

CHAIR'S EDITORIAL

CO₂ FUD



Don't know about you, but I've been seeing a lot of FUD (fear, uncertainty & doubt) on social media which basically goes – "if plants grow larger with more carbon dioxide, higher atmospheric CO₂ is a good thing". This is based on experimental findings that (*all other things being equal* – more on this later) plants grow more quickly with increased CO₂. But plants, like any other living thing, need a balanced

diet, & more CO₂ alone does not give them that. Hence, not too surprisingly, it transpires that plants grown simply with more CO₂ are usually less nutritious (lower in protein and some elements), and are likely to lead to nutritional deficiencies when used as a staple crop. In addition, this direct effect on plants does not affect all species in the same way – some important crops, such as corn, don't respond well at all. The argument also ignores the effects of warming, leading to droughts (all plants need water). So, rising CO₂ levels don't leave all other things equal. These arguments are usually being pushed by people who don't work in this specific field of research, and who don't usually appreciate these complexities. They want what they're saying to be true – but that doesn't make it so. So, please don't fall for this simplistic argument – it's quite a bit more complicated than that. We'll come back to address more FUD in the future.



Ian Bowns, Chair, Transition

Dates For Your Diary

- 14 November 7:30pm Members Meeting with Robert Largan
2nd Tues of the month, Face to Face, Poole's Cavern School Room
- 16 November 9:30 - 3:30, Youth Conference, Octagon (not open to the public)
- 17 November 8pm, Green Drinks, Old Sun Inn
- 23 November 5:00-6:00pm, Inform & Inspire Group Meeting via Zoom
- 23 November deadline for Potato Day orders
- 25 November 9:30-1, Repair Café, 4th Saturday of the month, last item in 12:30pm, Methodist Church Halls

- 17 December 8pm, Green Drinks & Christmas Social, Old Sun Inn - please note no Members Meeting in December
- No Repair Café in December - next one 27 January 9:30-1, Repair Café, 4th Saturday of the month, last item in 12:30pm, Methodist Church Halls
- 9 January 2024 7:30pm Members Meeting, Methodist Church Lower Hall
- 10 January 7:30pm Plastic Clever Meeting via Zoom, contact: plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Transition Buxton

Towards a sustainable community

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THINGS FOR THE LIBRARY OF THINGS

Transition Buxton CIC is excited to announce that the long awaited Library of Things has come to Buxton. Thanks to Derbyshire County Council, who have allowed this Not for Profit enterprise run by volunteers to occupy part of the Library on Kents Bank Road. Buxton Library of Things will soon join over 70 others across the country.

‘Borrow don’t buy’ is the idea. Instead of producing, buying, storing and maintaining things that you only need occasionally (hedge trimmers, ladders, long handled loppers, carpet cleaners...): Borrow them instead.

The next step is to fill the new lockable storage with Things for people to borrow, and that is where you come in. Do you have Things that you only use occasionally, or don’t use anymore, and would be willing to donate so that others can use them?

There is a top 20 list of items on the website (<https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/library-of-things>) based on the most popular Things borrowed elsewhere, but that’s only a start. The team of volunteers would love to hear about second hand items still in good condition, ideally with original instructions where appropriate, and any attachments / parts. If you are willing to donate Things, or have any questions, contact the Library of Things by email: library@transitionbuxton.co.uk. Include a phone number so that a pickup can be arranged. For safety reasons items in poor condition can’t be accepted.

Items will be checked on arrival and where appropriate serviced between borrows. When they reach the end of their useful life they will be responsibly disposed of.

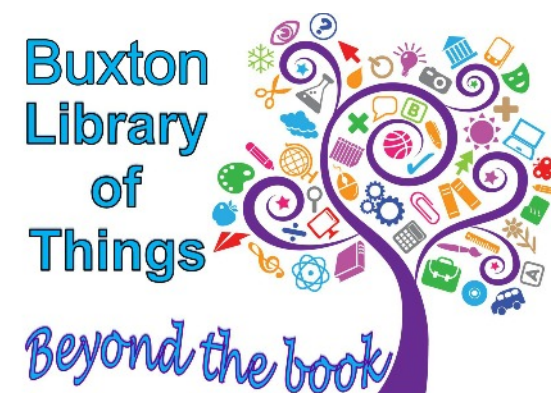
A small start-up grant from Transition Together and the Heritage Lottery Fund will be used to buy additional items so that there is enough to open the Library of Things to Borrowers. The stock and range of Things in the Library will grow and evolve over time.

Membership will cost £5 per year, or £2.50 if you are unwaged, plus a small “pay as you feel” fee per item to help cover operating costs. A few high value items will also need a refundable security deposit. You will find the Joining Form and full Terms of Borrowing on the website. If you’d be interested in joining the team of volunteers who will run it, they’d love to hear from you - where required full training will be provided.

