



Newsletter

March 2010

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admin@transitionexeter.org.uk

As last month, I want to highlight TE's new Monthly Action Meeting, which aims to get people and groups working together, and a great opportunity for newcomers to find out what's going on and get involved. Where noted, posters (for printing and display) for some of the events are available on the website. And, for info, past and current newsletters are also now published in the news section of the website.

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Enjoy!

Clare Bryden

Transition Exeter events

TE Calendar

We've been updating the website, and now have a new calendar view for our events at <http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/events.html>. Check here for the most up-to-date listings. We're posting all our meetings as well as public events now, so it might be useful for anyone organising a TE meeting/event to check this beforehand for possible clashes. There is also a listings of all future events on one page, and access to information about past events.

Monthly Action Meeting

On Tuesday **9th March** from 6.30pm - 9pm at the Global Centre, Exeter Community Centre, St. David's Hill, Exeter.

Our new regular monthly action meeting (put the second Tuesday of the month in your diary). There will hopefully be a brief talk, and there will definitely be news of Transition Exeter events, working groups will be meeting and new groups may be formed. All welcome. Enquiries 01647 24789.

Parliamentary Elections

Some of us would like to run a Hustings, which is a meeting with all the parliamentary candidates present, to question them about their policies (and knowledge?) about Transition-related topics, climate change, peak oil, policies for sustainability, supporting community initiatives, Transport, Food, climate justice issues and so on. We would like to work with other organizations, such as the development charities. It would be great to have two or three

volunteers to help organize. Please contact Gill Westcott on 01647 24789 or gillwestcott@gmail.com.

Indy films at the Phoenix

John Yates is running a spring season of Indy documentaries at Exeter Phoenix. These films revealing hidden truth, seriously challenging the massaged messages from the BBC & global media. For more, see: <http://UnreportedWorld.blogspot.com>. The films include:

- Money as Debt, **11 April**
- Pig Business, **18 April**
- Outfoxed, **2 May**
- Farm for the Future, **10 May**

TE Comms

Communications, PR and media

We've recently added [news pages](#) to our website, but haven't really done much proactively to get our message across to the media. Following the excellent Media training workshop run by Cathy Debenham on Saturday, we're forming a Comms group, with working out a comms strategy pretty high on the agenda. Please get in touch on admin@transitionexeter.org.uk if you have experience of writing press releases, giving radio or TV interviews, are a journalist, photographer or blogger, etc etc, or are just interested in being involved.

Social media

We've just started a bit of Twittering and Facebooking again. Follow us and become our friend at <http://twitter.com/transitionexe> and <http://www.facebook.com/transition.exeter>. Or please get in touch on admin@transitionexeter.org.uk if you'd like to help us twitbook.

Other random comms-related items

The Transition Network have recently relaunched their website, and are in the process of adding all the interactive bits and transferring across from the old site. Keep an eye on <http://transitionnetwork.org/>.

Eco-CouchSurfing – Need a place to stay for a conference? Or want to visit and investigate another transition initiative? See <http://www.couchsurfing.org/group.html?gid=19581>.

Save on costs of transport to meetings, teleconference! Skype is great, but if you don't have access or a mic, we've just come across <http://www.ozoneconferencing.com/lite/>. This is a free tele-conferencing service using an 0845 number. BT MeetMe charges for the service as well as calls, and other free services use a more expensive 0844 number.

Around the TE Groups

Transport Group

The main focus for the Transport Group at the moment is keeping in touch with local authority consultations on transport and making sure that we respond in a way that fits our vision for sustainable transport in Exeter.

Transition Exeter members might like to respond to the City Council's consultation on the Monkerton/Hill Barton and Newcourt masterplans. These masterplans will provide a "framework to guide the future development of sustainable urban extensions" in these growth areas of the city – so it affects all aspects of planning, not just transport. Consultation starts

on 1 March and runs until 12 April. The proposals will be available at the Civic Centre, in local libraries and on the City Council website, www.exeter.gov.uk/planningpolicy. We'll be discussing this and other up-coming consultations at our next meeting, on Monday 8th March at 7 p.m.

We also have lots of ideas to encourage Exeter people to move towards sustainable transport – see www.transitionexeter.org.uk/activities/transport/transport-group.html. We'd love to have new group members who'd like to follow up these ideas, or bring along new ones. For full details of our next meeting please contact Sue Kay on s.kay@blueyonder.co.uk or 07814 152577.

