

CHAIR'S EDITORIAL

Peak Cluster Proposal

The production and use of cement and concrete are major sources of CO₂ released into the atmosphere. We've seen from the recent analyses by Marches Energy Agency that High Peak, as a borough, is a massive producer of CO₂. Indeed, we're an outlier, producing significantly more CO₂ than the other council areas in the County. This difference is solely due to the production of cement within High Peak. The companies responsible are mainly in Buxton or the Hope Valley.

On 18th May the local partners in the cement industry launched their plans to address their production of CO₂, and we were invited to attend. John Egan and his team at Progressive Energy are leading the development of the project alongside the Peak Cluster partners, Breedon, Lhoist, Tarmac, Aggregate Industries and Lostock. The project is to capture and store

We produce significantly more CO₂ than the other council areas in the County. This is solely due to the production of cement.

Sustainable Energy Plant. Simply, the proposal is for a major carbon dioxide under the Irish Sea, having transported it to the coast in a new underground pipeline. The timescale is to have this operational by around 2030 and their plans are outlined on their web site (<https://www.peakcluster.co.uk/>).

The Peak Cluster seem to understand the need to engage with interested parties, such as ourselves, and the wider community. I had discussed with John Egan at their launch event the possibility of them attending a meeting with our members, which we would happily open to a wider audience across the High Peak Green Network (HPGN) and beyond, to colleagues in Staffordshire and Cheshire, during which we could examine their proposals, and any options they had considered but rejected, in much greater detail. They seemed happy to engage in this way, and working with other organisations in the HPGN (most importantly Hope Valley Climate Action) we are looking to organise a meeting lasting at least a couple of hours, possibly online or hybrid. Given the approaching holiday period, we are thinking of September at the earliest. We'll communicate with members as soon as date, time and venue are set.

Given the long-term importance of this to the carbon footprint of our community, I don't think it's possible to overstate the importance of getting the approach right and of Transition Buxton members making their voice heard.

Ian Bowns, Chair, Transition Buxton CIC



Transition Buxton

Towards a sustainable community

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Dates For Your Diary

We arrange less in July and August because there is so much going on during Festival and Fringe, plus folks on holiday, so we take a semi-break to enjoy the delights of summer in Buxton, then return with some things in August and meetings resume in September.

Saturday 8 July Buxton Carnival - you'll find our Buxton Cup stall at the bottom of the Slopes near Turners Memorial, 10am-4pm. If you don't have a cup yet, here's your chance.

Monday 17th July and Thursday 17th August Green Drinks, The Old Sun, 8pm, see <http://www.greendrinks.org/>

Members Meetings 2nd Tues of the month, none in July or August, **12 September** (AGM), 7:30pm, Face to Face, Methodist Church members@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Repair Café 4th Saturday of the month, none in July, **26 August, 10-2**, last item in 1:30pm, Methodist Church. No fees, just donate what you can afford and feel is fair.

20 September Plastic Clever Meeting, 7:30pm via Zoom plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Thursday 21 September Inform & Inspire Group meeting, 5:30pm via Zoom inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Do keep an eye on our Facebook Page for the most up to date info including events that arise at short notice.



WILD WEEKS £20,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND



Back in Spring 2021 Transition Buxton joined South West Peak Landscape Partnership and Buxton Civic Association to create the first Buxton Wild Weeks; an exciting programme of nature awareness, appreciation and action for 4 schools across one week led by Jackie from SWPLP. Last year the 4 schools were keen to have a week each; the SWPLP project had completed in March, so Transition Buxton assumed responsibility for managing Buxton Wild Weeks.

