

NOT MUCH COP?



To quote from a BBC web page “COP stands for Conference of the Parties and will be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – a treaty agreed in 1994. The 2021 meeting will be the 26th meeting, which is why it's called COP26.” Twenty-five previous meetings suggest progress has not exactly been rapid. The self-congratulatory tone of the UK's publicity for this event gives the impression that they underestimate the scale and urgency of the challenge, and think the responsibility lies with other countries. Yet, their own publicity also states that “the world is currently not on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees”. *The*

impression I got from an interview with Allegra Stratton is that government believe environmental concerns can be addressed without any limitations or impact on traditional economic growth (ever increasing consumption) and purely by technical innovation by “the market” suggests they don't understand, or aren't prepared to be honest about, the fundamental changes required. The BBC report a study by the WWF which estimated new green policies in the March 2021 Budget add up to just 0.01% of GDP, despite the government's own advisory Climate Change Committee having said 1% of GDP must be spent every year in the UK to ensure climate targets are to be met. The good news is that they seem increasingly out of touch with the views of many ordinary people, who are now appreciating problems such as the built-in obsolescence of many of the consumer products we are currently purchasing. *On 24 July this year, HMG announced 13 “one Step Greener Ambassadors”, stealing (probably inadvertently) the name of someone else's company, to “symbolise the best in UK climate leadership and whose stories will be showcased at the crucial summit in November” – looks like a bit of greenwashing to me? Do you know what I'd really like from a COP Summit? The realistic possibility of announcing that it will be the last.*

Ian Bowns, Chair

Dates For Your Diary

Members Meetings: Tues 14th Sept on Zoom
& 12 Oct 7:30pm Zoom or face to face TBC

Mini-Seminar: Thurs 14th Oct 7:30-8:30pm Climate
Justice with Frances Sussex, register via
[Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

Repair Café: Saturdays: 25th Sept & 23rd Oct, 10am
-2pm, Methodist Church on the Market Place

Members discussion with Robert Largan MP: Thurs
23rd Sept 7:30pm 1hr via Zoom

'There is no Planet B' Stall: Sat 25th Sept, 11am -
5pm, The Octagon

Plastic Clever Meeting: Wed 20th Oct, 7:30pm, via
Zoom

Inform & Inspire Meetings: Tues 28th Sept, Thurs
28th Oct 5:30pm via Zoom



Transition Buxton

Towards a sustainable community

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THE NATURE OF BUXTON

On the 8 June, Transition Buxton kindly allowed me to outline some embryonic thoughts on how to consolidate nature's place and roles in the life of the town. It centres on the idea that our area is renowned for its natural environment, though Buxton being outside the National Park has brought additional challenges. People move here and visit repeatedly because of its reputation for wildlife and the wider environment. This is one of the last major towns in England where curlews can be heard from most residential parts. The existence of so many groups devoted to green causes – including, Transition Buxton, the Buxton Civic Association and Buxton Field Club – indicates nature's importance to local people.

The aim would be to draw all stakeholders together, both those acting in formal structures and individuals doing wonderful work by themselves, to uplift and emphasise how important the natural world is to our economic and cultural life. In short to make nature synonymous with Buxton and its community.

I suggest one possible name "The Nature of Buxton" (NB) for the group. The central goal would be to locate nature at the heart of town life. This would be through practical habitat-related work; encouraging wildlife-centred gardening or formal recognition of wildlife corridors, but also via a coordinated suite of cultural activities. All these would promote Buxton's natural environment and converge in the idea that nature is essential to local business and its community.

A preliminary is to draw together all interested parties and individuals to reflect on whether this is useful, valuable or desirable. Several towns and communities – including Silsden (Yorkshire), Helpston (Peterborough) – are taking similar steps, partly out of a recognition that wildlife losses bear more heavily in this country than almost any other on Earth.

Mark Cocker



OUR COMMUNITY ORCHARD IS 10 YEARS OLD

On 25 June 2021, to mark 10 years of planting fruit trees to create a dispersed Community Orchard for the town, Cllrs Jean Todd and Keith Savage unveiled one of the new signs installed at Cote Heath to mark some of the larger clusters of trees.

Back in 2010 after a "fruitless" endeavour to find one large site, the idea of a dispersed orchard was eagerly adopted. Planting started in 2011 and since then over 80 fruit trees, have been planted in public places around the town and at several schools. Whilst each mini-orchard is tended by Transition Buxton members serving as Tree Guardians, we want local residents to feel that the trees actually belong to them. The fruit is there for anyone to enjoy, so come harvest time help yourself.



To see where the trees are located around the town you can view a map on our website [Community Orchard – Transition Buxton](#)

We thank the Borough Council for their active support regarding suitable locations; however we are always on the lookout for more places to plant even just a few trees. Do let us know if you can offer any.