Economics Group

The TE Economics group has been meeting monthly, to look at building our understanding of the economy, how it relates to the environment and energy supply. We're also looking at what practical action we can take in a transition context to respond to these issues.

We are planning an event around consumerism. Please get in touch with Andi at andi.tobe@virgin.net if you'd like to be involved in organising it.

If you'd like to find out more about why the economy is relevant, in fact vital to our actions in Transition, here's some links that might be useful:

- Economist Jeff Rubin: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYuLjGQQ-jg>
- A few recent posts on Rob Hopkins' Blog about consumerism:
<http://transitionculture.org/2010/02/24/tim-kasser-on-the-real-cost-of-consumerism-a-talk-in-totnes/>
<http://transitionculture.org/2010/02/25/tim-kasser-on-consumerism-psychology-transition-and-resilience-part-one/>
<http://transitionculture.org/2010/02/25/tim-kasser-on-consumerism-psychology-transition-and-resilience-part-two/>
- A piece from the today programme: <http://transitionculture.org/2010/02/25/frank-field-tells-it-how-it-is-%E2%80%9Cthis-mega-debt-crisis-which-threatens-our-very-existence%E2%80%9D/>
- and finally if you haven't already seen it, Chris Martenson's Crash Course www.chrismartenson.com/crashcourse

We're planning to go and see the new Michael Moore film at the Picture House in the next few days, day to be confirmed - let Andi know if you'd like to come along.

Also come along to the Phoenix on April 11th [correction] at 2.00 for a showing of 'Money as Debt', essential viewing for anyone interested in understanding why the current economic crisis was inevitable.

Inner Transition Group – “Create Transformation with Intuition” event

The Inner Transition Group is offering a seed-sowing inspirational Intuition Event at the Friends Meeting House Wynards Lane, Magdalen St, Exeter EX2 4HU, from 9.30am - 5.30pm on **Saturday 13th March**. The event will be led by Darren Eden, who has worked in this area over a number of years, combining a knowledge of economics, business, politics and technology with personal and spiritual development. This led to the development of personal intuitive agency. He then moved on to generate a practical notion of 'intuitive democracy' which may help us in our transition practices and plans with local communities now and in the future. The session will provide opportunities to be in touch with intuitive sources so that we can begin to harness our innate intuitive wisdom to serve ourselves and others in our work on sustainability.

Booking is essential, and the fee is £25 (£20 concessions, plus early bird bookings up to 14th Feb). For enrolment forms and info contact Gail on su7027@eclipse.co.uk.

Poster for downloading available from http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/uploads/Events/20100313_Intuition.pdf

Inner Transition Group – NVC Practice Group

The Inner Transition Nonviolent Communication Practice Group meets on the third Thursday of the month (**18th March**) at the Global Centre 7-9.00pm. All are welcome...

Energy Group – Good Energy

Transition Exeter has signed up as an affiliate of Good Energy. Please consider switching to 100% renewable energy from Good Energy (www.goodenergy.co.uk or 0845 456 1640), and quote our affiliate code GE243. TE gets £20 from every referral.

Also...

Gill Westcott would like to hear from anyone interested in forming an Education Group for work in schools; or who have skills in liaising with local councils over Transition/sustainability related topics. Please contact on 01647 24789.

Other news and events

Sustainability and Slow Food on a Devon farm

Part of the GWR Sustainability Seminar Series. On **Monday March 1st**, 13.00 - 14.00 in the Poldhu Room, Kay Labs, Exeter University. (But please confirm with Dr Matt Lobley on 01392 264539 or 07732 547068, as his email was a bit confusing).

In this seminar Mary Quicke (of Quickes Cheese, Newton St Cyres) will talk about her farming system that aims to combine excellence in farming, world class cheese and environmental responsibility. She will look at how the principles of Slow Food, “good, clean and just and the right to pleasure”, inform the business and inspire the staff team. She’ll say what works, what are the hurdles, the threats and the opportunities to run the business on the ground.

All Welcome

Seminar on Transition Farms

To be held on **3rd March** at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, hosted by the MSc students in International Rural Development. Presentations and discussions will emphasise research and working examples of addressing the problems of a growing population (with more living in towns than rural areas), reliance on fossil fuels, and climate change. For more information, contact irdseminar@rac.ac.uk.

DARE Renewable Energy Transformation Trails

Following the enormous success of its previous tours the Devon Association for Renewable Energy would like to announce the last two Transformation Trails of this series.