With Wild Weeks and our annual Student Climate & Environment Conferences we knew we needed to increase Transition Buxton's capacity and resources to develop our education activities. We were therefore thrilled to receive a one year £20,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in April this year. This grant enables us to deliver a fuller programme of Buxton Wild Weeks activities to more



schools, to support Moorlands Climate Action with their Wild Week and to extend Buxton Wild Weeks into autumn and winter. A key benefit of the grant has been to engage Lindsey as Project Manager to help organise and manage the summer Wild Weeks schools programme from 15th May to 30th June. Wild Weeks is generously supported by a wealth of expertise from local organisations, individual professionals and the fantastic volunteers who dedicate their time to inspiring our young participants: we thank all of them.

Wild Weeks gives children an opportunity to enjoy, explore, study and care for their local natural heritage; they enjoy pond dipping and habitat and species surveys as part of their biodiversity studies, forest bathing for nature connection and building beaver dams to learn about natural flood management as part of our conservation theme. This year, with plants provided by our BugLife grant, they have been creating new wildflower areas in their schools with our Billie Bumblebee very impressed with new habitats for pollinators.

All our schools are incredibly enthusiastic about Wild Weeks and teachers and Teaching Assistants for their hard work to make Wild



we thank their Heads, Wild Weeks lead teachers and all their Weeks a success.

In the next newsletter we will share our evaluation of summer

Wild Weeks and how our project is connecting children with nature. You will meet some of the Wild Weeks team and we will also share more details about the rest of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project which runs until March 2024.

As a result of the Lottery grant we have some autumn conservation activities planned with tree planting and pond restoration. We will also for the first time have a Winter Wild Weeks, with online activities to engage children in nature at home and school.

With our grant we have booked the Octagon, Pavilion Gardens for our 3rd Student Climate & Environment Conference on Thursday 16th November.

[Click here to see last year's video.](#)

Please [view our PowerPoint Presentation](#) and [Buxton Wild Weeks Facebook page](#) to find out more about our activities. We would love more Transition Buxton members to support our project. If you would like to a chat to find out more, please get in touch with me, thank you.

Frances, education@transitionbuxton.co.uk



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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A CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT LARGAN MP

On 9th May, our MP, Robert Largan, joined our Transition Buxton Members meeting via Zoom from his Westminster office. Our MPs meet with our Members twice a year, and this was the latest of these bi-annual conversations. We provided some questions in advance to get the conversation going then added others as the discussion progressed. A few highlights:

We asked about controlling raw sewage being pumped into rivers and seas for 1.75 million hours last year - on average 825 times per day. Mr Largan spoke about increased powers coming through the parliamentary system to greatly improve monitoring and reporting and increased control of dividends to require water companies to invest more in environmental management. He also informed us that *“we’ve had 58 prosecutions against water companies since 2015, that’s £141million raised in*

fines being put straight back into our natural environment”.

We asked if Mr Largan would be supporting Amendments 237 and 238 to the Energy Bill which would introduce changes to the Energy market that would release the potential for community energy generation (a subject close to our hearts). Despite a cross party group of 321 MPs supporting the bill, and Robert expressing support in principal, he felt unable to commit until he had seen the final wording and participated in the debate.

<https://powerforpeople.org.uk/the-local-electricity-bill/support/>

We asked about energy security and he spoke at length about new nuclear to level uneven supply from renewables. Members pointed out that, as well as being cleaner, renewables are quicker and cheaper to develop than nuclear, and spoke of developments in energy storage, but he was not persuaded.



We also talked about housing, retrofitting, skills for the green economy, pollinator friendly agriculture, the power of public sector procurement, and much more. The final question was: *“Do you genuinely believe that our government is doing enough, with enough urgency, to give my four-year-old grandson a decent planet to live on when he’s my age?”* to which he answered *“obviously there’s an awful lot more that needs to be done, and I’m one of the people pushing for more to be done.”* [Read the full transcript of the hour on our website here](#) .

