

## Chairperson's Welcome

JEAN BALL, 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

Welcome to our new look e-newsletters which we hope to provide every two months. Whilst the natural environment had a bit of a holiday from some human activity in the first half of this year, our local green spaces and countryside have never been busier. For a little while the sound of bird song was louder than the background noise of cars, trucks and airplanes which has now largely returned. Transition Buxton has been supporting #BuildBackBetter and #BuildBackGreener initiatives as well as adjusting our own operations to 'the new socially distanced normal'.

All our meetings have been via Zoom since March and we had to temporarily suspend our monthly Repair Cafes until the end of January. We have also been running a series of Mini-Seminars on alternate Thursday evenings via Zoom on a wide range of topics including; Retrofitting, Consumer Ethics, Electric Cars, Plastic, Biodiversity, Plant Based Diets, and more. The one hour sessions, which are open to anyone to attend free of charge, have proven very popular. Each is recorded and made available to view via our website after the live event is complete and we are getting lots of 'viewers'. It's great to be working with organisations like Carbon Cooperative, Surfers Against Sewage, Serpentine Community Garden, and BCA and to welcome folks from beyond Buxton to these zoom sessions. The series will continue until 19<sup>th</sup> November before a break for Christmas and a return in the New Year.

Our Plastic Clever team have carried on meeting and planning our journey to Plastic Free Community status which we hope will resume in earnest fairly soon. The Hard to Recycle collection boxes are back out helping us to reduce the amount that goes to landfill or incineration – see article. And our dispersed Community Orchard is abundant with fruit for all to enjoy this harvest season.

There is a great deal more that we could and would like to do if we have the volunteers to make things happen. If you would be willing to get involved in any way please don't hesitate to get in touch and let's see what we can make happen together. Our commitment is always to build our local resilience and reduce the damage we cause to the environment on which we depend.

With a following wind you will receive another of these e-newsletters in January with plans, dates and ideas for 2021.



## Inside This Issue

Energy Assessments   Green Homes Grants  
Community Orchard   Hard to Recycle  
Education Outreach   Repair Café

## Dates For Your Diary

**MINI SEMINAR: ME & MY ELECTRICITY**  
19<sup>th</sup> Nov 19:30 via Zoom

Peter Ranson will share his non-technical story of how he has been able to establish a home energy system which minimises the use of electricity from the grid whilst maximizing the use of the solar power generated from his panels.

**MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**  
8th Dec 19.30

Via Zoom

**MEMBERS' MEETING**  
12th Jan 19.30

Via Zoom

**STORY OF PLASTIC FILM DISCUSSION**  
14th Jan 19:30 via Zoom

**ORCHARD WORKING PARTY**  
16th Jan

**ORCHARD WORKING PARTY**  
23rd Jan



[contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk)



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



## DISPERSED COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Ben Evens

Our “dispersed” Community Orchard has been growing – in various places around the town - mainly apple trees; and are for the benefit of everyone.

Each site is tended by “Tree Guardians” who undertake the pruning and maintenance of their patch. We would very much like to build up the number of guardians, so that the work can be shared more equitably. You maybe?

In 2020 we planted seven trees at Ashwood Close; two each at Wyattville Avenue, Beechview Drive and the URC.

The tree-planting season runs from November to February, preferably in the autumn when the soil is warmer. Sadly, no plans for planting this autumn, but several pips are in the pipeline! January and February for pruning - and general maintenance at any time.

*Coronavirus permitting, we are planning Saturday morning working parties on:- January 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>; February 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Do get in touch and come along for community-spirited physical activity. Grab that ‘feelgood factor’!*

Your optimistic suggestions for new places to expand our orchard will be appreciated.

Sponsorship of trees is welcomed at £25 per tree. This will help boost our tree and maintenance fund.

Any comments, questions and offers of help email:- [communityorchard@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:communityorchard@transitionbuxton.co.uk)

## EDUCATION OUTREACH

Frances Sussex

I took on our Education Outreach role shortly after joining you at the beginning of this year. Although the virus and lockdown has impacted on activities it hasn’t hampered my enthusiasm for how the role can develop and what we can achieve in the future.

Working with schools will be a major part of the role with an aim to develop a calendar of regular activities in support of schools becoming plastic-free and adopting eco-schools practices. I have been working with South West Peak’s Youth Engagement Officer and members of Buxton Civic Association Biodiversity Group on a schools project for next summer called **Buxton Wild Week**. Jackie from SWP has been successful with a Bingham Trust Grant and is attending a School Heads Meeting this month. I’ll share more detailed news once we have established dates and know what schools want from the project. I’m hoping it will be an event that you will want to get involved in.



