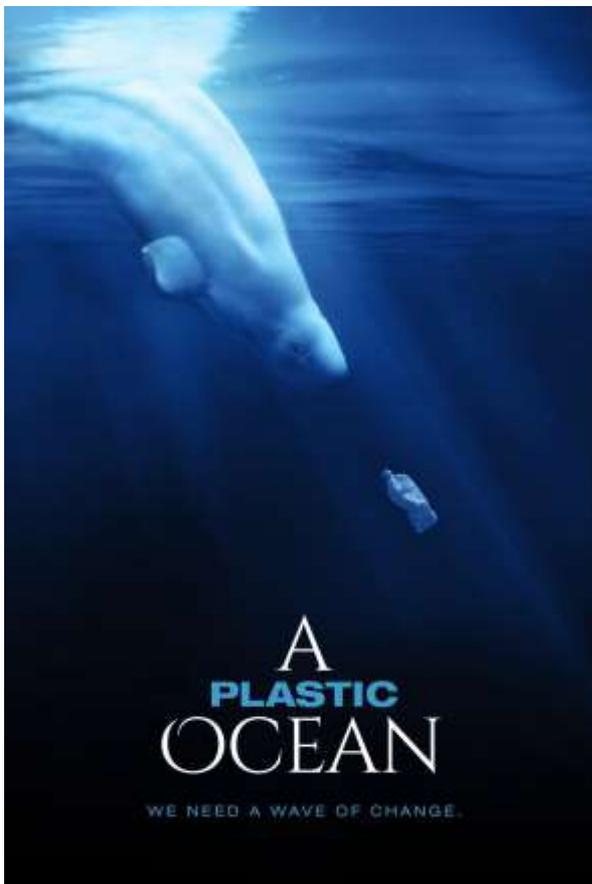
## Green Quiz

The Green Quiz at the Ropemaker's proved to be such a draw that all the tables and chairs from upstairs had to be deployed. Great questions around a green theme from Geraldine and John. We held a raffle with prizes generously donated by Bridget's, Framptons, Malabar Trading, Groves, Yellow Gorse, Aroma, Palmers, Aroma, Soulshine, Cilla and Camilla, Leakers, Fruits of the Earth, Wessex wines, the Health food shop, the Ropemakers and Snooks, and raised over £200 for Green Fortnight. Especial thanks to Geraldine for running the quiz singlehandedly and also supplementing our funds. (Sam Wilberforce) [Back to Top](#)

## Beach Clean

Our beach clean at West Bay on Sunday 22nd was attended by about 70 people, including quite a few children. More than I was expecting, and the signing in and signing out process had to be abandoned. To the not very musical accompaniment of roaring motorbike exhausts - there was a charity event involving bikers sharing the promenade with us - we found 15 big bags of plastic in little more than an hour. I had inherited from Broomhill visit a lot of little tin pails, ideal for children to collect with, and we briefed people about how to find blue and grey plastic pellets at the high tide line on the western corner of the beach. We thought they were "nurdles" , which are part of the plastic-making procedss. They are about the size of a lentil, float on water and can and are skimmed up by surface hunting birds. Birds die of this, as shown in A Plastic Ocean - and also fish eat the little plastic beads too.

So I was horrified to discover at the end of the day that we had found more than 2,000 of these pellets. When you go down to West Bay for a day on the beach - the West Beach, anyway - you are sitting not just on sand and pebbles but plastic waste. Who is responsible, how did it get there, what are we going to do about it? Watch this space. Our latest information is that they are not nurdles but biobeads used in water treatment and have floated to West Bay from further West, probably from Lyme Regis. We've been consulting experts in Cornwall and hope to have further information soon, which we will post on [our website](#)



## Plastic Ocean

After a first attempt at showing this film frustrated by technical difficulties, we watched it a week later at the WI hall. Apologies for the inconvenience. This beautifully produced film brought home the full scale of the problem of plastics. With the sea floor a mile deep littered with plastic bottles, and birds, fish, turtles and marine animals choked with bits of plastic they had mistaken for food, there is plenty of horrific footage to be seen. More insidious are the smaller microplastics ingested by fish, and the presence of oestrogen-mimicking chemicals from plastic food containers widespread in babies' milk and our children's bodies. The film is available on Netflix and includes inspiring stories of how communities have dealt with the plastic in the sea.

However with headlines such as " **\$180bn investment in plastic factories feeds global packaging binge** - *Colossal funding in manufacturing plants by fossil fuel companies will increase plastic production by 40%, risking permanent pollution of the earth*", it is clear that the message is not getting through. (Sam Wilberforce) [Back to Top](#)

## Comedy night

The closing event of the Fortnight, *Stories to Inspire and Entertain*, was a hilarious, yet thought-provoking celebration of all that had preceded it. After a brief introduction from me on the role of stories in our lives, Ged Duncan kicked off with wonderfully funny set that included a bacterium's eye view of human sexual reproduction, whilst his puppet, Wayland, supplied the answer to humanity's ills – the treadmill! This was followed by Simon West performing some of his poetry (which included 'It's hard being Green' and 'Drastic Plastic') and then Tracey West, just forty-eight hours out of surgery and still high on painkillers, doing a hilarious routine that included the recycling of 'bedroom toys'. After a short break the audience was treated to an absolutely wonderful performance from the poet and comedian Matt Harvey. Matt recited and improvised around poems from several of his books in a set that was one of the most entertaining forty-five minutes I have experienced in a long while. It was a great night! (Kelvin Clayton) [Back to Top](#)



## Beaminster Think Eco – Go Eco

The ECO group of St Mary's Church, Beaminster are organising an event to raise awareness about caring for the environment on July 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12 noon in Beaminster Square. Various organisations will be attending and Oliver Letwin MP will open the event. Why not come along to beautiful Beaminster that day? We have some lovely shops, cafes and restaurants, and you can also visit the museum, and take a walk on our delightful footpaths.(CW) *[Disclosure: the editor lives in Beaminster ..]*



## **Bridport Millennium Green Walk & Talk**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
2.00pm

Starting from Mountfield Council Offices Entrance

This approximately 60 minute walk around one of the Town's fantastic open spaces will include a short history and outline plans to enhance its wildlife and public amenity value.

Please pre-book via Town Tourist Information Office (01308 424901)



### **Green Drinks!**

Green Drinks is on the third Thursday of each month in the back room of the Tiger Inn, Barrack Street, Bridport – starting about 8pm. All welcome to come along and share views, ideas and news of what's happening to make our community more resilient. [Back to Top](#)

### **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**.

**Please note: Everyone on our mailing list has just received an email asking if they wish to remain on it. This is to comply with new Data Protection regulations. Please click on [this link](#) to stay in touch – we don't want to lose you!**

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 or our own regular mailings.

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