



Newsletter No 41 - April 2019

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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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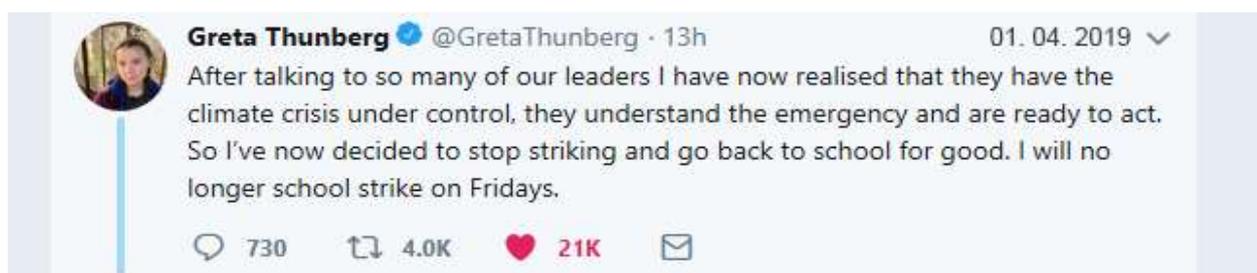
Getting involved

From the editor: In the last issue I mentioned Greta Thunberg, the Swedish school student whose 'School strike for the climate' seems to have captured the imagination of many and earned her a place at the UN climate change summit, the World Economic Forum in Davos, and the European Parliament, where she urged MEPs to forget Brexit and concentrate on climate change instead. (If only!) She has done a [TED talk](#) with nearly 2 million views and is inspiring many young people (and shaming us older ones) into action. Nice to see a placard at a demonstration reading "Make the world Greta again"! Students around the world have joined demonstrations and school strikes to demand action from governments.

The current Extinction Rebellion protests, (special mention to an impressive group from Bridport) seem to have galvanised (and of course annoyed) many people. It's hard for some to see that some inconvenience now may be necessary to avoid a greater inconvenience later – long term thinking is not a human strong point. Making specific demands such as 'declare a climate emergency' can be a first step – whilst recognising that of course it is 'system change, not climate change' that is necessary. I am wary of commentators who say 'Just do one thing': you can never only do one thing, in a complex dynamic system; there are always feedback loops and unintended consequences you will not have foreseen. We are in a constantly moving picture and must above all avoid 'apocalypse fatigue': it's too easy to scroll through pages and pages of doom and think that it's not worth doing anything. On the other hand there are those who say 'someone will think of something' - so it's not worth doing anything.

Caught between these two contradictory sets of views which oddly have the same outcome we can feel disempowered. Those who are taking place in the protests in London this week have decided to do **something** – we can't predict what the result will be but we can hope that we may be at a tipping point – and in a complex dynamic system these can occur suddenly and unpredictably - in favour of global, positive and meaningful action for change. The head of the Environment Agency, Sir James Bevan [recently pointed out](#) that the government's ability to put considerable resources into emergency planning for a no-deal Brexit could and should be equally applied to good effect in planning and dealing with the real climate emergency we see unfolding. (Caroline Walker)

Let's not forget the role of humour: I loved Greta Thunberg's wry tweet for April 1st:



Transition Town Bridport's Third Annual Green Fortnight!

We have compiled the following series of reports from Green Fortnight, which took place from the 9th to the 22nd March. We were sad to have to cancel our planned Green Day on 16th March because of forecast high winds and poor weather, otherwise all events, from Launch Night to our Grand Finale, went well and we were very grateful for the support we had from other green groups in the town, the shops who put on green-themed windows, and of course to the Town Hall for turning the clock green! TTB worked very hard as a team to make the fortnight a success and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us next year to make it even better.

Launch Night

Our first speaker in the Town Hall was Dan Powell -- an organic land manager and co-founder of LandBase. He is concerned about what Brexit will mean for the UK. He told us that while housing and other costs have risen substantially, food prices are still low by comparison – though still not low enough for the poorest to be able to buy good quality food on a regular basis. After interesting questions, Martin Maudsley enthralled us once again with newly concocted 'green stories'.

A video of Greta Thunberg talking to the European Union confronted us with the serious side of green issues.

