

NEXT EVENTS

Sun. 17th April - 20:00 to 22:00
Tues. 17th May
Fri. 17th June
Sun Inn, High Street, Buxton

Green Drinks
EU and Environmental Issues.

For more information , call 01298 71041

Thurs. 21st April - 13:00
Thurs. 19th May - 13:00
Thurs. 16th June - 13:00
Pavilion Gardens Café

Wellbeing Group meetings
Informal support and action planning.
budgealan@hotmail.com

Sat. 9th April
10:00 to 13:00 **Spring Gardens**

Seed Swap

Thur. 21st April
19:00 for 19:30 start
The Pauper's Pit, Old Hall Hotel

Annual General Meeting
Inc. presentation of Waterswallows project and proposal for energy efficiency conference.

Mon. 2nd May
10:00 to 17:00
Spring Gardens and Market Place

Spring Fair
Transition Buxton stall will be at Scarsdale Place.

Sat. 28th May
10:00 to 15:00
Spring Gardens

Plant Swap

Autumn

Films and Talks
To be arranged



Have a look at our website on www.transitionbuxton.co.uk

See our [Transition Buxton Facebook page](#)

See twitter at <https://twitter.com/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.

April 2016

NEWSLETTER

FLOATING SOLAR PANEL ARRAY

Springing from an informal discussion, at Green Drinks, this exciting project to create a floating solar panel array to provide local renewable energy is now at the feasibility study stage. After the discussion, it was found that the largest example of a floating solar panel array in Europe has recently been completed at Godley Reservoir near Hyde, Cheshire, by United Utilities. This is an array of 12,000 solar panels supplying approximately 2.7 GWh energy per year. It will provide most of their 2020 target for renewable energy.

landowner can be persuaded to allow the project to progress, it could provide approximately double the energy of Godley, i.e. up to 6GWh per year.



A floating array in Japan



The Waterswallows Site

One suggestion for the proposed local array was the infamous Blue Lagoon, but this would be much too toxic for the system and is relatively small. The final proposal is to use the reservoir at Waterswallows, which is in total about 100,000 sq. m. in area. If the

With the help of RegenSW a tender document has been prepared and issued, in order that a feasibility study can be carried out. This could be funded by DEFRA's "Waste prevention program" WRAP as it qualifies as a community benefit. It is definitely feasible in a technical sense, but it has yet to be determined whether this will be the case in a business sense.

More detail for this project and an idea for a local Energy Efficiency Conference will be presented at the AGM on 21st April. (see overleaf)

Crafting 2015



session to create traditional Xmas decorations from things that you find lying around, such as pine-cone animals, paper friezes, home-made paper bags and many others.

Andrew Bingham MP

Our chair, Jilla Burgess-Allen and Charles Jolly had an interesting meeting with Mr Bingham on 18th September 2015. They discussed various environmental issues and his views are as follows: -

Participatory Budgeting.

Andrew is very positive about participatory budgeting. He recounted related exercises in which he had been involved to help people understand the relationship between the services the Council provided and the rates that had to be charged (e.g. starting with what they felt should be provided and then showing how the Council Tax would be 40% higher). Jilla explained that there has been a large take-up in Scotland.

Energy Efficiency.

Feed-in-tariffs have been dropped to almost zero, which effectively removes the government subsidy. Andrew believes that there is no further need for subsidy in regard to the government's targets. He thinks that enough has been spent to kick-start the production of renewable energy.

He considers Fracking and Nuclear Energy to be the way to fill the country's energy gap, however would advocate using smart meters to shock people into reducing energy consumption.

He made no comment about retro-fitting existing housing stock to increase energy efficiency, but was impressed about how easy it is to heat a well-insulated house.

Connie played a big part in the wet summer of 2015. She hosted an event as part of the Buxton Fringe Arts Trail in July, when at least one of the days was kind to us and our small visitors, with some rays of sunshine.



However, on August bank holiday there was no such luck. Happily, we were indoors in the Pavilion Gardens as part of the holiday weekend's activities.

At the end of November, we held our regular



Food Production.

Andrew was very positive about supporting farmers, especially local ones. He agreed that they have a key role in safeguarding and enhancing the environment and is very opposed to the culture of importing foods so that beans, strawberries etc. are available all year round as this only serves to distance people even more from the realities of food production. He has himself seen the light and now has a very healthy diet. He is also very opposed to convenience foods. He is impressed by Transition Buxton's local dispersed orchard and the Serpentine farm project and would like to see a lot more emphasis in schools put upon simple cooking skills using vegetables.

Local Currency.

He stated, that High Peak is effectively divided into 4 sub-constituencies and so there is just not a big enough population, anywhere, to support a local pound. It is, however, the view of Transition Buxton that if it could be made to work all over the district it may be viable.

Health & Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing has played a large role in two of our other events. The first, on yet another rainy day in September was a Pot Luck Picnic in Ashwood Park, where we provided games for

children and refreshments for the grown-ups.

In February the Health and Wellbeing group held a mid-winter feast at the local Foodbank, with all proceeds going to the foodbank.



Community Orchard



In 2015 /16 more trees were added in all areas of the dispersed orchard., the last ones being in March at Cote Heath Park. Tree wardens have been recruited for all plots, but more will be welcomed. Peter Burgess-Allen ran a tree pruning workshop at Ashwood Park, in February, for all the tree wardens, and a plan for maintenance was set up.

This Changes Everything

We presented this interesting film in March. It was directed by Avi Lewis, and inspired by Naomi Klein's bestseller .It features seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: **that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.**

If you would like get involved in any of our projects or have new ideas please get in touch. Transition Buxton is all about working together to increase resilience, so don't be shy, get your sleeves rolled up and let's make things happen. We have two informal discussion groups per month where we share ideas. (see over)

To find out more check out our web-site on <http://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk> or join our Facebook group.