Ben Evens says *"We want folk to embrace the idea that growing food locally is an important part of helping life in Buxton to be more sustainable. Helping with Transition Buxton's positive activities is a life-enhancing experience. Working with the orchard lifts my soul... Do join us!"*

Orchard trees can be sponsored by individuals for a £25 donation. You get a nice certificate which can make a lovely gift or memorial. See our website for more details www.transitionbuxton.co.uk.



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



<https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk>

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Please contact Frances on education@transitionbuxton.co.uk for more information and to get involved with any of our outreach activities; it would be great to have some help.

September Stalls in Buxton Octagon Pavilion Gardens

We have a fantastic chance to share our values at two Buxton Fair stalls.

Saturday 25th September 11-5 Rotary Environment Fair “There is no Planet B”.

Buxton Rotary have planned a whole day of information, activities, workshops and presentations, all on the theme close to our TB hearts. Click the following link for details:

[Autumn Fair and Charity Bazaar - Sept 25th - Rotary Club of Buxton \(rotary-ribi.org\)](http://rotary-ribi.org).

If you have an hour to spare on the day to help on the stall or if you have any Transition Buxton items that I could use on the stall to promote the full range of our activities then please get in touch education@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Wednesday 29th September High Peak Health and Well Being Event

We have a “**Healthy YOU, Healthy BUXTON, Healthy PLANET**” stall linking own healthy lifestyles with sustainable living in Buxton and lower carbon consumption and emissions for our world.



Great Big Green Week 18th – 26th September

We’ve been awarded a grant from The Climate Coalition for a range of activities in the Great Big Green Week, a national week of events celebrating action on climate change. We’re looking for families to take part in Green Week Family Challenges with eco-friendly prizes, including “*The Biggest Losers*” (of carbon), “*Savvy Simple Swaps*” (best shopping tips) and more competitions. We’ll also be launching other competitions in Buxton schools and community organisations. So, Buxtonians can get involved and learn more about what we can all do. You can find more information here <https://greatbiggreenweek.com> and here www.theclimatecoalition.org.

Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum

Members of the youth forum have given presentations over Zoom at the the Buxton Soroptomists’ June meeting and Tideswell and District Environment Group’s AGM. They’ve joined litter picking, created Bug Hotels and done biodiversity surveys in Tideswell Dale and in Deep Dale and learnt about the ecology of our local habitats. They were walked around a Taddington Farm with PDNP Natural Environment & Rural Economy Farm Advisor to explore how fields can be restored for nature recovery.



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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EDUCATION OUTREACH (CONT)

Buxton Wild Weeks

What an exciting first Buxton Wild Weeks we had in May! 950 people took part in a range of nature and environmental sessions. 260 school children learnt about biodiversity before re-purposing the household rubbish they had brought in to school to make their own pond-dipping kits, bug-viewing boxes, binoculars, bird feeders and bird baths. ‘Buxton Wild Weekly’ is continuing to connect with families over the summer with nature and habitat appreciation activities attended by locals and families on holiday in Buxton. We have Facebook (@buxtonwildweeks) and Eventbrite and you can contact us at, info@buxtonwildweeks.org.uk .



Our Bilberry Bee, Billie

You may have seen Billie in Potters during the Festival Fringe, the highlight of the Friends of Buxton Station Bumblebee Trail around town, raising awareness of the Bilberry Bumblebee and protecting its habitats. Billie is now in the Platform Garden at Buxton Station but will be visiting other venues and events across the year. Billie’s first outing was to Burbage School and every class came to hear about the importance of planting for pollinators in our gardens and town and protecting the moorland around Buxton for the Bumblebees.

Yes, You!! - Every member or supporter - are needed to reduce pollution and increase sustainability.

If you belong to a community group or society then please, please persuade them to sign up to reduce single use plastic.

All organisations can take the pledge - including schools, churches, uniformed groups - everyone!! Full details and the pledge can be found here: <https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/become-a-community-ally/>

Do you work? Do you own a business? Do you have neighbours who work in the Buxton area? Every business can sign the pledge. They won’t unless You ask them to!!

They need to list the initial 3 items of single use plastic to be replaced/removed. For most that is easy, they have either begun to do so or have easy ones to change - such as cleaning materials - buying in bulk, refilling rather than throwing away..... Full details and the pledge can be found here: <https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/business-champion/>

We have made great progress - the “Plastic Free Champion” signs are beginning to appear across Buxton and on business websites but we cannot continue to make strides without your help - less waste, less pollution, less emissions (eventually), a better environment, a more attractive Buxton, a more sustainable world – please do what you can!

HARD TO RECYCLE UPDATE - AUGUST 2021

Our ‘Hard to Recycle’ work continues apace. We appreciate all your efforts in taking your items to our various collecting points around the town, but please remember only to deposit clean items and those included as part of the various schemes. The table lists the different types of packaging we collect, together with amounts collected to date and over the last few months. For more details about the locations and the items recycled see our website [here](https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk), or if you have any questions get in touch via plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk. Recently we were pleased to be able to redeem our second batch of points awarded as a result of sending off waste shipments and use these to make a donation of £93 to Buxton Junior School. The school is one of several locally which have their own collecting point.

