

CHAIR'S EDITORIAL

Fabric First - the mantra of the retrofitter?

As you may know, we've resumed our home energy surveys/assessments and we're finding some pretty tricky (read, expensive) problems. Most notably – limited or no wall insulation, cavity or any other. Internal cavity wall insulation has been costed at £3-12,000, depending upon the size of the property. Double glazing another £1-10,000. Boiler replacement £2-6,000. Add a few sundries and it's a fair old bill. These are all based on 5-year-old estimates. Conventional wisdom says you must do at least some of this *before* you can then move to a genuinely renewable heating system, such as heat pumps. But a Government study suggests that any type of property could have a heat pump installed. All these heat pumps would be to recover further energy from environment. Every single one terms of energy consumption whatever they replaced. Even if they needed to be oversized/high temperature/hybrid and were still heating poorly insulated properties. A gas boiler can never do this – at best you nearly get back all the energy from the gas –no “value-added”.

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heat pump installed. using some electricity the surrounding would be more efficient, in and carbon emissions, than

I wonder whether we're doing all the right things, but in the wrong order. Perhaps we should complete the greening of our electricity generation and install heat pumps wherever technically feasible, as gas boilers fail. We retrofit insulation, glazing etc when it needs doing. The price of electricity must fall in line with the costs of renewable generation, and fossil fuel should increase to reflect the increasing difficulties of extraction, mitigation against the damage they cause, and any need to capture and store carbon to stay within environmental commitments. But, I don't think people can afford to retrofit properly *or* install renewable heating, and the pricing structures in the UK give homeowners no incentive. Second, we'd really need to scale up renewable electricity generation, especially to power some less efficient air source heating. Finally, we may have left ourselves with too much to do. What do you think?

Ian Bowns, Chair, Transition Buxton CIC



Transition Buxton

Towards a sustainable community

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Dates For Your Diary

- 14 March 7:30-9pm** Members Meeting, Methodist Church, everyone welcome
- 17 March from 8pm** Green Drinks, Old Sun Inn
- 21, 22 or 23 March TBC** Inform & Inspire Group Meeting, time & Date TBC
- 25 March 10am – 2pm** Repair Café, Methodist Church, last item in 1:30
- 29 March 7:30pm** Plastic Clever Group meeting via Zoom

- 11 April 7:30-9pm** 'Offshore' Short Film & Discussion + Members Update, Methodist Church
<https://offshorefilm.org/Trailer>
- 17 April from 8pm** Green Drinks, Old Sun Inn
- 22 April 10am – 2pm** Repair Café, Methodist Church, last item in 1:30
- 27 April 5:30-6:30pm** Inform & Inspire Group Meeting, via Zoom
- 1 May all day** Buxton Spring Fair, visit our stall on the Market Place
- 9 May 7:30 – 9pm** Members Meeting, Methodist Church



LIBRARY OF THINGS



In December, we had the exciting news our Library of Things project had been selected by Transition Together for a seed-funding grant of £2,700. So, you can imagine what my New Year's resolution was – and for once, I've kept it.

The project is really moving along. We have an enthusiastic group of people, who've taken on a range of tasks – looking for premises, making plans for how the LoT would operate, including membership, borrowing fees, how to keep the LoT affordable for all but also self-sustaining.

Our biggest challenge, as we started the project, was finding premises and we're cautiously optimistic that we might be setting up the LoT within Buxton Library at Kents Bank. This would really be a great location, would make Buxton Library even more of a community resource and would provide a precedent for other Derbyshire libraries. We don't want to count our chickens, but keep everything crossed for a positive decision.

Once we get our space, there'll be so much to do, so if you'd like to be part of this exciting project, please get in touch (jane.reynold@gmail.com Tel 07511 043124).

We will need a number of lockable cupboards to store the Things in. It'd be ideal to get second hand donated office furniture, so keep your eyes out and let us know if you spot any that we could adopt.