[The video can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7cSQ48wKek]

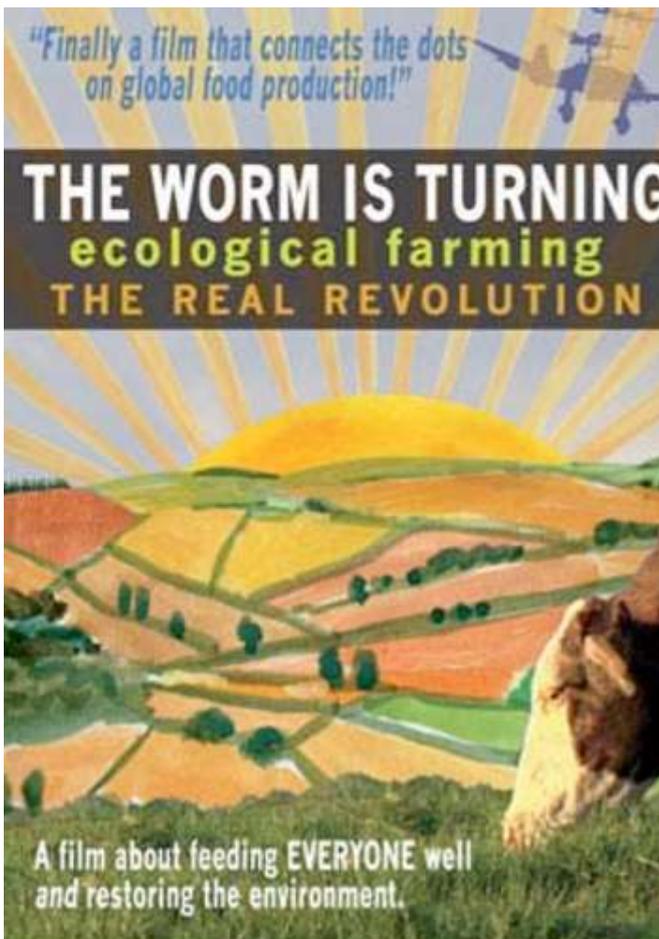
Short presentations brought us up-to-date with: Waste Not Want Not – Lydia Wilson; Community Fridge – Lizzie Harley; The Green Weigh – Alex Green; Community Cooking Kit – Sarah Wilberforce; St Marys School Food project - Sarah Wilberforce; Eco Homes – Sam Wilberforce; and Bridport Town Council's response to the challenges of climate change -Councillor Kelvin Clayton.

It was a fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable evening. (Joe Burlington)

Green Quiz

What a successful and enjoyable evening was had at the Ropemakers, with a record turnout for our Green Quiz. We were grateful to the pub for hosting and providing the questions, and to our wonderful local shops and farms who gave great raffle prizes. And to all those who bought raffle tickets, enabling us to end Green Fortnight with a small surplus after all our costs had been met!

The Worm is Turning



This film, made by an Australian team of film-makers, is about the increasing grip over world food production by big multinationals, particularly the chemicals industries producing pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers.

In 1970 Norman Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for heralding the Green Revolution credited with feeding a billion people. His ideas centred round crossbreeding to create more efficient dwarf crops; irrigation; and the extensive use of fertilisers, weedkillers and pesticides.

This film ranges around the world, showing the devastation caused by some of these policies: the end of biodiversity, the increasing reliance on buying chemicals and new seeds, and turning soil into mere dirt. The social consequences of increasing large industrial farms is seen everywhere, throwing farmers off the land and bringing big companies into the agribusiness, a process supported by the WTO ('We Take Over').

"Why do we still have over a billion

hungry people when there is enough food to feed 11.5 billion people? Why is food grown using chemicals cheaper than food grown organically?"

The film went on to show a growing movement against this trade-based production. Community seed banks, growing diverse crops, avoiding cash crops, and most of all looking after the soil. "We should have two crops, one for the humans and the other for nature".

The film emphasised that food sovereignty is more about power than anything else. And at the most basic level, we consumers have power to choose sustainably grown food. 'We eat, we vote'.



A summary of the film can be found by clicking on [this link](#). (review by Sam Wilberforce)

The 'Green Revolution'

Visit to Piddlehinton Anaerobic Digester

This plant, run by Eco Sustainable solutions, turns our household food waste into electricity. Over two Friday afternoons forty visitors were shown round this extraordinary plant, which is run by only two part-time workers. The food waste is dumped in a big hopper - as we were there on a Friday, the hopper was fully filled for the automated plant to run at the weekend. The food is ground up in a huge blender, plastic, metal and paper are removed and the mix is fed into a large covered tank, the digester.

The mix is kept in this tank for 55 days. A little bit of fresh waste is fed in and a little bit of the digested liquid is drawn off every day. This liquid is pasteurised, and sprayed on fields as fertiliser. Solids such as bones and egg shells settle in the bottom of the tanks which have to be emptied periodically to remove the solids.