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*I am joining with other organisations in the region who are interested in creating a Youth Engagement Forum focusing on climate and the environment; we have a first meeting this month. It will be great to connect our local children and young people with national activities such as the Youth Climate Action Summit 9-14 Nov <https://www.transform-our-world.org/youth-climate-summit-2020>. Do take a look, it’s a packed week of events not just for children.*

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I’ve been pleased to work with Serpentine Community Garden Society on a **Science Week Grant Bid** for us to engage families who received the Gardens’ salad bags during lockdown to undertake soil testing. If successful we will be organising this for March.

I’m intending to reach adults as well as children and young people. I’m contacting other Buxton organisations who might be meeting on Zoom at present to see if they would like me to join a meeting for a 10 minute presentation about our aims.

I know I will need to call on fellow TB members for your knowledge and expertise with particular projects but I would also welcome requests, ideas and suggestions about developing this role. We now have an “[education@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:education@transitionbuxton.co.uk)” email address so do get in touch and together we can inspire the next generation of TB members.



# UK GOVERNMENT GREEN HOMES GRANT SCHEME

Robin Edwards

The government's Green Home Grant will hopefully help many people make environmentally positive enhancements to their homes with the government taking up to two thirds the cost, up to a maximum of £5,000. The GHG is open to homeowners and landlords. One part of the scheme targeted at low-income homeowners has a higher limit.

It is important remember that as the scheme is currently defined you need to be installing a primary measure (for example Cavity Wall insulation) in order to apply for a secondary measure (for example Draught proofing). Furthermore, the work needs to be completed by a Trustmark registered tradesperson, so it is not for DIYers.



Sheep's wool insulation installed during a retrofit

The Scheme opened in September 2020 and work needs to be completed by March 2021. It seems the building industry and associated trades were already very busy so the sooner you start looking the better.

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*An easy to read explanation of the scheme can be found at the Simple Energy Advice website: <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/.../green-homes-grant> . Scrolling down the page on the site you will find an easy to use eligibility checker.*

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The next step are to apply for a voucher go to the government website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-green-homes-grant> . Vouchers issued for work under the scheme should be available in November.

You will also need to find a Trustmark registered tradesperson that covers the area and the job you wish to perform. This is currently proving to be the most difficult step, as already stated the building and associated industries are very busy currently. The Trustmark site is can be found at: <https://www.trustmark.org.uk/>

One useful briefing is from Carbon Coop in Manchester. The video is 1hr 23mns long, but worthwhile in my opinion. <https://carbon.coop/.../governments-green-home-grants.../>

## REPAIR CAFÉ WILL RETURN

Jean Ball

134 items had their useful lives extended, saving approx 2544kg of CO2 in 5 months (20 hours in total) of Buxton Repair Cafes between September 2019 and March 2020. Our team of Volunteer Repairers are keen to resume the regular sessions as soon as we can do so safely.

Buxton Repair Café takes place on the 4th Saturday of the month, so we have our eye on 23rd January 2021 and will make and announce a decision at the start of the year. The sessions are usually 10am – 2pm at the Methodist Church on the Market Place.

Our lovely Repairers will tackle most things that you can easily carry in including; garments & soft furnishings, small appliances and electronics, toys, ceramics, jewelry, wooden items, and more. Whilst working to fix your item the Repairer will explain the process so that you might gain some knowledge and skills to undertake repairs yourself in future. We ask for donations from our satisfied 'customers' to cover our costs.



We are keen to see the life of 'stuff' extended wherever possible to reduce waste and the need for new. Many of these skills have been lost and need recaptured. We also support the Right to Repair movement which aims for legislation for products to be designed to be repairable. Designed in obsolescence is not acceptable practice in an environmental and climate crisis.

Any questions or offers of support always welcome. Contact us on [repaircafe@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:repaircafe@transitionbuxton.co.uk)



## 'THE STORY OF PLASTIC' FILM

Ian Bowns

Transition has teamed up with The Story of Stuff Project to bring this film and a subsequent discussion to members. The film will be available to view online for three weeks before the discussion on Zoom on 14th January at 7.0pm. To get access to the film, please email [plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk).

