



# Newsletter

## May 2010

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Remember to check [www.transitionexeter.org.uk/events.html](http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/events.html) for the most up-to-date listings. Posters (for printing and display) for some of the events are available on the website, and there are also some reports and media from past events. And to repeat myself ad nauseam, PLEASE pretty please, can people remember to take photos of events (preferably interesting ones that don't just show the backs of folks' heads, like mine of the hustings ☺), and send them to [admin@transitionexeter.org.uk](mailto:admin@transitionexeter.org.uk). THANKS!

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Enjoy!

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### Transition Exeter events

#### FREE Indy films at the Phoenix

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

- "Outfoxed", **2<sup>nd</sup> May** – Examines how media empires, led by Rupert Murdoch's Fox News, have been running a race to the bottom in tv news. The film provides an in depth look at Fox news and the dangers of ever enlarging corporations taking control of the public's right to know
- "Farm for the Future", **10<sup>th</sup> May** – Rebecca Hosking investigates how to transform her family's farm in Devon into a low energy farm for the future, and discovers that nature holds the key. Inspirational.

#### Julia Hailes – "Are corporates just greenwashing or are they leading the green agenda?"

A talk and discussion with the co-author of the Green Consumer Guide, challenging the view that the corporates are irredeemable. From 7pm to 9pm on **10<sup>th</sup> May** in the Music Room of the Exeter Central Library. Poster available.

#### May Monthly Action Meeting

On Tuesday **11<sup>th</sup> May** at 7 for 7.30pm - 9pm at the Global Centre, Exeter Community Centre, St David's Hill.

This month we will hear about three exciting new projects:

- Exeter Community Initiative's "Harvest" Project, supporting ordinary people to grow food within Exeter
- The "Food Hub", a social enterprise to provide fresh local food for sale all week, in the heart of Exeter

- The Low Carbon Housing project which will allow people to visit Exeter houses with energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installed, see how it is working and to talk to the owners.

There will also be time for interest groups and chat – a good opportunity for those new to Transition Exeter to find out more. For further details, contact Gill on 01647 24789. Note the new time of 7 for 7.30, and our return to the Global Centre.

The next Monthly Action Meeting on **8<sup>th</sup> June** will feature an illustrated talk on energy efficiency in homes.

### **Report from April MAM - Exeter Local Exchange Trading System**

At the last Monthly Action Meeting, Julia Dinsdale and Hilary Noakes spoke about LETs, a way to exchange goods and services without money and without having to barter. Many will be familiar with LETs schemes, but if not, the way it works is this.

You join the scheme - small cost in £ - and write in what you have to offer (e.g. decorating, house-sitting and occasional dog-walking) and what are your wants (e.g. gardening advice, electrician, bread). You don't have to stick to this, by the way. You get a directory, like a little yellow pages, so that if you suddenly decide you need a lift somewhere, or a basket-weaver say, you look up and see who is offering those sort of things. You get a cheque book with which you 'pay' for things. You can start trading straight away without waiting to build up a balance. About half the people will be in deficit at any time anyway, since all the accounts add up to zero. There is no interest. When you get a cheque for something you send it off to admin and they add it to your balance on the computer.

There are regular trading events, which are also socials, where one can pick up unforeseen bargains (or foreseen ones if you go regularly) and trade anything you make or want to recycle. In North Devon I got yummy food at trading days, clothes, plants, a spare diesel tank, a Land Rover lift home for a stranded cyclist and 5 year old, many good times and parties, new friends, computer advice, childcare, gardening help and novel Christmas gifts. Although you can't get a lot of basic things on LETs (e.g. plumbing), people could get many things they needed even though they didn't have money to pay for it. Everyone can offer something. Knowing those you trade with and building a co-operative local economy chimes in very well with the aims of Transition. The next trading day is on **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the Palace Gate Centre 10 am - 1 pm. Anyone can go along and have a look. To find out more go to [www.exeterlets.org](http://www.exeterlets.org).

### **Report from “Sustainable Questions Time”**

Thank you to all who came to our parliamentary hustings on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. It was a fantastic turn-out at the University. Don't forget to vote, and make your voice heard through the ballot box.