SHOPPING THAT DOESN'T COST THE EARTH

Food waste is a huge environmental issue in Western society with up to 30% of our purchased food being thrown away. In addition, the single use packaging on food products adds a huge amount to our individual and collective carbon footprints. A shift to buying just what you need, and swapping to refill shopping can make a real difference. Plus it's more sociable, interesting, and supports small local independent businesses too.

Since late 2018, Day Zero, Buxton has offered the conscious consumer many ways to reduce their environmental impact. There is no minimum purchase, you can buy exactly what you need when you need it, so it reduces waste and can really help you with planning your meals and saving money as well.

Our offer has expanded alongside our knowledge about the complexities of consumer ethics, supply chains, and environmental issues and you can now find hundreds more

carefully selected products from suppliers we've researched and trust to be playing their part in helping us tread more lightly on the planet.



Most recently we expanded into the world of organic fruit and veg and in partnership with eLOV have a zero emission delivery scheme using electric vehicles. You may already have met Russ when he's been out on the electric cargo bike.

With big issues to tackle on a societal level it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Faced with that, our best advice is *"be the system you wish to see"*. You can't tear down capitalism overnight on your own but you can make choices to bring about a better future. If you're looking to make changes in your shopping habits or don't know

where to start, call in for a chat at 30 High Street, just along from Scrivener's book shop, we're happy to help.

Mark Day, Day Zero

Buxton Town Team Litter Picking Group

On the first Wednesday of each month, this group enjoys a walk somewhere in or around the town. Starting at 10am, the litter pick lasts 1 hour. The starting point varies and an email is sent round each month to agree where to meet. Pickers, rubbish bag hoops, and high viz jackets are provided. Volunteers are advised to wear walking type shoes and bring gardening gloves.



The idea is to encourage a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility for the town and surrounding area and also to create a group with a sense of community and a common goal. New litter pickers are always welcome – it's much more fun than going to the gym! For more details email Wendy: litterpicking@buxtontownteam.org

Wendy Jones, Buxton Town Team Litter Picking Group



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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WE ARE BUXTON FORUM

WE
ARE
HERE

The 'We Are Buxton' Forum, currently Chaired by Transition Buxton, is made up of 9 key Buxton community groups along with representatives from both the Borough and County Councils. The Forum, which has been meeting every couple of months since Sept'21, is proving a useful means of sharing ideas and resources, identifying priorities, and providing a collective voice for the community and not-for-profit sector in Buxton.

When the Forum met last on 17 January, with so many buildings in the town centre subject to change, the theme was our built environment. We learned the current status of 8 properties owned by the University of Derby who are consolidating all their activities into the Devonshire Dome and 4 adjacent villas. The most challenging of these is the

purpose built Halls of Residence behind The Railway where the cost of conversion to flats that could be sold or rented is currently too expensive to be commercially worthwhile. The Health Centre planned for the site next to Buxton Station is awaiting confirmation of funding from the NHS at a national level before it can proceed. HPBC have not yet secured a developer for the Market Street depot site, so they are now considering a more proactive approach for this important town centre development opportunity which has sadly sat unused for over 15 years.

The group representatives were asked to encourage their respective supporters to have their say about the '20 is Plenty' proposals to reduce vehicle speeds on certain roads for both safety and environmental reasons. <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/consultation-details/greener-towns-20mph-zones.aspx> open until 16 April. And to be prepared to take part in the review of the High Peak Local Plan which is beginning to get underway.

We started a process of discussing possible community uses within The Springs centre now that it is publicly owned. Prior to our next meeting we are gathering information about existing community spaces (many belong to churches) and what they are used for to start to identify gaps and needs. If you have any thoughts or information to contribute to this process please email conversation@transitionbuxton.co.uk by 10 March, prior to the next meeting on 20th.