Jean Ball, Transition Buxton CIC

UPDATE ON THE ENERGY BILL AND THE AMENDMENTS:



Clauses 272 and 273 have passed a second reading, it's now in the committee stage. The wording of the clauses is almost word for word the same as in the Local Electricity Bill (which we know Robert Largan MP supported). There are a few extra provisos in the clauses, to prevent small scale fossil fuel schemes taking advantage of the law, and to introduce more stringent reporting, but the rest is a straight copy. However, despite MPs from all parties having spoken in support during the debate in parliament, the Energy Minister has now tabled amendments to have the two clauses removed. Power for People are asking for letters to MPs calling for the clauses to be kept.

<https://powerforpeople.org.uk/blog/the-community-energy-revolution-our-response-to-the-governments-current-stance> .



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WE ARE BUXTON FORUM

In September 2023 the We Are Buxton Forum will be 2 years old. The Forum is made up of representatives of key Buxton groups plus High Peak Borough and Derbyshire County Councils. The groups meet every six weeks or so to discuss local issues, hatch plans for collaborations, and ensure our work is complimentary. Every second or third meeting we are joined by both officer and elected Member representatives from the local authorities. The groups find the Forum useful and encouraging, and the council representatives find it helpful to have an engaged, responsive group of community representatives.

At the most recent meeting on 6th June we discussed the possibility of creating a Buxton Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) to be incorporated into the High Peak Local Plan currently under review. Similar to those being developed in Chapel and New Mills, a BNP would put detail on the Local Plan framework. The process to develop a NP requires lots of community engagement, and a set process to determine the collective views of local people. Whilst there is some funding available to pay for meeting venues etc, the main block to progress at the moment is a lack of volunteers to do the work to organise meetings and events, and pull the plan together for formal approval / adoption. If you would be willing to get involved in the BNP working group please email conversation@transitionbuxton.co.uk and we will connect you with the appropriate people.

Amongst other things we also touched on;

- the possible use of a unit in The Springs as a hub or access point for training, business support, pop ups, hot desks, Council services, and more.
- ensuring young people have a say in town centre developments.
- encouraging DCC to consider moving the library into the town centre
- another tree down but no progress on resolving High Path
- Tourism and the visitor economy
- making St Ann's Well wheelchair accessible
- our shared disappointment that the funding for the proposed Health Hub by the station was not approved by the NHS.
- providing a warm welcome for asylum seekers if the proposition to use of the former UoD Halls of Residence on Bridge St goes ahead
- St Thomas More Sports Hall use by non-school groups
- the need for storage e.g. Town Team Christmas decorations

Some of these topics may not seem 'green', but how we shape and manage our town, our built, and our natural environment are all firmly interconnected and important in enabling us to live sustainably in this beautiful place.



Jean Ball, Transition Buxton CIC



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SUSTAINABLE BUXTON SURVEY

Our 2023 Survey asks about your priorities, what you are already doing, and what you'd consider doing to increase our sustainability and resilience in the face of advancing environmental break down.

We had planned to close the survey on 25 June so that we could share the results in this newsletter, but we have now agreed to keep it open until 20 August to give more people a chance to respond.

<https://forms.gle/YGHoUisFLbwF6DZs9>

Please share the link widely and encourage friends, family and colleagues to respond - the higher the numbers the more useful the data.

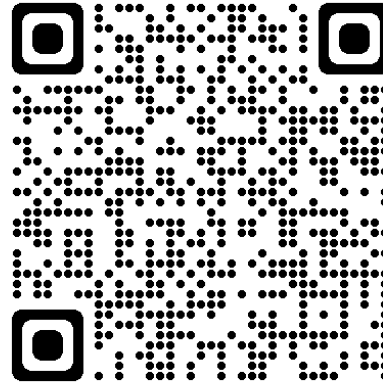
Meanwhile, the responses so far are already interesting. We ask how concerned you are about a list of 13 issues, with tick box options ranging from 1 Not Concerned to 4 Very Concerned. The 3 issues that so far have scored the highest 'Very Concerned' are:

1. Pollution of our rivers and oceans 79% Very Concerned + 18.5% Concerned
2. The rate and scale of government actions to address environmental issues 76% Very Concerned + 18% Concerned
3. Mass animal extinctions and loss of biodiversity 68% Vary Concerned + 30% Concerned

With one respondent's comment that *"wealth and power structures make change so difficult"* summing up the challenge quite well.