Totals for each range of products collected:

Scheme	Total collected (kg)	
	To date	Since last newsletter
Crisp packets	215	29
Writing Instruments	45	13
Dental products	37	6
Kids Food Pouches (Ella)	28	2
Biscuit Wrappers	19	5
Confectionery Wrappers	12	3
Pringles Cans	6	1.5
Cheese Wrappers	4	1.5
Hygiene Home packaging	0.4	0.2



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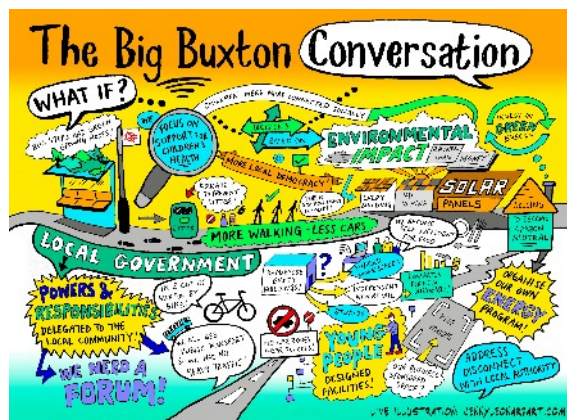


<https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk>

THE BIG BUXTON CONVERSATION CONTINUES

In April the first Big Buxton Conversation took place via zoom and produced some inspiring ideas to increase the quality of life in our lovely town. You can find a record of the proceedings on our website [Big Buxton Conversation – Transition Buxton](#). I believe you'll find it an uplifting read. Some of those ideas are progressing and we are keen to continue the conversation and to see that the priorities identified by local people are heard and reflected in the actions of local groups, government and individuals.

The idea from the Big Buxton Conversation with the greatest energy behind it was *"A Buxton Community Forum with representatives of key groups and HPBC to integrate community representation and resources into the everyday work, decisions and priorities of local government."* This has progressed into a proposal for a 'We Are Buxton' group with representatives of 11 organisations in the town



including our local authorities to meet for the first time on 22 September to establish collaborative working tools. We will report back on how this develops.

The other top ideas from the Big Buxton Conversation include; more green space and growing food locally, improved transport, multi-generational activities, a Library of Things, and Buxton becoming an

exemplar of healthy living. Working with 'We Are Buxton' we hope to host a second Big Buxton Conversation on 4th November, face to face this time, to develop these ideas further and translate them into action. Keep an eye out for the announcement and invitation coming out shortly via social media, local press, and networks, and come along if you possibly can – your voice matters.

Jean Ball, Chair Transition Buxton Inform & Inspire Group

Could you help?

Treasurer Vacancy - our current Treasurer is moving out of the area and we are seeking someone to fill this role in the future. We are seeking someone, preferably with accounting or book-keeping experience, to keep track of our finances and support the directors to submit annual accounts etc. A detailed description of this voluntary role is available and we'd encourage anyone who is interested to contact the directors via contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk for an informal discussion. We would also like to hear from anyone who thinks they might be able to support the Treasurer as, for example, a bookkeeper or financial manager, without the formal responsibilities of Treasurer.

We also still need somebody to represent Transition Buxton on the **Buxton Neighbourhood Forum** to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Buxton. The main purpose is to ensure that sustainability issues are kept at the forefront during the development of the neighbourhood plan for the future of our built environment. The team already includes people with knowledge of the planning system. It is likely there will be one Forum meeting per month plus liaison with Transition colleagues, and some work between meetings.

HPBC CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN

At the end of July High Peak Borough Council publicised part 1 of its Climate Emergency plan which deals with those areas for which it is directly responsible, i.e., Council buildings, Travel of staff and councillors, Fleet vehicles, Council Housing and Procurement.

Although, COVID 19 has been instrumental in delaying the production of the plan it has also enforced a reduction of 75% in staff travel. Since relaxation of isolation rules the government has ruled that meetings that include critical decisions now have to be conducted face to face but the bulk of meetings are still online.

The refuse vehicles have all now been upgraded to Euro 6 standard. Electric refuse wagons have also been tested but, at the moment, cannot cope with our geographical idiosyncrasies. Investigations are on-going for the Council building efficiencies (including Leisure Centres) and Fleet vehicles.

A project is underway, funded by the Green Homes Grant from the government, to upgrade energy efficiency in respect of council housing.

Regarding consultation with the local community, HPBC has regular meetings with High Peak Green Network (a conglomeration of Sustainable groups throughout High Peak) and Biodiversity representatives. A telephone survey of the general public is about to start which aims to cover all age groups and types of people. We also have regular meetings of the climate change working group, which is available to view live online.

Part Two of the Action Plan will detail how the Council, working with others, intends to help the whole Borough achieve net zero emissions. It is due to be published before the end of the year.

Jean Todd, Executive Member for Climate Change, Environment & Community Safety, HPBC



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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