Amongst other things the Forum also briefly discussed in January; the decarbonisation of public buildings for which there is only tiny amounts of central government subsidy, the importance of giving young people a voice, the possible impact of the proposed Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Combined Authority, progress on High Path, Lismore Fields, and the questions we might want to ask candidates in the forthcoming local elections.

Jean Ball

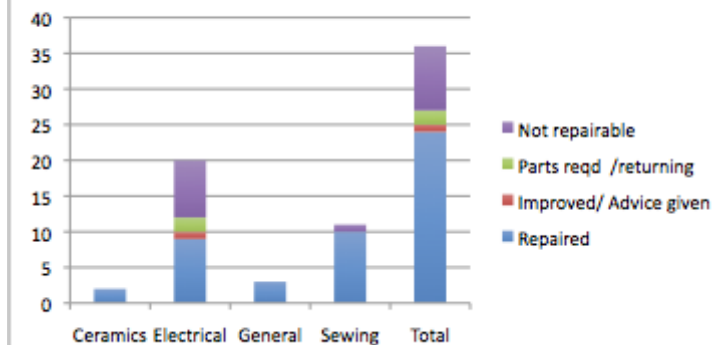
REPAIR CAFÉ UPDATE



We dealt with 36 items at the January Repair Café and a large majority of them were things that could be fixed. Lots of small sewing items, including several teddy bears, were brought in, so we were very grateful that both Cindy and Penny were there to work their magic. Gill replaced the spines on a heirloom stoneware dragon, and Jim and Willow were able to repair a treasured leather bag, among other things. We look forward to seeing what people might bring us on 25 February, 25 March and 22 April (4th Saturday of the month).

Helen Brown, Transition Buxton Repair Café Administrator

Outcomes Jan 2023



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RIGHT TO REPAIR

Our popular monthly Buxton Repair Café team come up against designed and built in obsolescence at every session. Sometimes they can work around it, but often an otherwise serviceable item will go to landfill because we are prevented by the producers from fixing it. Along with repairers across the world we actively support the Right To Repair movement which campaigns for changes to legislation to allow the life of ‘stuff’ to be extended. If you have not already done so, you may wish to sign the Right to Repair Petition: <https://therestartproject.org/petition-right-to-repair/>

We are grateful to our friends at TheRestartProject.org for their recent blog which we share part of here to bring you up to speed about this valuable work.

Restart’s strategy sees legislation on repair as the most effective way to bring change to all manufacturers. And we argue that the European Union is currently still the area with highest potential to impact legislation globally.

Progress in Europe

From our perspective, the most encouraging achievement in 2022 was the agreement on a Battery Directive, which will require manufacturers of most consumer products to come up with designs allowing users to replace their battery themselves, and to move away from disposable, “single-battery” devices. We’re also happy that ecodesign measures for smart phones and tablets were finalised. While far from perfect, they will for the first time require manufacturers to make a range of spare parts available for at least 7 years to consumers; manufacturers will also have to commit to making available software and security updates for at least 5 years once a product is removed from the market. This could be game-changing, as plenty of devices become unsupported far too soon.

Unfortunately, it will be years before these laws come into effect, despite the urgent need of limiting the amount of e-waste we generate. Equally worryingly, we witnessed plenty of delays in new legislation announced by the European Union: a sign that manufacturers and others are pushing back on Right to Repair, and that European institutions may lack sufficient capacity to deliver on their theoretically bold commitments.

Looking ahead, we expect (slow) progress in 2023 on European legislation on the need for spare parts for a broader range of products, as well as on repair options within legal guarantee periods and on the repairability of printers.

In the US 2022 ended in a bittersweet way, with the first Right to Repair legislation signed in New York State – an important step, however weakened substantially by industry lobbying until the very last minute. This means that, for example, spare parts and repair information availability will not be required for products provided in business-to-business and business-to-government contracts, which include electronics provided to schools or hospitals. Also, the legislation will allow bundling of spare parts: selling multiple parts combined (more expensive) – something that we’ve successfully opposed in the most recent European regulations on smart phones and tablets.