Parliamentary candidates

- [www.yournextmp.com/seats](http://www.yournextmp.com/seats)

Party manifestos

- [www.greenparty.org.uk/policies.html](http://www.greenparty.org.uk/policies.html)
- [www.libdems.org.uk/our\\_manifesto.aspx](http://www.libdems.org.uk/our_manifesto.aspx)
- [www2.labour.org.uk/manifesto-splash](http://www2.labour.org.uk/manifesto-splash)
- [www.conservatives.com/Policy/Manifesto.aspx](http://www.conservatives.com/Policy/Manifesto.aspx)

Labour and Lib Dem green manifestos

- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/apr/25/labour-liberal-democrats-green-manifesto>

## **Around the TE Groups**

### **Transport Group – Ready for your ideas!**

The transport group has been working hard on sending our transport vision and our response to current consultations to the County and City Councils. Now we've finished that and we are ready to start on some new projects - and they don't have to be about documents and councils! So if you've got

some good ideas about how to move Exeter towards people-friendly, sustainable transport please come along to our next meeting: Monday **17<sup>th</sup> May**, 7 pm. For more information about the group and/or for details of the venue email Sue Kay, [s.kay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:s.kay@blueyonder.co.uk).

Just before that, the **Campaign for Better Transport in Devon** will be holding a public meeting about "The Future of Transport in the Exeter Area". There will be speakers from the County Council, the University and Transition Exeter. It's on Saturday **15<sup>th</sup> May**, starting at 2 pm with the group's Annual Meeting (which will be brief) then talks and discussion, ending at around 4 pm. The venue is Sidwell St Methodist Church Hall, and all are welcome.

### **Energy – Low Carbon Homes tour/day/weekend**

Do you have energy efficiency or renewable energy in your home that you are proud of and that works well?

Transition Exeter is organising a low carbon homes event in the city within the next months – to a home like yours! We want people to be able to visit ordinary homes in the city that have either renewable energy installations of any sort, and/or energy efficiency measures, from high to low tech. If you have any such measures installed in your home, and would be willing to receive a small group of people, to show them what you have done, and answer their questions, or perhaps to receive visitors over a set period in the way that people visit Open Gardens or Studios, then please get in touch with us. Once we have a set of interested householders, with a good mix of technologies and types of house, we will organise a date – details will be in the newsletter and on the website in due course.

To offer your home, or to find out more about what that would involve, please contact Gill on [gcbuk@hotmail.com](mailto:gcbuk@hotmail.com).

### **Inner Transitions – NVC**

Our Non-Violent Communication (NVC) Practice Group continues to thrive and meets every third Thursday of the month, at the Global Centre, St David's Hill Exeter, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. This coming month it will take place on **20<sup>th</sup> May**. Group members bring conflictual issues and disagreements from everyday life, both personal and political. The approach is non-judgmental and involves an empathic understanding and connection with the experience of self and other(s) within a group context of mutual respect and confidentiality.

We hope NVC will gradually contribute to a sense of peace and harmony in our changing localities, as we move towards building life enhancing communities.

We now have a functioning group of amateur NVC practitioners who want to deepen and extend NVC with an additional meeting a month, together with NVC phone network support for participants. So, we ask those of you new to NVC and wanting to learn more to contact Gail on [su7027@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:su7027@eclipse.co.uk) as we hope to set up a second group in the near future. There is a fee of £2.00 per session per night for current members.

### **Inner Transitions – Intuition for Transition**

An inspiring follow-up Intuition Group Session was held on Saturday 17th April at the Friend's Meeting House. In it we planned to deepen and consolidate the intuitive process shared by Darren Eden in his March Workshop. During the course of this meeting, we discussed the Oxford Dictionary definition of 'Intuition' and agreed with reference to Clarissa Pinkola Estes that intuition can attach to and enhance all or any of our senses, and need not be exclusively visual, and noted that it is sometimes referred to as the sixth sense, used by people in areas as different as the sciences and the arts and thought by some to be part of spiritual/religious contemplation. In the session we took it to be a source of ethical inspiration insight (true for each person) that can side-step intellectual reasoning to offer a fresh take on a situation. (Further new definitions, refinements and understandings and processes may well emerge as this practice moves forward.)

Following the discussion, we moved on to explore some intuitive processes, some of which were inspired by Darren's five steps. Some really profound work took place involving rich and varied contributions. **A key concern about 'Communication/Marketing' came up re Transition**, and this is suggested as the focus/theme for our next meeting. Possible outlets for important insights/re-

visionings might also be considered, e.g. blogs, web sites, transition newsletters, and also processes like situationist art moments, street theatre, poetry, song and various forms of writing. Group ground rules re confidentiality, mutual respect, etc will also be agreed, along with arrangements like rotating group note-taker.

We have decided to meet once every two months to take this work further. This group is just starting up, and may well develop in new directions. Next meeting dates to be confirmed. Please contact Gail on [su7027@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:su7027@eclipse.co.uk) if you are interested in being part of this new group.

