

NEXT EVENTS

Sun. 16th Feb. 14:00 - 15:30 URC
 Sun. 23rd Feb. 14:00 - 16:00 URC
 Sun. 9th Mar. 14:00 - 16:00 URC
 Sun. 16th Mar. 14:00 - 15:30 URC
 Thur. 20th Mar. 19:30 - 21:00 GMG
 Sun. 23rd Mar. 14:00 - 17:00 URC
 Sat. 29th Mar. 14:00 - 16:00 SG
 Sat. 5th Apr. 14:00 - 16:00 SG
 Sun. 13th Apr. 14:00 - 15:30 URC
 Sun. 18th May. 14:00 - 15:30 URC

Sat. 14th Jun. 14:00 - 16:00 SG
 Sun. 15th Jun. 14:00 - 15:30 URC
 Sun. 13th Jul. 14:00 - 15:30 URC
 Sun. 20th Jul. 14:00 - 16:00 URC
 Sun. 10th Aug. 14:00 - 15:30 URC
 Sun. 14th Sep. 14:00 - 15:30 URC
 Sun. 21st Sep. 14:00 - 16:00 URC
 Sun. 16th Oct. 14:00 - 15:30 URC

For gardening: no tools required
 but dress suitably for weather

*URC - United Reformed Church
 *SG - Spring Gardens

Workshops etc

“Construction of Cloches”
 “Microwave Cookery”
 “Vegan Cookery”
 “Cuttings, Container Growing”
 “Knit and Crochet”
 “Bread-making”
 SEED SWAP
 SEED SWAP
 “Sowing of Seeds, Water collecting”
 “Potting on and Planting out, Pests/
 Weed control”
 PLANT SWAP
 “Composting”
 “Fruit pruning”
 “Jams and Jellies”
 “Mulching/Green Manures”
 “Winter Veg. sowing”
 “Pickles and Chutneys”
 “Hedging and Windbreaks”

For more information, call 07769
 27133

*GMG - Green Man Gallery

Green Drinks

Join us for an informal chat over a drink,
 no agenda, any colour drink is fine.

17th of each month, from 8pm
 Sun Inn, High Street, Buxton
 Contact neil@buxtonspa.co.uk



Check out our website on www.transitionbuxton.co.uk
 See our Facebook page
 and follow tweets on @transitionbux



When people join forces and decide to tackle the problems of climate change and oil shortage they've taken the step to creating a Transition Town.

February 2014

NEWSLETTER

Progressing towards an Alternative Local Economy

In November we hosted a day-long seminar to explore ways in which we could improve the local economy, which at the moment is very much linked with the national economy. To this end we invited a number of eminent people to speak on some methods of alleviating this link and to help give direction to the way forward for our local community.

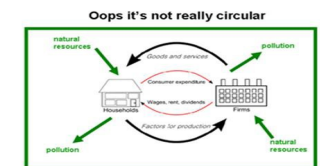


To set the scene we showed a short film, “The Impossible Hamster” which is a perfect allegory for continuous unsustainable growth. Ian Wood, an adviser to the Green Party on economics, then began serious proceedings with an inspired synopsis of the state of the general economy, bringing comparisons with events in Ancient Rome, seventeenth century Britain and post 1918 Germany; all of which saw debasement

of the value of money - followed by civil strife, revolution and war.

He maintained that the banks are currently debasing money in order to sustain a system that needs the continuing support of those least likely to benefit from it. According to traditional thinking, the only way out is to achieve economic growth. This plan is dependent on ordinary people spending money they don't have. This borrowing is not normal, and is not being repaid. Official forecasts are for the debt to keep on getting bigger for at least the next five years. It is not sustainable.

Economy does not exist in a vacuum



Sustainability of resources is the main theme of the Steady State Economics principles, spoken of by Robert Brown, who is working with Manchester City Council's Economic Scrutiny

Committee to consider the impact of the Council on the environment. He ran 2 workshops focussing on the provision of food for the local community. One looked at the engagement of young people into food production locally, while the other focused on new food technologies. Some of the ways suggested to go forward were:

- identify local teachers with an interest in food to teach food growing
- identify local award-winning gardeners as possible role models
- start dialogue with young farmers' groups locally
- grow food on the old Nestle bottling site;
- start own free school
- development of hydroponics in Buxton.

