



# May Newsletter 2011

Remember to check: [www.transitionexeter.org.uk/events](http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/events)

## Transition Exeter

Transition Exeter has emerged as a local response to two huge global challenges:

*Climate Change* and *Peak Oil*

Transition refers to the changes we need to make to get from our current oil dependency to where we need to be in order to have a resilient, flourishing, post carbon economy and society.

Preparing for a low carbon economy will put us in a much stronger position than if we wait until shocks and crises force us to change. This will call upon the creative involvement of all of us.

We have a great opportunity to rethink the way we live and make positive choices about the kind of community and world we want to live in – and leave behind for our children and grand-children.

By working together we can tap into the collective genius of the community and find ways of living that are more enriching and connected, and that recognise the biological limits of our finite planet.

### The Sustainable Consumerism Group

This continues to explore and share ways to live sustainably in a consumer society -

We will be meeting in May on a date still to be confirmed. To find out more about the group please see our blog at <http://sustainableconsumerism.wordpress.com/> Everyone welcome .

At our next meeting we will be:-

- o Reviewing our 'Buy nothing for Lent' project
- o Arranging a date to make Lemon Curd
- o Planning new projects for sustainable living

If you have any questions or would like to join the group, please contact Penny at [penny.ritson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:penny.ritson@hotmail.co.uk)

### Inner Transitions - Being the Change - Our New Sustainable Drop In Centre Planning Group

The group continues by gaining practical experience of existing drop in centres the provisional date for this will be Wed 11th of May For more information and involvement please contact Gail on [su7027@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:su7027@eclipse.co.uk)

### Intuitive Visioning and Non Violent Communication Groups

Continue meeting in May and are currently looking at how to open to new members, while building existing practice. Please note there is an Education and Peak Oil talk coming up at St Luke's Campus on Saturday 21st of May The title of the talk is 'EDUCATION FOR THE INEVITABLE : SCHOOLING FOR WHEN THE OIL RUNS OUT'. The speaker will be Emeritus Professor Michael Bassey Academician of the Social Sciences (See flier at end of newsletter)

### Creating Synergies Dialogue - Creating conversations that matter

Sat May 21st 2011 at 10.00 - 16.30 TBC, Exeter.

Come and find out about Dialogue as developed by David Bohm and William Isaacs and learn how different it is from ordinary conversation and discussion. Einstein's call for a different level of thinking is very relevant today with the complex dilemmas facing our world. Dialogue creates a conversational space in which we can enquire into the nature of thought by deepening how we listen, exploring our personal beliefs and cultural assumptions and learning how to suspend them. Through practice, the group will have the opportunity for new thinking to emerge, as shared meanings are generated within the conversational space.

The facilitator, Gill Wyatt, has been a nurse, psychotherapist and group worker. She has published three edited books in the field of counselling/psychotherapy. Her research and work through 'Creating Synergies' is concerned with the transformational process needed by our society to transcend the challenges of the 21st Century. How can we revitalise our democracy, create more cohesive and resilient communities and promote more world-centric values so the emergent way forward is good for all?

### Green Walks (family friendly)

**1 May 2011 14:00**

**Location: Outside Exeter Cathedral**

April's green walk is going foraging!! Come along on May 1st and collect wonderful wild foods with expert Robin Harford ..don't forget to bring a basket for all your harvest!

Our April Green Walk is delayed this month and will take place on Sunday 1st May. The May Green Walk will be on Sunday 29th May.

Contact: [exetergreenwalks@gmail.com](mailto:exetergreenwalks@gmail.com)



### Transition Families Meet-up/Picnic (family friendly)

**8 May 2011 13:00 to 15:00**

**Location: Heavitree Park**

The idea for Transition Families came out of January's Open Space meeting. We as parents wanted to be able to participate in transition-friendly activities with our children. We have therefore made start by highlighting which events in the calendar are child friendly, such as the monthly Green Walks, and are trying to add other relevant events to the calendar. For example, this half-term break is full of a number of fantastic wildlife events based around Newtown. For full details see:

<http://wildaid.mydnd.com/WildTown.php>

We have also started compiling a list of relevant websites on the transition families area of our website. We welcome additions to this list. Please let us know of other family-friendly events you know about. The Transition Families Working Group would like to facilitate the following:

- A regular event (perhaps fortnightly) were transition-minded families could attend (this may involve organisations already running events such as Devon Wildlife Trust).
- An inter-generational group. Many children these days live far away from their grandparents. For these dispersed families we would like to re-build an inter-generational community so that young and old get the opportunity to benefit from each other's company.

