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From our Chair



Firstly, apologies to members for not being able to run the planned in-person meeting in late July to update members on progress on an organisational strategy for Transition Buxton building on their previous contributions. That thing which has been getting in everyone's way for the last couple of years or more struck me down in the preparation period. The review has added a number of practical ideas to the activities we're already pursuing. In addition, we had a clear view from those involved that we need to improve our communications to members, and particularly to the wider public – our profile is lower than we'd like and there's even some confusion about what we do. We also need to increase our capacity to undertake the activities, old and new, we'd like to pursue. There was a clear desire expressed to deliver practical activities, advice to reduce Buxton's impact on the climate, and to campaign for the wider changes outside the control of individuals, without which it will prove impossible to halt environmental degradation. Given we already have plans for our Members' Meeting in September, we'll be bringing the strategy to members at the October meeting. Finally, can I ask for a little help from someone with talent in communications, graphic design or infographics? We're looking for someone who can help us produce a concise "strategy on a page" to keep our plans accessible and easy to communicate.

Ian Bowns, Chair

Celebrating Our Plastic Free Buxton Champions!

After a slow build during lockdowns the Plastic Clever Buxton project has started to build some real momentum. The aim is to achieve Plastic Free Community status using the Surfers Against Sewage Community Toolkit. The criteria includes securing pledges from businesses, community groups, and local authorities to reduce (ideally eliminate) single use plastic from their operations. We are thrilled to have signed up 13 businesses and 18 community groups as Plastic Free Buxton Champions so far (names in green are photographed below).

Our Plastic Free Champions include; **Beer & Bean**, Buxton & District U3A, Buxton Civic Association, Buxton Festival Fringe, **Buxton International Festival**, Buxton & Leek College, Buxton Methodist Church, Buxton Parish Church, **Buxton Pudding Emporium**, Buxton Town Team, Connex, **Console Anxiety**, Creative Heritage, Day Zero, Friends of Buxton Station, Funny Wonders, Green Man Gallery, Griff House B&B, The Herb Garden, Macular Society, Pavilion Gardens (Parkwood Leisure), Pig & Pepper Bakery, Potters, **Rotary**, **Seasons**, Serpentine Community Garden, The Servants Quarters, Skills on the Grills, St Ann's Catholic Church, and Wheeldon Trees Farm,



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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

Carnival Day Stall - What a lovely day!



On Carnival Day, 9th July 2022 we had a stall near Turner's Memorial. The purpose of the day was to try to reduce the environmental impact of the Carnival through the use of reusable Buxton Cups. There was a great, good-humoured Carnival Day atmosphere with smiles and goodwill in abundance. From mid-morning until the end of the procession, there was barely a moment when there weren't three or four potential customers within a stride or three of the gazebo, kindly loaned by Tina Heathcote.

We sold 204 Cups! We reckon that there are now nearly 1,000 reusable Buxton Cups out there in circulation. If each one is used instead of single use disposables, just 5 times, that is 5,000 cups not wasted. Not got yours yet or interested in stocking the cups in your business? Contact plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Definitely worth repeating next year. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the day and all those who purchased cups. If you have never helped on a Transition stall before, do look out for the next time and come have a go for an hour. **Ben Evens**

Together for our Planet Activity & Grants

Scouts groups had a busy evening exploring their natural habitats in Chinley Nature Reserve and Chapel-en-le-Frith where they mapped out areas of grass and woodland, and looked at nature study guides to understand how plants and trees influence wildlife.

Transition Buxton volunteers worked with Derbyshire Dales Climate Hub in their "Making Space for Nature" event, helping families investigate Whitworth Park with biodiversity kits and nature books.