## **Economics**

The next meeting of the Economics group will be on Wednesday **12<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30 pm, probably at Andi Tobe's unless lots of people want to come and we need somewhere bigger, so contact [andi.tobe@virgin.net](mailto:andi.tobe@virgin.net) if you'd like to attend.

We'll be having a discussion following on from the Unreported World showing of 'Money as Debt' (which can be seen here: <http://video.google.co.uk/videoplay?docid=-2550156453790090544#> - well worth a watch if you haven't seen it already). Just to add to the discussion you might like to take a look at this link, which was first published in Punch in 1957! [www.somerset.coop/sites/default/files/What%20are%20banks%20for.pdf](http://www.somerset.coop/sites/default/files/What%20are%20banks%20for.pdf)

We will also be talking about Community Share investments in general, and Exeter's new Real Food Store in particular.

## **TE going local...**

### **Sustainable St James**

If you live in St James and would like to form a local sustainability group please get in touch with Sarah Boothby on 01392 214090, or email [susstjames@talktalk.net](mailto:susstjames@talktalk.net).

The aim of the group is to connect people living within walking distance of each other, to increase low carbon living in our neighbourhood. After that we'll be what we can agree to, with the aim of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> in our area. Copenhagen was a lesson.

*Sarah moved to Exeter from Dartmoor in 2008. She has been progressively reducing her carbon footprint since 2005 and knows this is easier, and a lot more fun, in good company. Sarah lives near the bottom of Pennsylvania Road, is a working Mum, shares an allotment on the railway embankment at St James' Park, and started helping Transition Exeter with publicity in early 2010.*

Sustainable St James is an open group on Facebook - <http://bit.ly/susstjames>.

### **Exwick**

Exwick resident Emma Welton wonders whether there are other people in Exwick who would like to meet up informally to talk about Transition and things we could do on a neighbourhood level if we get together. If you'd like to get in touch, phone Emma on 07791 161050.

## **Other news, events and stuff**

### **Wellbeing and Transition Show**

Wednesdays 12-2pm on [Phonic fm](http://www.phonic.fm) 106.8 fm. Ideas, discussion, chat, music, interviews, positive news, good vibes and enlightenment. Aimed at enthusing you into considering the environment as a companion in the pursuit of personal and social well-being and happiness; and making the transition to sustainable living. More info at: [www.tinyurl.com/wellbeingandtransition](http://www.tinyurl.com/wellbeingandtransition) or contact [wellbeingandtransition@phonic.fm](mailto:wellbeingandtransition@phonic.fm).

## Green Drinks

“Green Drinks is a non-political event where anyone is welcome. It is organised by the Green Party but with the aim of getting any like minded people together to share ideas and concerns and also to have a little relaxing fun.” Second Thursday of the month – next on **13<sup>th</sup> May** from 9pm at the Tavern, Well Street.

## Transition Network UK conference

Bookings are now open for the 2010 Transition Network UK conference, to be held from **11-14<sup>th</sup> June** at Seale Hayne, just outside Newton Abbot (convenient!). Tickets cost £130, accommodation extra. Early Bird discount price of £115 till end of **May 16<sup>th</sup>**. More info at [www.transitionnetwork.org/conference-2010-uk](http://www.transitionnetwork.org/conference-2010-uk)

## Is anyone listening?

Free workshop on “Helping organisations get their voice heard”, run by the South West Forum at Taunton on Tuesday **18<sup>th</sup> May**. “This event is for anyone who helps voluntary and community organisations to influence decisions; it will explore challenges and solutions to helping the voluntary and community sector influence local and regional public bodies.” More info at [www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=voice\\_influence](http://www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=voice_influence)

## The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: Making It Happen

The Falmouth Energy Week conference 2010 will bring together key speakers and delegates from industry, government, NGOs, academia and community leaders operating at a national, regional and local level. The conference is a forum at which progressive energy policy within the UK can be debated and explored. Held at the Falmouth Hotel, Falmouth on **24-25<sup>th</sup> May**. More info at [www.exeter.ac.uk/few/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/few/), or contact Nicola Hole on [nh250@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:nh250@exeter.ac.uk). Poster available.

## Community Energy Saving Workshop

Run by Trafford Hall in conjunction with the London School of Economics. To be held at the National Communities Resource Centre at Trafford Hall near Chester on Tuesday **25<sup>th</sup> May**. Cost is £75 for organizations (£50 for second and subsequent delegates), £30 for tenants and individuals.