The transition families working group currently comprises two of us, so we are very keen to get more people involved. We shall be in Heavitree Park playing rounders and having a picnic on Sunday 8th May from 1pm-3pm (weather permitting). If you would like to join us please join us just above the children's play area. We would also be keen to create a mailing list and get as many ideas from you all as possible, so please do email us at [gill.b@transitionexeter.org.uk](mailto:gill.b@transitionexeter.org.uk)

## Events

### Sun 8th May 1 -3pm Heavitree Park Transition Families Meet-up/Picnic (all welcome)

Other Family Friendly Events for May:

Sun 1st May 2pm Green Walks <http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/events>

Sat 28th May 10-4pm WildTown Event <http://wildaid.mydnd.com/WildTown.php>

Sun 29th May 12.30 WildTown Event <http://wildaid.mydnd.com/WildTown.php>

Mon 30th May 10.00-12.30 WildTown Event <http://wildaid.mydnd.com/WildTown.php>

Tues 31st May 10-12.00 WildTown Event <http://wildaid.mydnd.com/WildTown.php>

## Open meeting and Green Drinks

12 May 2011

**Location: NBI (North Bridge Inn, St. David's Hill)**

A closed core group meeting will take place at 5.30pm. Followed by an open meeting at 7.30pm and Green Drinks at 8.00pm.

## Transport Group meeting

16 May 2011

**Location: TBA**

Main topic: how we'll monitor the Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 and other local development plans. For details contact [transport@transitionexeter.org.uk](mailto:transport@transitionexeter.org.uk)

## Stall at Respect Festival

4 June 2011 to 5 June 2011

**Location: Belmont Park, Exeter**

The Respect Festival is a celebration of diversity, with loads of music, art, workshops, food etc. etc.

If you would be interested to help with a Transition Exeter stall at the festival, (shared with Exeter LET's and the Real Food Store) please contact Gill Westcott [gillwestcott@gmail.com](mailto:gillwestcott@gmail.com) 01647 24789 a.s.a.p.

Details of the festival can be found at: [www.exeter-respect.org](http://www.exeter-respect.org)

### Low and Zero Carbon New Homes

18 May 2011 12:30 to 16:30

Location: The X-Centre, Exeter

This half-day seminar will provide an update on the latest policies and practices which aim to reduce carbon emissions from new housing. It will be of interest to anyone involved in the design, construction and approval of new housing, such as the construction industry and related professions including architects, builders, contractors and designers, house builders and developers, housing associations and registered social landlords, and local authority officers and members.

Fee: £82 plus VAT (£98.40 inc). 20% discount for Ecos members.

See Ecos website for full details and booking: [www.ecostrust.org.uk](http://www.ecostrust.org.uk) (click events)

### Devon County Show

19 May 2011 to 21 May 2011

Location: Westpoint Centre, Clyst St Mary, Exeter



For more information and to save money by purchasing tickets in advance **visit:** [www.devoncountyshow.co.uk](http://www.devoncountyshow.co.uk)

**Call:** 01392 446000 **Email:** [info@dcsow.org](mailto:info@dcsow.org)

### University Transition Seminar:

#### The Ecological Self in Transition



Eco-psychology and the values and practice of Transition

Sandra White

Monday 6th June, Exeter University, 6 pm Poldhu Room

Sandra is an organization consultant, ceremony maker, and psychodynamic counsellor deeply informed by Jung.

# Exeter Society for Curriculum Studies

St Luke's 21 May 2011

## **EDUCATION FOR THE INEVITABLE: SCHOOLING FOR WHEN THE OIL RUNS OUT**

**Our speaker is Emeritus Professor Michael Bassey  
Academician of the Social Sciences**

**Professor Bassey will argue that when today's children are in their prime the world will be over-heated, resource-depleted and angry. Recognising this our schools should begin to focus on survival skills arising from a convivial ethos. They should be collegial, local, recognised by all as good community schools, with accountability bottom-up, adequately financed by the state but not micromanaged by government.**

**10.00 Reception and Coffee**

**10.30 Michael Bassey**

**11.30 Discussion**

**12.30 Forum Ends**

**Fee £5 (students £1) payable on the door**

**Further details from Dr M Golby**

**Hon Sec Exeter Society St Luke's, Exeter, EX1 2LU or  
[michael.golby@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:michael.golby@exeter.ac.uk)**



## WHAT ROLE CAN **COMMUNITY** PLAY IN LESSENING THE POWER OF **CONSUMERISM**?



**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**

Arrive 18.45 for 19.00 to 21.00 (Voluntary Donation £2)

**Palace Gate Centre, 3 Palace Gate, Exeter, EX1 1JA**

An opportunity to explore the meaning of community and consumerism in our lives and the potential for depowering consumerism by building community.