Following the Community Assembly and securing our Together for Our Planet National Lottery Grant some young people will receive **Transition Buxton Climate Action Grants**. If you are a young person or group with an idea that is climate/environment/nature focused and benefits our local area/community you can request to do the Together for our Planet sessions and then apply for the grant. Contact education@transitionbuxton.co.uk



On Thursday 10th November we will host our young people's **Together For Our Planet Conference** to coincide with the United Nations COP27 global event. Students in Buxton schools and Buxton & Leek College will be planning how to organise the day so that they can debate issues, explore ideas, and decide priorities for action in their schools and Buxton. This exciting conference will be held in the Octagon in Pavilion Gardens and if you want to be part of it we'd welcome your assistance to prepare as well as on the day – see the Can You Help section in this newsletter. **Frances Sussex**

Great Big Green Week is a national initiative that takes place 24th September -2nd October. During that week we have our Repair Café on 24th Sept and on 1st Oct we hope to host our first Big Swishy Swop (see diary section of this newsletter). The Big Swishy Swop is a bit like a trust jumble sale – bring stuff and leave with different stuff, or donate cash for the goodies you take home. It will include clothes, toys, craft & DIY materials, household bric-a-brac, anything really. We may also come up with a competition or two, so keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

'We Are Buxton'

'We Are Buxton' was set up after Big Buxton Conversation One in April 2021 identified the need for a collective communications tool to give our community a voice, particularly in the absence of a town council. There have now been six meetings of representatives from 9 local groups including Transition Buxton and both High Beak Borough and Derbyshire County Councils. A 7th full meeting will take place on 6th September and for the first time the community groups are meeting without the Council representatives on 30th August to explore deepening our collaborations.

Coming together and talking has real value in every aspect of life. As our world and priorities change we need to work together to adjust, shift, and share in creating the town that we share. 'We Are Buxton' aims to establish an ongoing practical conduit amongst our community and with our local authorities. So far so good – we will keep you posted. **Jean Ball**

Our Future in Your Hands

On 10th & 17th July Buxton International Festival (BIF), proudly presented a specially commissioned oratorio, **Our Future In Your Hands**, composed by Kate Whitley and written by Laura Attridge.



“Over the last twenty years the global scientific community has been raising the alarm about climate change. Government action has been stuck in red tape and endless debate. The process of change has stalled. This inaction was too much for young people who have decided to go on a strike to protest the lack of action in the face of climate change. **Our Future In Your Hands uses the oratorio to give voice to the hopes and fears of the young people who will one day inherit our world.**”

The choir of over 100 children drawn from local schools were joined by soloists from the Buxton Festival Company who all sang with palpable passion. Young musicians from the RNCM, led by mentors from the Northern Chamber Orchestra, made up the orchestra for the project.

Along with Buxton Environment Action colleagues, we were really pleased to be invited by BIF to have a presence at the performances to support audience members, inspired by the powerful words and music, to pledge actions they will take to address the damage we cause to our environment every day.

We gathered nearly 80 pledges for real actions by real people including the Director and many of the parents including;

- *Become a climate champion in my work place.*
 - *Consider the environment in every spending decision I make.*
 - *Get involved and take action in my local community.*
 - *Learn about circular and donut economics and apply them in my life and business.*
- Jean Ball**

Climate Change Action - Update from High Peak Borough Council

This is a very broad flavour of what the borough council have done and are doing. A fuller annual report is currently in draft and will be published shortly. The borough-wide action plan ‘Aiming Low –The Way to Net Zero’ recognises the importance of collaborative working across all sectors including active environmental groups like Transition Buxton.

New staff

A new Climate Change & Biodiversity post was created. An officer joined us in spring this year to develop and drive the delivery across both High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands. Gillian Wright will be able to give a fuller account of activities later in September at the Transition Buxton Members’ meeting on 13th September in the Café at Pooles Cavern.

Climate Change Event

Councillors Anthony McKeown and Jean Todd are keen to engage with groups across the borough to address climate change issues. They are planning an event in New Mills on the afternoon of 20th October. Invitations with more details will be sent out soon.



CLIMATE
CHANGE
ACTION

Climate Change Fund

HPBC have awarded over £3,000 across the borough through our Climate Change Fund.