Another emerging trend is the attempt by manufacturers to come up with their own version of “Right to Repair”, to try to reduce the likelihood of more ambitious legislation. This is our interpretation of the recent announcement of the removal of digital locks for farmer’s tractors by John Deere, included in a non-legally binding “Memorandum of understanding” with the American Farm Bureau Federation, which in return was asked (!) not to campaign for more ambitious regulations.

What about the UK?

Right to Repair is still not a priority for the UK government, regrettably. We expect that some of the new EU policies will eventually either be adopted by the UK, or that they will at least inspire similar initiatives. However, we don’t see signs of this happening any time soon. There’s plenty of areas in which the UK could act in a faster way for example; removing VAT from the cost of all repairs (one of the key asks of our petition), the repairability index in France to help consumers make better informed decisions when buying a new product, the Austrian repair fund which helps substantially reduce the price of repairs by providing families discount vouchers.

What’s next for the Right to Repair movement?

We are very concerned about the affordability of repair, as well as the growing threat that software poses to product repairability and longevity. None of the legislation in the pipeline in the UK, US or EU directly tackles the cost of repair: requiring manufacturers to make spare parts available doesn’t mean that the parts will be affordable. Also, legislation on new products doesn’t increase the repairability of existing products – hence, our ask that legislators consider fiscal measures to make repair more affordable and universally accessible.

We see interest growing on legislation to bring in Right to Repair in Australia, India, and elsewhere, but we need more! In 2023 we’ll continue to put pressure on policymakers using evidence and insights from the thousands of community repair events held around the world amplifying the voices of community repair groups, whose activities prove again and again that repair is possible and in much demand everywhere.



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HARD TO RECYCLE UPDATE

We are currently signed up to recycle items through 8 Terracycle schemes covering the following types of waste: cheese wrappers, toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes, confectionery wrappers, crisp packets, Pringles tubes, coffee pouches, bread bags and dishwasher tablet packaging. We can also recycle biscuit wrappers and writing instruments through a partnership with Burbage school who are signed up for these schemes. As new schemes become available we consider whether to add these to our list, with the decision depending on factors such as whether the scheme accepts 'all brands' of an item type or is limited to a particular brand and our capacity to store waste material waiting to be sent off.

Recently we have been able to redeem our fifth batch of points gained as a result of our recycling efforts. This means that Terracycle has sent £141 to Buxton Methodist Church towards their roof appeal. The building hosts one of our sets of recycling bins and is also the location for our monthly Repair Cafés and some of our Members meetings.

Terracycle also operate some 'envelope' schemes in which an individual household can apply for a prepaid envelope in which to send off used items for recycling. There are currently 3 of these schemes covering: Arbonne supplement, make-up and skin care packaging; Fullgreen food pouches and any brand of razors and razor blades (see <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades> for more details).

Some companies are also setting up their own recycling schemes, for example, if you use Merchant Gourmet products you can recycle your empty pouches (see [Merchant Gourmet Recycling Scheme \(merchant-gourmet.com\)](https://www.merchantgourmet.com/merch-gourmet-recycling-scheme)).

Veronica Hawthorn for Transition Buxton Plastic Clever

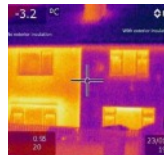
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Transition Buxton CIC is entirely run by volunteers who want to be part of the solution and contribute to the resilience of our community. Living sustainably requires a collective effort to change, share, learn, support, and develop new strategies to reduce the damaging impact of 'modern life'. There is always more to do than people to do it, so getting more people actively involved is important. Whatever skills, talents, and time you could offer will be very welcome. It could be a one off, something ongoing, or a whole new project depending on your availability and choices. A few ideas appear below, but even if none of these sparks your interest, please let us know the sort of things you like doing and we'll see about a role that might fulfil you and fit into your life.