THE STORY OF PLASTIC takes a sweeping look at the man-made crisis of plastic pollution and the worldwide effect it has on the health of our planet and the people who inhabit it. Spanning three continents, the film illustrates the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash, rivers and seas clogged with waste, and skies choked with the poisonous emissions from plastic production and processing. THE STORY OF PLASTIC features interviews with experts and activists on the front lines of the fight, revealing the disastrous consequences of the flood of plastic smothering ecosystems and poisoning communities around the world, and the global movement that is rising up in response. With engaging original animation, archival industry footage beginning in the 1930s, and first-person accounts of the unfolding emergency, the film distills a complex problem that is increasingly affecting the planet's and its residents' well-being.

THE STORY OF PLASTIC is presented by The Story of Stuff Project, a nonprofit dedicated to changing the way that we make, use, and throw away Stuff so that it is more sustainable, healthy, and fair. Since 2007 the nonprofit's nine award-winning animated movies have garnered more than 50 million online views around the world and inspired a million-member global community to take action for systemic change. To learn more, visit [storyofstuff.org](http://storyofstuff.org)



The Story of Stuff Project is a member of #breakfreefromplastic, a global movement envisioning a future free from plastic pollution. To learn more about the push for lasting solutions to the plastic pollution crisis, visit [breakfreefromplastic.org](http://breakfreefromplastic.org).

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*Did you know that we have a library of books and DVDs about environmental topics? These include quite a few about permaculture and food growing.*



*The library has built up over ten years of Transition Buxton and is available to anyone who want to borrow some informative books and films. The list of titles available is on our website. All you have to do is email [library@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:library@transitionbuxton.co.uk) and Terry will arrange a convenient drop off or pick up.*

*We promise no fines for late returns.  
<https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/books/>*

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## RECYCLING IN THE HIGH PEAK

Derek Bodey

While refusing and reusing are better, we all need to get stuck into recycling. Until we get a national scheme, recycling schemes vary across the country.

We are lucky in the High Peak that we have the ability to do a lot of recycling.

### At Waitrose and Morrison's we can recycle:

Plastic Carrier Bags, Plastic bread bags, Plastic cereal bags and inner cereal bags, Plastic wrappers and ring joiners from multipacks of cans and plastic bottles, Plastic wrappers from toilet roll and kitchen towel packs, Plastic freezer bags, Plastic magazine and newspaper wrap (type used for home delivery only), Thin bags used for fruit and veg at supermarkets, Bubble wrap, Low-density polyethylene (LDPE) - resin ID code 4

It's a lot more than just plastic bags!

And, of course, batteries (really important, nationally very few get recycled and they are valuable)

### IN THE GREEN BIN

- Cooked and uncooked food waste
- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Meat, fish and bones
- Garden plant material
- Dead flowers
- Grass and hedge cuttings
- Real Christmas trees (make sure you remove all decorations and the base)

#### But not:

Plastic bags, flower pots, seed trays or other plastic items,  
Cat or dog feces,  
Large branches or tree stumps,  
Soil, stones or rubble,  
Painted or treated wood  
Non food products including nappies, packaging of any kind,  
Liquids such as milk - these may leak causing spillages

**Remember** if you are using a bag for your food waste it must be compostable and carry the code EN13432 and/or the "seed" logo. **"Biodegradable" bags must not be used.**



### IN THE BROWN BIN

- Glass bottles and jars (lids on)
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (plastic film removed into grey bin)
- Food tins, drinks cans, foil and aerosols (remove plastic tops but include for recycling)
- Food and drink cartons
- Cardboard (less packing tape and any glitter)
- Paper

#### But not:

Black plastic bottles, pots, tubs or trays  
Plastic bags or film  
Food waste or liquid - containers must be empty and rinsed clean  
Polystyrene trays or packaging  
Plastic toys or coat hangers  
Electrical items  
Baby food, cat food or coffee pouches  
Used paper towels, tissues, baby wipes, sticky papers (e.g. Post-it notes)  
Non paper gift wrap (e.g. foil based gift wrap) or bags  
Crisp packets or sweet wrappers  
Wallpaper



### At Sainsbury's, Morrison's and Iceland Transition Buxton's own "Hard to Recycle" collections mean we can recycle even more:

Crisp Packets, Nuts, Popcorn and Pretzels packets  
Dental Products  
Writing Instruments (not pencils)  
Ella's Kitchen Products or similar  
Pringle tubes (only)  
Confectionary Wrappers, Biscuit and Snack wrappers  
Cheese wrappers (any similar to Cathedral City ones)