Facilitated by Gill Wyatt.

For more details contact: [gillwyatt@creatingsynergies.com](mailto:gillwyatt@creatingsynergies.com)

**Organised by Inner Transitions, Transition Exeter**



## *A vision for an alternative lifestyle*

We have noticed a great deal of change in our lives, particularly during the last twelve months. We've also become increasingly aware of and concerned about the growing global economic and environmental crises that are upon us.

As we look back over our lives, and see the bigger picture, from our childhood, teenage years and adult life; it seems that business as usual just isn't an option any longer. We face losing our jobs in the public sector, having children entering adult life with the burden of an enormous student debt, and we also recognise that our current lifestyle is unsustainable.

We are fortunately blessed with dhamma, which is the guiding rudder as we sail through the ocean of life. This idea of living a life of harmlessness, and doing good for oneself and others, is to us dhamma made manifest.

Our vision is to build an eco-home within an eco-community of a few or many families. Living using minimal amounts of fossil fuel, reducing our carbon footprint through

sustainable housing, amenities and lifestyle. In short, to lower the overheads for living, needing to work less and thus have more time for meditating and eco-living.

We will grow food to enhance food security at a time of potential supply reduction, share water harvesting, solar heat and boiler. We car share and share whatever we are able.

We see a future where like minded people live close together and support each other.

We think hard times are on their way - growing austerity driven by economic instability, rising fuel prices and unsustainable lifestyles. Our goal is to bring together like minded people who share this vision of creating a sustainable community.

The South West is a lovely part of the country, ideal for harvesting renewable resources and growing crops and trees, and surrounded by many areas of natural beauty.

*Simon + Julie*

*Please contact us for  
further details:*

Simon James [simon@jameshq.net](mailto:simon@jameshq.net)  
Julie James [julie@jameshq.net](mailto:julie@jameshq.net)

Or visit our blog:  
<http://is.gd/B2PUrE>

At Transition Exeter, we currently send out our newsletters to over 500 subscribers each month, but all we know about many of you is your email address and the fact that you're interested in what we do.

As an existing subscriber, we assume that you support TE's [aims and objectives](#) and so, unless you tell us otherwise, we would like to add you to our list of "supporters".

Becoming a "supporter" does not commit you to taking part in any particular activity. However, by knowing a little bit more about you, it does enable TE to:

- target information about transition themes and projects of interest to you
- plan future meetings and events that you will find informative and challenging and may be able to contribute to.

It will also give TE a stronger voice in dealing with other organisations and in negotiating for funding.

So if you would like to become a "supporter", please complete this short questionnaire for us and we assure you that all the information given will remain strictly confidential.

Your email address: .....

Your name: .....

What part of the Exeter area do you live in? .....

Would you like to participate in or receive information about any of our working groups (see below)?

- Economics Group – Our aim is to learn, inform and act for a fair and resilient economy that doesn't cost the earth, and in non-technical language.
- Energy Group – We are devising options and programmes to reduce our use of energy and exploring ways of encouraging renewable energy generation.
- Families Group - A number of us have been attending TE events, but only when we can get a babysitter! So we have started a families group whose aims are to make more TE events family friendly and organize family-specific transition activities of our own.
- Food Group – Promotes access to local food and supports its production in the city and surrounding countryside.
- Inner Transition Group – Offers group work and support for change, anti-consumerism thinking, non-violent communication group and exploration of intuition.
- Transport Group – Promotes a vision of a low carbon transport system in Exeter, encouraging public discussion, and entering into dialogue with councils and public transport companies.
- Composting Group – Aims to set up a community composting scheme in Exeter.

Perhaps you have other areas of interest or ideas for future projects that you would like to explore. If so, we would love to hear from you:

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What sort of meetings would interest you? Talks / discussions / debates / demonstrations / films

Subject matter: .....