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Mascot Minder – look after Billy the three foot bee and take him to visit groups, and events to inspire people about pollinators. You might be a retired teacher who would be willing to talk to young people, or groups of all ages. You might just be passionate about insects and keen to share your passion. You'll need a car to transport Billy.



Energy Assessor using Thermal Camera get trained how to do energy assessments on domestic properties including using our nifty thermal camera. Once confident, you can accept bookings to visit houses to support the occupants to make some informed decisions about the most effective and affordable things they can do to reduce their energy use.



Tree Guardian for one of the clusters of fruit trees in our dispersed community orchard. Pull weeds, maintain supports, generally keep an eye, prune once a year, and like everyone else help yourself to the fruit when it comes.



Buxton Cup Manager take control of our re-use cups, promote and sell them, encourage more businesses and events to stock them, fulfil re-orders, manage the stocks, and generally make the most of our only 'product'.

You could also consider joining the Repair Café team, the Library of Things Team, or create your own role within the new Energy Sub-Group aiming to get a community renewable energy project up and running, or take on an admin task.

We can all make a difference individually, and together we can multiply our impact. Let's make Buxton a resilient sustainable community starting now!



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ORCHARD REPORT



My diary said "Prune Trees". I've heard of plum trees, but prune trees? Then the light dawned. It is February, and the orchard trees need pruning. I helped Ann Clark, the guardian for the nine Ashwood Park trees, using my long-loppers on the high-up bits. Pruning involves precision. Long-lopping unwanted twigs at the top of the tree is *not* a precision task. Ho Hum! Well done to the other Tree Guardians for doing their bit on their respective trees.



On 28th February we planted eight fruit trees (six apple, two damson) at the recreation ground on Green Lane. It was great to see such a good turn-out of volunteers (14!) in what proved to be a nice day with the clouds parting to reveal the sun, and I think everyone enjoyed the morning.

In addition to our expected volunteers, it was really nice to meet up with people who lived locally and were interested to see what we were doing, and who hopefully will get involved in the future.

We are especially grateful to the Burbage Institute Charity for supporting us, allowing the fruit trees to be planted in the recreation ground.

We are getting near to the end of the planting season and are hoping to run two more planting sessions before the end of the season (end of March) so watch out for messages from the orchard team via social media, or drop us an email (orchard@transitionbuxton.co.uk) to let us know you'd like to help. Although not confirmed, pencil in 18th March as our last session this season and watch out for confirmation.

Ben Evens and Robin Edwards

SNIPPETS

'Good As New Booksale'

In the Library at the Devonshire Dome
1 to 23 March (opening hours vary, see <https://libcal.derby.ac.uk/hours/>)

Proceeds to Book Aid International
<https://bookaid.org/about-us/>

Suggested donations of £1 per book (cash or online donation).

Come and find a recycled read or two and support a great charity. Donations of books also welcome.

The Travels of Billie Bee

Our charming mascot, Billy the Bilberry Bee, donated by local company Wild in Art, and painted by very talented Buxtonian, Pam Smart, gets around. Our three foot fiberglass bee represents the Bilberry Bee who is an endangered Derbyshire native. Recently Billy has been to Litton and Tideswell to meet children starting their Climate Action projects with Tideswell & District Environment Group. If you'd like a visit from Billy, or if you'd like to get involved in our outreach work (including taking Billy out on visits) do get in touch via education@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Transition Offshore

On Tuesday 11 April we will screen a 20 minute film called 'Offshore', made by and about the people and places who depend on offshore oil & gas for their livelihoods about how they and the industry is and could transition to clean energy. We'll use the short film as a starting point for a discussion, then cover a small amount of Transition Buxton business. All welcome including non-members. Free. 7:30-9pm in the hall of the Methodist Church on the Market Place. In the meantime you might like to watch the trailer here: <https://offshorefilm.org/Trailer>



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