Plastic waste, which goes to landfill

'Anaerobic' means the food is digested without air, and the gas produced is 55% methane. This is extracted and is passed to the engines which drive generators, producing electricity for the grid. The neighbouring animal feed store buys some of the power to dry their grain at a discounted rate.

What happens to the plastic bags? Some households use ordinary plastic bags, and these end up as land fill. Others use special compostable bin liners, and although they also are dumped, they break down much quicker. The ideal solution is to use no bags, and rinse out the food caddy after use - Sam Wilberforce

YES:	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat, fish and bones • Fruit and vegetables • Dairy • Bread, cakes and pastries • Pasta and rice • Teabags, coffee grounds • Egg shells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden waste • Plastic, paper or cardboard recyclables (Big Bin please) • Plastic bags • Oil or liquid fats • Pet waste • Nappies



Local food producers' panel

It wasn't easy to find four local food producers who had time to come and talk to us about their work. After a great Transition team effort we were very fortunate to welcome Ellen Simon from Tamarisk Farm, Burton Bradstock, Martin Yeates from Manor Farm, Swyre, Jyoti Fernandes from Fivepenny Farm, Wootton Fitzpaine, and John Worswick, a scallop diver from Lyme Regis. As chair I started the proceedings with a demonstration of just how much usable topsoil we actually have on the planet, which I hope helped to focus our discussion on the importance of the work of those who make a living from the land (or, in John's case, the sea).

Ellen, Martin and Jyoti made the case for using the land on their farms for grazing animals, explaining how pasture sequesters carbon, and ploughing that land for arable crops would release carbon to the atmosphere, and erode the soil. Jyoti gave us an international perspective, as her campaigning work with Via Campesina and the Landworkers' Alliance brings her into contact with small farms all over the world. These small farms are in many experts' view the only route to food security, although we have been sold the myth that only big corporations and huge agribusinesses are the only way to 'feed the world'. This discussion fitted neatly in with the theme of our film 'The Worm is Turning' - see review above.

John gave us a fascinating glimpse into the world of the scallop diver - I must admit I didn't realise such a hunter-gatherer lifestyle still existed in Lyme Regis. He explained how hand-diving has much less impact on the sea bed than mechanised methods. Many interesting questions were raised from the audience, including the perennial issue of the cost of good quality, locally produced organic food. Of course cheap food is only cheap because the costs are all externalised on to the environment and people's health. As an adviser now to Defra, Jyoti I am sure will be pressing the case for prices to 'tell the truth' - making it easier for us to opt for local and sustainable produce. Who knows if and how Brexit will affect our food security? Appropriately, and most welcome, for those of us who came before our supper, Tia Perelli, catering as Ve-liscious, had a stall offering delicious snacks all made with UK-grown pulses from the Hodmedod's range. Perhaps Britain, if it decided to support small farmers and sustainable use of the land, really could feed itself. - Caroline Walker



Ellen Simon at the mike with Jyoti, Martin, John and Caroline.

Cabaret Finale of Green Fortnight 2019

Jenny Hackett organised and introduced this closing event of the Green Fortnight. She said how much we need music, song, and poetry, both serious and funny, when we are trying to face and deal with the challenging and often painful realities of inequality and climate change.

The performers who contributed were: David Powell (guitar) and Katie Woodrow (flute) of Bride Valley Band, based in Burton Bradstock. When Headteacher of Burton Bradstock Primary School, David was given a collection of stories and poems by a local man, Douglas Northover. David set many of them to music so that the children could join in. These were some of the songs the duo performed, and they vividly conveyed his love of the place and the people as it was in the first half of the 20th century. See their [Facebook page](#).

Penny Dunscombe and **Gail McGarva** met years ago when Gail joined Penny's choir, Harbour Voices in Lyme Regis. Penny was in charge of singing throughout all the schools in Somerset, as well as being a Voice Coach and Choir leader. Gail had re-trained age 37 to be a traditional boat builder. She sees the creative process of building a new generation of traditional working boats as an expression of 'living history', where people cherish a sense of belonging to the boats and the sea. She was inspired to write a series of songs and stories to keep alive the oral history of Lyme, which she called Voices of the Sea. Originally set into harmony by Penny for Harbour Voices, they rewrote it as a stunningly beautiful duet alternating spoken word and song for this event. Click these links for more information about [Penny](#) and [Gail](#)

Hannah Cumming is a lively and accomplished fiddler and singer who has a passion for Folk Music as well as loving to play Classical, Gypsy Jazz and Rock. She has played in many local bands, run sessions at festivals, and loves teaching, including Fiddle Singing, which was included in her act. She currently works for B Sharp, running sessions for young people at Bridport Youth and Community Centre. Hannah brought us songs from her native Somerset. One of these was 54 - the lament of a man forced to go out at night to kill a sheep to keep his family from starvation, and out of the dreaded workhouse.