Hopefully many of these things can be incorporated into the Serpentine Project, reported on in the last edition, which is at the planning stage at present.

Alan Budd, a Participatory Budgeting facilitator, spoke about this aspect of the local economy, which aims to involve ordinary people in the financing of local communities, by encouraging them to vote for local projects and services who bid for public money. This system has been shown to engender enthusiasm and give a greater feeling of belonging and taking part in their own communities' activities. The way forward is to present the ideas to HPBC and/or DCC.

One of the chief methods to aid retaining money in the local area is by creating a local currency, examples of which run all over the world. Our



planned speaker on this subject, Tony Bradbury, who is currently working on the development of a local

currency for Liverpool, was not able to make it, however Janet Miller hosted a workshop on setting up a local currency using the Bristol Pound as an example and exploring the whys, hows and wherefores of how it would work in the High Peak or a larger area incorporating Derbyshire Dales.

We were also given an insight into the different forms of currency by Mike Riddell. He developed a voucher system in Wigan, which had 6500 members and ran for 3

years, but eventually folded due to it being resource intensive. He is now developing a time

bartering system, where members earn points from helping in some way around the community and can then use these in part-exchange for goods or services.

Feedback from the attendees was very favourable and it proved to be a very profitable day.

If you would like more detail about the event, please check out the website where you can find a full description of the proceedings.

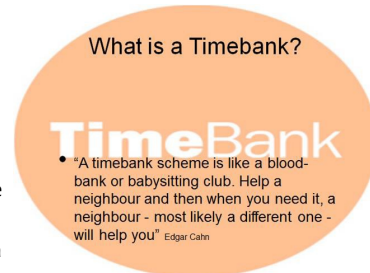
The Next steps

A sub-group of Transition Buxton has already been formed to set up an economic blueprint for the Buxton area. It aims to gather data from many sources, including Town Team, University, HPBC etc and provide a picture of the potential for a healthy and sustainable growth.

A meeting was held with Andrew Bingham, the MP for High Peak, who was very interested in the Participatory Budgeting theory and asked to attend an event if possible.

There are plans to liaise with other Transition Towns in the area to discuss the creation of a Local Currency.

All volunteers are welcome.



Serpentine Project

The project is well under-way with the University of Derby keen to be involved. HPBC is currently undertaking a survey of the buildings, so once this is finished planning of the renovations can be taken into account and the business plan completed.

See <http://transitionbuxton.co.uk/node/486> for more detail.

Workshops

The cookery workshops have continued over the winter and been well received. The students have progressed from “9 Ways to cook an Egg” to “Christmas Cookery” in December. The rest of the programme is continuing this year and is listed overleaf. Handicraft workshops for Rag Rug making and Patchwork were well attended, as was “Make your own Traditional Christmas”. In the latter, there were demonstrations on making decorations using greenery, paper and plastic bags, all easily obtainable and very effective. There will be handicraft sessions during the next 2 months at The Green Man Gallery, which are listed overleaf.

Films

We have only shown one film since September. The subject was bees and how they are treated by the human population. There is a good comparison between the more traditional methods as practised by an Alpine family and the methods used by almost industrial bee-keepers in the USA. They transport them across America in huge trucks from one orchard or plantation to the next. If you would like to see this film or any

others that we have a Filmshare scheme with contact details as follows: Derek on 01298 22081, or email

filmshare@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Energy Saving

Last year we also ran “Energy Saving in the Home”, but if you missed it and you need help with saving money on your energy bills High Peak CVS is currently running a series of sessions giving aid to small groups of people who may have difficulty switching their accounts or improving insulation in their homes.

If you would like help please contact Esther Jones at High Peak CVS on 01663 735350.



Community Orchard

On 1st Feb., more trees were planted in the dispersed Community Orchard, in 2 new areas namely Cote Heath Park and Ashwood Park, which are owned by HPBC. They were placed next to play areas in both cases. We now have 50 trees in all, which is much more than could have been placed in 1 location only.

To see the locations : <http://goo.gl/maps/UMR2U>

6 still need sponsors, so if you'd like to spend £20 contact : p.burgess-allen@virgin.net