A fabulous 71.3% said you'd consider investing in a local community energy cooperative, and 84.3% would be interested in switching to a local coop energy supplier. About a quarter of those who'd switch to a local renewables coop would need an EV Tariff included. Of

those who said they would not switch, nearly 39% said they'd be nervous about using a new supplier.



Scan the code to take the survey

You are already doing loads to reduce your individual contribution to the damage including:

Over 97% are refusing, reusing, recycling, refilling, repairing and sharing wherever possible.
90% already have double or triple glazed windows
86% have stopped or reduced eating meat
75% have stopped or greatly reduced flying, particularly for short haul.

The most popular local actions that you'd support include:

For practical support and advice about insulation, retrofitting and heat pumps from real local people working on their properties take a look at Facebook Group: Warm and Eco Homes – High Peak
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WarmAndEco>

- 96% want improved / increased / reliable / affordable rail and bus services
- 93% support leaving verges and green areas unmown to support pollinators
- 93.5% want to see existing buildings repurposed before building new
- 92% would use a Library of Things to borrow instead of buying things
- 91% want to see local community owned renewable energy projects.
- 91% would like to see all new build properties required to meet high environmental standards
- 87% support amending the HPBC Local Plan to reduce the number of houses to be built based on evidence and increase the proportion of 'affordable'.

Respondents so far have told us you'd do even more if you could access support with: * see additional info box

- Grants to help pay for and install solar panels
- Practical advice and support to install heat pump
- Bulk buying scheme for solar panels to reduce costs
- Grow Your Own support & advice
- Property insulation measures

A full summary of the Survey results will be sent out to all those who requested it and posted on our website in due course. We will also report the full results here in the next issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, if you indicated that you'd be willing to do some volunteering you will be contacted by email before long.

Thank you for your commitment to Buxton and to our shared future together.



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITY AWARD



On Midsummer evening, 21st June, an auspicious occasion in the Pump Room celebrated a real achievement – Buxton has been awarded Plastic Free Community Status by Surfers Against Sewage (SAS). Buxton is the first town in the High Peak and the 164th in the UK to receive the award. Transition Buxton led the process using the SAS Toolkit, but it's Buxton's achievement. Over fifty businesses, schools and

community groups, along with the Borough Council, all pro-actively supported the effort with their enthusiasm and commitment to becoming more sustainable. Each Plastic Champion committed to eliminating at least 3 items of single use plastic from their operation, and most have done more than that.

One particularly inspiring example of action taken to reduce the amount of single use plastic waste is Buxton Community School. Young people in the school's eco group worked out that 1 Million single use bottles were used and thrown away in the school each year. With support from the staff, caterers, and a small grant, the school now has water fountains, and no plastic bottles are sold or used in the school. Eliminating 1 Million plastic bottles from their

operation is a huge achievement and an example to us all.

As the Plastic Free Community Award is an achievement by the whole town, Town Crier, Bill Weston MBE was chosen to receive the certificate (see photos). Bill was thrilled to be referred to as 'Mr Buxton' and spoke of his immense pride in our special town and friendly people.

Receiving the award is not the end of the journey. The Plastic Champions who attended the celebration all took away next steps leaflets and were urged to recruit new businesses and community groups, and to encourage their members to take individual action to reduce their own single use plastic. We all need to continue our efforts to keep single use plastic out of the natural environment because:

- less than 9% of plastic is currently recycled in the UK
- 50% of plastic produced is designed to be used just once
- 10 million tons of plastic reaches the oceans every year

Less pollution, less use of finite resources, and fewer emissions are good for everyone, and everyone needs to make an effort. If you would like to join in and take positive action to reduce plastic waste please visit our website www.transitionbuxton.co.uk or email plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Derek Bodey
Transition Buxton Plastic Clever Project Lead

HARD TO RECYCLE UPDATE



We are continuing to collect a range of hard to recycle materials through our sets of bins located around the town. This material is sent to Terracycle where it is made into items such as outdoor furniture and decking, watering cans and storage bins. Details of the recycling process are available [here](#). An extra win is that we do raise modest amounts of money for local good causes through

this recycling. Our latest donation of £130 has gone to Buxton Methodist girl guides towards their plastics reduction awareness raising work.