Rob Casey

And thank you, our local stand-up poet [Rob Casey](#), for ending the show and making us laugh. Rob has been Poet in Residence at Exeter Football Club, as well as Bard of Exeter! Rob's poem about our nations' favourite foods, which all seem to be beige in colour, and his story of his son's questioning him about the real ale known as Bishop's Finger (how many bishops, and who cut off their fingers and bottled them?) were complemented by his poem written specially for the occasion when he made us giggle at the madness of importing food we could grow ourselves ... including herbs from Antarctica!

(Report by Jenny Hackett)

Joe Hackett reports on Beach Cleans:



Some of the West Bay Beach Clean Group at our last meeting, at Cogden Beach, at the end of February.



Some of the sea litter we found there and elsewhere recently.

The next beach clean will be at Eype Beach, where we will meet at the car park (parking free of charge) at 11 am on Sunday April 28th. This is part of the Great Dorset Beach Clean organised by Litter Free Coast and Sea, Dorset. Newcomers welcome. Bring stout shoes and gloves which fit. We finish by 12.30.

We cannot clean the Parade beach at West Bay as we normally do because of sea defence works but will be back there later in the year as part of our four beach cleans a year. Thanks to those of you who spontaneously clean beaches rather than

waiting for a group clean. There are more and more of you. Our investigations of the sources of the biobeads we find at West Bay continue, following a February visit to the Sleaford sewage treatment plant at Uplyme in February. Please contact me if you wish to join the group or want further information.

TTB now represented on the Bridport Local Area Partnership:

When the local area partnerships (LAPs) were formed to deliver Community Planning, they were made up of local Parish Councils and key delivery groups such as CAB, Old Peoples Forum, Police, Small Businesses, Local Tourism Association, Youth Centre, Arts Centre etc. It also included Dorset Agenda 21 Forum as being the 'sustainability' input into community planning.

The Forum no longer exists and DA21 exists only as the coordinator of the Sustainable Dorset website. So whilst my presence on BLAP was originally as DA21 representative (I was founder chairman back in the 90s) , once TTB had established itself as the equivalent community group locally - I double hatted but the title still remained in the Articles of Association of BLAP. Whilst this was technically only a clarification of the status quo for the official paperwork, it is significant that we as a body are now respected as an inclusive and impartial 'expert witness' in the town.

John West speaks at the meetings on behalf of the West Bay Forum and Sarah Wilberforce has reported on the Home in Bridport project on occasions so we already have members participating and who could double up if I am not available.

- Dave Rickard

Shop Fronts during Green Fortnight

Thanks to all the shops who made a special display this year. These ones caught our eyes



Photos by Sarah West



Nearly completed Mud Kitchen

Recently the Edible Garden at St Mary's School received a sum of money from Dorset garden Trust. It was to build a Mud Kitchen, as part of the cob oven covered area. The head, Kate Batorska, explained the value of this area "It provides opportunities to develop social and emotional skills as it provides the chance to problem solve and work alongside others, learning to take turns and gain confidence as they test out and develop their own ideas. A mud kitchen provides an inviting context for talking and listening as children question, describe and discuss what they are doing".



It is not quite finished yet, but our thanks are given to Tom Catrill and Tia Perrelli who built it and John Dalton for donating a kitchen sink. If you have any child-size metal kitchenware we would love it; please [get in touch](#) with Sarah Wilberforce.



Green Drinks!

Come to our monthly gathering (third Thursday of the month) at the Tiger Inn, Barrack Street, Bridport and enjoy the wonderful beers, soft drinks and free sandwiches while talking over local, national and international green issues. We are usually in the back room, but look for us in the bowling alley if not. Solve the problems of the world one sip at a time.

Next date: May 16th From 8.00 pm

GETTING INVOLVED

TTB subscribers receive this newsletter via email, but if you are reading it from our website, and would like to subscribe to our mailing list, please [click here](#), fill in the short form, and submit. Our mailing list is GDPR compliant, and you can unsubscribe via the link at the foot of every email from Mailchimp, should you wish to.

Come along to any event /workshop. Check out our What's On section [here](#), on our website.

Membership of TTB is open to all on application – details [here](#).

We are very keen to expand the pool of active people for the local 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. 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](#).

NB We do not use our mailing list other than for our own regular mailings.