“The aim of the workshop is to examine how low income communities can save energy, money and lives, tapping the big incentives now available to help. The workshop will showcase inspiring examples of greener, more sustainable communities. Leading experts in energy saving and community infrastructure investment will share their expertise, setting out how we can halve energy use in practice, and build community resilience in the difficult times ahead.” More info at [www.traffordhall.com](http://www.traffordhall.com) and <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/LSEhousing/events/>.

## Sustainability seminar, Axminster

Trill Farm, Axminster is holding an evening seminar on Sustainability on **28<sup>th</sup> May**. Trill Farm is an organic farm that runs courses in skills for a more sustainable future. We are a little way outside Exeter but we can collect anyone from the station if needed. Please see our website [www.trillfarm.co.uk](http://www.trillfarm.co.uk) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/trillfarm](http://www.facebook.com/trillfarm) for more info.

## Seaton Green Transport Gathering

Sustainable Seaton will be hosting their third ‘Green Transport Gathering’ on **June 6<sup>th</sup>**, and are now inviting entries. These can be any form of transport that uses minimal fuel or no fuel. So bicycles, tandems, tricycles, rickshaws, skate boards, blades or electric bikes and buggies. Any wacky, ordinary or fun form of low carbon transportation is eligible! We also invite runners, walkers, and car share members of any age!

The event is to be held at the Underfleet, and run in conjunction with Seaton Tramway and their Classic Car event - as part of the Tramway's 40<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. Entry forms can be obtained at Seaton Town Hall, The Community Centre, [www.sustainableseaton.com](http://www.sustainableseaton.com) or by phoning 01297 24466. Poster available.

### **Building for a better future...**

The Ecos Trust is based in the South West, with the principal objective of promoting design and build techniques that give a better quality of life and reduced environmental impact. Their next event is "The Road to Zero Carbon, a Conference on Low and Zero Carbon Buildings", Reading Town Hall, on **15th June**. More info at: [www.ecostrust.org.uk/](http://www.ecostrust.org.uk/)

### **Crediton Sustainable Living Weekend**

Crediton Climate Action is holding another open house for renewable energy and open kitchen garden weekend on **26/27<sup>th</sup> June**. More info at: [www.creditonclimateaction.org.uk/events.htm](http://www.creditonclimateaction.org.uk/events.htm).

### **Bristol Green Doors**

Bristol Green Doors is an online directory mapping the sustainable improvements and enabling networking. It is also an Open Day / Weekend. Both support social learning. On **September 11-12<sup>th</sup>** visitors will be able to see and discuss the retrofits, renewable installations, water management systems, sustainable construction methods and other energy efficiency approaches with home owners or tenants. More info at: <http://groups.google.co.uk/group/bristol-green-doors>, or contact [bristolgreendoors@googlegmail.com](mailto:bristolgreendoors@googlegmail.com).

### **Googlemap of Transition Presenters**

From the Transition Network: There's a constant stream of requests by Transition Initiatives for speakers about transition matters and other areas such as renewables, composting, economics. If you're reasonably adept at presenting, are involved in your local transition group and would like to support other groups in this way, it would be truly wonderful if you could add yourself to the googlemap of transition presenters. See <http://transitionnetworknews.wordpress.com/2010/01/21/googlemap-of-transition-presenters/>

### **Sustainable Communities (Amendment) Act**

Message from John Denham:

"I am delighted to be able to tell you that the Sustainable Communities (Amendment) Act passed all its remaining stages in the House of Commons yesterday. After the Act was blocked by a Conservative backbencher it was given Government time to complete its passage... As you might imagine it was not straight forward to find time when the election was likely to be called, and we could not be sure whether the Opposition Parties would let the Bill go through. But in the end these potential obstacle were overcome. I believe that the Bill will ensure that ... the Sustainable Communities Act will now be a permanent part of the architecture of the relations between local communities, local government and central government. Thank you for all your work in helping us achieve this outcome."

### **GM Crops in the UK?**

The European Commission has just approved growing genetically modified crops in the European Union for the first time in 12 years! Caving to the GM lobby, the commission has ignored 60% of Europeans who feel we have to get the facts first before growing foods that could pose a threat to our health and environment. But: A new initiative allows 1 million EU citizens to make official legal requests of the European Commission. Let's build a million voices for a ban on GM foods until the research is done; they will be delivered to the President Barroso of the European Commission. Sign the petition and forward this email to friends and family: [www.avaaz.org/en/eu\\_health\\_and\\_biodiversity/?v1](http://www.avaaz.org/en/eu_health_and_biodiversity/?v1).