Transition Buxton are expecting that the Library of Things will go live before the end of 2023, January 2024 at the latest.

Contact library@transitionbuxton.co.uk

For more information, visit www.transitionbuxton.co.uk



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



www.transitionbuxton.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE LIVING: CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES

On 10 October Transition Buxton Members enjoyed a presentation from our Terry Newholm and an animated discussion that followed. Terry kindly provides a synopsis of his talk here.

I wanted to take a deliberately optimistic view of our progress towards sustainable living whilst accepting that we are, as yet, not at all on the right path. I started with a BBC Report "**What a 1.5C lifestyle actually looks like**": <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230504-the-people-living-ultra-low-carbon-lifestyles>.

The report is, I think, valid because it seems to be in line with scientific peer reviewed papers, the IPCC reports and, crucially for Transition Buxton, Rob Hopkin's future vision in his book 'From What Is to What If'. The vision is good for refuting extreme claims that we'll all be living in caves. It is also good for tracking our progress because it offers a plausible and holistic vision.

From the report I considered: Library of Things, repairable products, land transport, air travel and the mostly plant-



based diet. I was surprised to find how many Libraries of Things had been set up and pleased to see how much enjoyment there was at the Repair Café, projects Transition Buxton is doing so well with. I was amazed to

recall the many traffic calming measures that had been tried all round the world. It was sad to note that air travel was rebounding fast following the pandemic but balanced that by the attention the media were giving to wonderful train journeys. It was exciting to note that those with a vegan, vegetarian or flexitarian diet had reached ~20% of the UK population, not far from a potential social tipping point to a sustainable diet.

In all my previous presentations for Transition Buxton, I have certainly been pessimistic, in part because that's the way the scientific evidence points. It felt good, however, to be optimistic this time and believe that we have the will to make the necessary changes.

Terry Newholm, Retired Reader in Consumer Economics, Manchester University

POTATO DAY 2024



Are you a home potato grower, or considering it for 2024, or maybe you've never thought about it and would be prepared to give it a go? Transition Buxton are once again partnering with Transition Chesterfield to bring you seed potatoes for the 2024 season. We've looked at a number of commercial suppliers and think this is better as you can order in small quantities, not 1kg plus as with commercial sites and we calculate the cost to be much lower than commercial prices.

Ordering is online and you can select from a range of different potatoes. You can order as few as one seed potato so you could try out a few different types. The process is very simple and the website is well documented. Ordering is open now and closes on 23rd November 2023.

To get your order delivered to Buxton put Buxton in the delivery location. We will collect all the Buxton orders so you can pick up your order from a Buxton location.

Our page <https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/potato-day-2024/> provides an overview and link to the ordering process. We will update our page with Buxton Collection details closer to the delivery date, which is expected to be week commencing 10th February, in time for chitting.

Beans, Peas, Onions, Garlic and a few other things are also available to order.

Robin Edwards



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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GUEST ARTICLE FROM BUXTON TOWN TEAM SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT GROUP

The 2016 *Buxton on the Move* conference, organised by Buxton Town Team, was convened to pool ideas about how we move around our town, and how we could do it better and more sustainably. The assembled stakeholders listened to high-profile speakers and formulated strategies for improvement. Since then, this seed has grown roots, branches and leaves but, as yet, only a small amount of fully-ripened fruit.

The subsequent Whole Town Sustainable Travel Plan that went out to consultation in 2021 proposed almost two hundred possible actions to improve travel around the town. Many were aspirational, but since then a number of others have made real progress:

- With the support of Enterprise Rent-a-car we now have a Car Club operating outside the station,
- an active travel 'walk & ride' network throughout the town, including linking the White Peak Loop between the Monsal and High Peak trails, has been planned and is awaiting funding for implementation,
- High Peak Buses are in regular contact with the Town Team Sustainable Travel team to coordinate and promote services around the town,
- The team has produced leaflets, available from the Visitor Centre, showing [walks about the town](#) as well as [Adventures on the 442](#) which details some of the interesting and picturesque villages you can stop off whilst travelling on the High Peak 442 bus.
- The town is about to have its own website for information about sharing travel resources – sharing lifts, cars, EV chargers, etc.
- We are in consultation with Derbyshire County Council over the development of an Onward Travel hub outside Buxton Station,
- We have an e-cargo bike delivery service operating in the town,
- We are also heavily involved with a project looking at the possibility of getting to the Monsal Trail from Buxton in a Light Rail vehicle.



Keep watching as more fruit ripens.

HARD TO RECYCLE UPDATE

We have recently sent 3 boxes of waste to Terracycle for recycling consisting of the following:

- 13 kg of old toothbrushes/toothpaste tubes
- 4 kg bread bags
- 3 kg coffee pouches

Call out for more boxes: As you can imagine we get through a lot of boxes. Many thanks to Day Zero for passing on used toilet roll boxes, so please keep buying their toilet rolls! If anybody has any spare largish boxes then please get in touch via plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk. We are allowed to send boxes up to 60 x 60 x 50 cm, so this size or a bit smaller is most useful.