A reminder, however, that we can only send items included on the lists for the schemes for which we are currently signed up. Please check the labels on the bins or look on our website ([here](#)) for details of what can go in our bins and what can be recycled elsewhere in Buxton. Note in particular:

- More plastic packaging these days is labelled 'Recycle at store – Don't recycle at home'. This should be placed in the soft plastics recycling bin at Morrisons or Waitrose rather than our bins.
- Medicine blister packs should be deposited in the bin located in Superdrug.
- Also, while we can now recycle pouches from ground coffee and coffee beans, we cannot take coffee pods so please do not put them in any of our bins. Pods can be recycled through the podback scheme ([here](#)).

Veronica Hawthorn
Transition Buxton Plastic Clever Group



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GUEST ARTICLE FROM BUXTON FIELD CLUB



Buxton's best kept secret? Apparently no longer! With over 100 members and 300 Facebook followers Buxton Field Club is buzzing! This Summer we've been conducting bioblitzes at Grin Low (finding 120 species in one day) and Hogshaw - over 200 species here in one day, 98 of them not previously recorded and helping to prove that this is one of Buxton's most bio-diverse sites.

And we're actively improving biodiversity in the town. Through fortnightly volunteer sessions we're working with HPBC and their contractor AES to implement our and BCA's 5 year Biodiversity Plan for the Serpentine Walks - where we now have beautiful wildflower meadows, and orchids amongst the flowers growing along the river, plus 6000 Spring bulbs planted with the help of the Town Team last Autumn. We're also taking up the baton handed to us by Friends of Buxton

Station by developing a wildflower area on the Slopes and tending to the wildflower garden we created over lockdown at Poole's Cavern. Our members are active in weekly butterfly surveys, monitoring birdlife, especially swifts, ravens,

peregrines and waders, and have clocked up almost 13,000 observations of flora, fauna and fungi around Buxton, there for all to see through the recording app I-naturalist. Each Summer we have site visits followed by an Autumn/Winter programme of talks, kicking off this October with the redoubtable Ruth Tingay from Raptor Persecution UK answering the question *"Who's killing Scotland's golden eagles & how have they got away with it for so long?"*

If you'd like to find out more about us check out our website www.buxtonfieldclub.org.uk or join our Facebook group. Members range from subject experts to keen beginners, but we all share an enthusiasm and love for the natural world and a desire to protect and enhance it. Come and join us.

Rachel Purchase, Buxton Field Club



Marsh Orchid

SNIPPETS

**Do you know how to update Wordpress websites?
Would you like to learn?**



Keeping our website up to date is important, but currently we are not managing to do so consistently. We have two people who are good at it but with very limited availability. They'd be pleased to train a willing apprentice who wants to gain experience, or hand over if you are already experienced. Mostly routine things like adding new events to the diary, putting news items on

the home page for a while before moving them to internal pages, updating pages with text and images provided by project leads, etc. It is not a huge amount of work, probably just a few hours a month, but really valuable – the website is often the first place people find us, so it needs to look good and be current. If you'd be up for supporting Transition Buxton in this way please email inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk to arrange a chat.

Would you like to help us carry out Home Energy Assessments?

It involves visiting people's homes, usually with a colleague, and using our thermal imaging camera to see where heat is being lost. No experience is required as we do not advise, we simply demonstrate where improvements could be made and give contact details of people who are experts. If you think you might be interested or just want more information send a message to: heatloss@transitionbuxton.co.uk.



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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