On the **5th March** 2010 the solar thermal tour will take place across the Greater Dartmoor area. This will be an opportunity to see how a variety of installations are generating hot water from the sun. The day will consist of visiting four solar thermal panel arrays of differing scales, situations and applications. They include a domestic household, swimming pool, restaurant and community facility.

The final tour will take place on the **17th March** and will be visiting sites that have already installed heat pumps. Did you know that you could extract heat from air, water or the ground beneath your feet to warm your building? The sites themselves include business, visitor centre, tourist attraction and domestic examples of air-source, water-source and ground-source heat pumps.

The delegate fee is based on a sliding scale dependant upon the type of delegate: community representative (£5 pp), individual (£10pp) & business representative (£20pp). The cost is per tour and includes transport and lunch.

Please contact DARE by telephone 01837 89200 or email mail@devondare.org if you are interested in attending. More information at www.devondare.org.

Flyers for downloading available from http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/uploads/Events/20100305_Solar_thermal_tour.pdf,
http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/uploads/Events/20100317_Heat_pump_tour.pdf

Green Drinks

A reminder of the get-togethers organised by the Green Party: "Everyone is welcome no matter your political background, the more the merrier and the more ideas can be shared among friends." Second Thursday of the month (next on **11 March** and **8 April**) from 8pm at the Tavern, Well Street.

Community Council of Devon – “Funding the Fundamentals”

An evening session on the key steps to developing a more successful funding base for your organisation, from 6pm - 9pm on **Wednesday 17th March** at Pollyfields Centre, Bideford or **Wednesday 21st April** at Heathfield Community Centre, Newton Abbot. Contact Gail Hickson on 01392 383443 or gail@devonrcc.org.uk.

Poster for downloading available from http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/uploads/Events/20100317_Funding_Fundamentals.pdf

Exeter Seed Swap & Permaculture Day

The Exeter Seed Swap & Permaculture Day 2010 will be returning to St Sidwell's Community Centre on **Saturday 20th March**, 10am-4.30pm.

It will again feature local, organic seed and plant sellers, green stalls and related community organisations, campaigners and groups, organic refreshments, and, of course, the main seed swap and plant exchange area. You are invited to a day of inspiration, which will hopefully result in us all sowing a few more seeds ourselves!

A list of 2010 attendees will appear shortly on <http://www.exeterseedswap.co.uk/>

DCC promote eco-driving

“With fuel prices again reaching the high levels of last year, Devon County Council has teamed up with the Energy Saving Trust to help motorists get the best mileage return from their tank of fuel. Devon drivers are being encouraged to enter in a new competition aimed at encouraging eco driving, asking entrants to come up with snappy captions which will be printed on car windscreen stickers promoting eco driving. The competition closes on **Thursday 25 March 2010** and aims to raise the profile of the eco driving style which can help motorists save fuel as well become safer drivers through simple changes in technique. Previous stickers have featured slogans such as ‘Driving Speeds Down in Devon’. This competition is the ideal opportunity for drivers to share the eco message and put on their creative hats to help us encourage other drivers to think the same. Eco-driving is in part about changing our driving styles so we use less fuel, reduce CO2 emissions and save money. The winning caption will be printed on car windscreen stickers in the spring and the winner will receive £100 worth of gift vouchers of their choice. Entry forms are available from libraries, local council offices or online at www.devon.gov.uk/ecodrivingcompetition. Entries can also be submitted over the phone at the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on 0800 512 012. Anyone who would like to receive a free ‘Eco-safe driving’ Making A Difference’ DVD or talk to an advisor about how to save money when driving, should call the

Energy Saving Trust advice centre free phone 0800 512 012. Lines are open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.”

Free courses for CVS Volunteers

Funding has been made available until the **end of March 2010** to provide free training for adults. As part of this programme Exeter CVS is joining with Well UK at Westbank, Exeter, as part of their Swing Door Project to provide free training opportunities for volunteers working in and around Exeter. If you are a volunteer and would like to take advantage of this offer then please view the free courses available for volunteers on our website (<http://bit.ly/freeCVS>), where you will also be able to book on-line.

Craft Fair

West Town Farm & organicARTS are having a Craft Fair on **Sunday 11th April** 11am - 4pm. There will be an entry fee, however this will include activities around the farm organised by organicARTS and West Town Farm.

For more info, and a poster for downloading, see <http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/calendar/93/85-Craft-Fair.html>.