Toy recycling update: In a previous newsletter we mentioned the launch of a new toy recycling scheme. This has proved more popular nationally than expected resulting in the year's budget provided by the sponsor Hasbro being spent by September so the scheme has been paused. We are assured it will recommence next year and we hope to then start collecting these items in Buxton.

Veronica Hawthorn, Plastic Clever Group



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



www.transitionbuxton.co.uk

STUDENT CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

We are now 6 months into our National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant and it is time for our Student Climate and Environment Conference. On the 16th November we will welcome students to the Pavilion Gardens Octagon for a day of workshops, activities and meetings with fantastic local and national organisations who are actively engaged in protecting our environment and addressing climate change.

Our conference is an opportunity for students to share their voice with local decision makers so they will have meetings with our **High Peak MP, High Peak Borough Council Head of Communities and Climate Change and Biodiversity Officers and Councillors on the Climate Change Working Group and Derbyshire County Council.**

Some of this year's themes build on our Buxton Wild Weeks project with students learning how to look after our local natural heritage. The **Environment Agency's** STEM Ambassador Team will be demonstrating sustainable drainage, water habitats for invertebrates and recycling activities. **Alliance Environmental Services** will be focusing students on recycling and issues of contamination. **FrogLife** will help students understand the importance of their school ponds as habitats for amphibians and reptiles. We have 2 outside vans - the Bogtastic Van of **Moors for the Future** will teach students about valuable peatlands and restoration of habitats, water and carbon stores. In the **Severn Trent**

Water Digibus they will see a film showing the value of water in different countries around the world. **Buxton Crescent Experience** will get students tasting and testing water. **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust** will be getting students planting acorns as a strategy of natural flood management and **Buxton Civic Association** will engage students in biodiversity study and Swift conservation. They will study soil and worms with **Serpentine Community Garden Society** and learn how farming is changing in response to climate change with **Peak District National Park**. **Plastic Shed** will be sharing their repurposing of Stockport's plastic waste into useful retail products as an example of a local circular economy. **Stitched Up** will be inspiring children in sustainable textiles and fashion and **Buxton Town Team** will explore challenges in Buxton of walking and cycling to school.

Alongside all this we have our own **Repair Cafe** team demonstrating how they fix items to keep them out of landfill, our **Plastic Free Buxton** activities and a TB display providing students with an insight into **Renewable Energy** and sources of energy for our national grid.

Our first two conferences were held on Education and Youth Day at the global COP but this year the COP is later. Our conference will hopefully inspire young people to follow what happens on 8th December, their day at this year's COP. We are very pleased to be providing this Conference opportunity for our local students and Transition Buxton thanks the National Lottery and also the people who play the lottery.



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**



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UK REPAIR & REUSE DECLARATION

We are proud to be signatories of the updated UK Repair & Reuse Declaration which we are pleased to share in full below. Transition Buxton supports a real Right to Repair #RepairforEveryone! <https://repairreusedeclaration.uk/sign/>

To UK policymakers,

The UK is the second highest producer of electronic waste per capita in the world, and on track to become the top producer. Yet we are falling behind other countries in support for repair and reuse to tackle throwaway products. Repair and reuse are central to achieving a truly circular, less wasteful, economy. They help to tackle climate change and achieve our net zero ambition, reduce living costs for UK households and create green skilled jobs.

We've signed the
**UK REPAIR
AND REUSE
DECLARATION**



We are the volunteers running community repair initiatives across the country, the organisations working to make repair and reused products accessible for everyone, and the businesses that are repairing, refurbishing and selling preloved items. Together we are responding to increasing public demand for repair services and skills, we're advocating for a return to a strong UK fixing economy and we're championing reuse to give products a second life.

We are working towards the future we all need – a future where repair is a thriving sector of our economy. Where products are designed to be durable and easily repairable by default and in which manufacturers actively support their products for as long as possible. A future where products are given a second life through reuse, repair is the easiest option for everyone when something breaks, and recycling is saved for the very end of a product's useful life.

Community repair events are working towards this future, offering repair, building skills and boosting community cohesion in towns up and down the country. They demonstrate the public demand for repair services and skills, but so much more is required to meet this need.

We ask UK legislators and decision-makers at all levels to support repair and reuse to thrive. This means:

- Making repair more affordable, through tax reductions and repair vouchers.
- Expanding the UK's right to repair regulations to cover all consumer products, strengthen design standards and remove barriers to repair for everyone.
- Introducing a repair index to help the public choose more repairable and durable products.
- Introducing requirements and targets for reuse and repair to be prioritised over recycling and providing investment to make this a reality. This should be a key part of amended extended producer responsibility rules.
- Supporting a new generation of repairers through repair training, accreditation and apprenticeships.



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