- Buxton Baby Bank: preventing baby clothing and equipment going to landfill and helping families access second-hand equipment.
- Glossop Allotments: improving the soil health and yields
- Men in Sheds, Glossop: reviving tools and upcycling materials into bat boxes, etc.
- Sustainable Hayfield: targeted energy assessments and installing small energy efficiency measures along with signposting to potential grants.
- Transition New Mills: support with the purchase of a thermal imaging camera which people can borrow to see where the cold spots are.
- Whaley After School: help with their allotment and healthy eating and education programme.



Information on the Climate Community Fund is here. This is also available to groups whose main objective is not necessarily ‘green’ but could fund a green project. Current round closes 19th September. **Gillian Wright, Climate Change & Biodiversity Officer, High Peak Borough Council**



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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

Stitched Up



Between us we have the skills and means to do just about anything. Learning from experience and others is part of the Transition approach and the basis for a successful community enterprise in Stretford, Manchester called Stitched Up. As part of building our knowledge as we prepare to establish our Library of Things two Transition Buxton volunteers went up to Stretford to learn what they get up to and how they do it.

Stitched up are celebrating their 10th birthday this year and enjoying their third year in a shop unit in a shopping centre due for redevelopment next year. They were a co-op until last year when they became a Community Benefit Society with 3 full time employees and lots of volunteers. Their biggest source of income is from a wide range of courses and workshops in sewing,

knitting, ragging, crochet, tapestry, machine and hand embroidery, upcycling, tailoring, and more. They also sell donated materials, run 2 Repair Cafés, Clothes Swaps, and inspire creative fun. Project specific grants fund additional activity helping to integrate Stitched Up into the local response to the need for change. <https://stitchedup.coop/>

We liked their clever method of telling you how much CO2 you are saving when you purchase materials from them that would otherwise go to landfill. There are tips and lessons that will help inform some of our activities here in Buxton and it is encouraging to see initiatives like this prospering in communities across the country.

Jean Ball and Jane Reynolds

Hard to Recycle

Thank you to all who continue to deposit materials in our sets of ‘hard to recycle’ bins across the town. Please remember, however, that we are only able to recycle items via Terracycle belonging to the categories listed in the table and illustrated on the bin lids. For a wider list of where to recycle various items see our website:

[HOW TO RECYCLE IN BUXTON – Transition Buxton](#)

Items which should not be placed in our bins include:

- Plastic bags labelled ‘Don’t recycle at home. Recycle with bags at large supermarkets.’ These should be placed in the supermarket provided bins at Morrisons or Waitrose. The only type we can recycle are bread bags.
- Pet food bags and pouches and Tea bag foil bags.
- Medicine Blister packs - please place these in the bin located at Superdrug.
- Batteries - please place these in the appropriate supermarket container.
- Interdental brushes and bamboo toothbrushes - our scheme only takes toothpaste tubes, plastic toothbrushes and electric toothbrush heads.

Repair Café has saved nearly 8 tons of CO2!

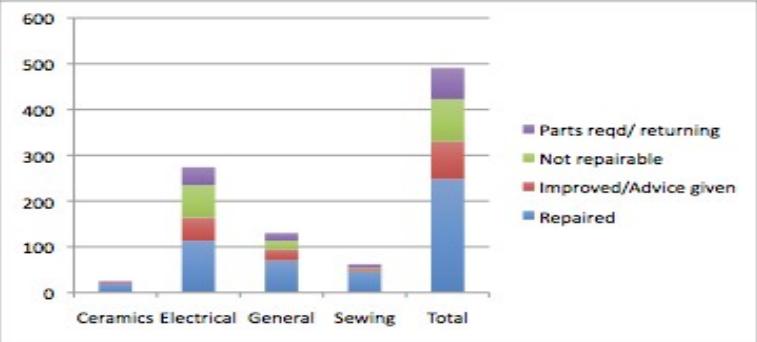
The chart to the right shows the outcomes for the all items our Repair Café volunteers have handled to date - nearly 500 items, of which just over 67% (331) were mended or improved/advice given to prevent them going to landfill. Based on the estimate of an average of 24kg of CO2 per item saved, that equates to 7,944 kg of CO2 (nearly 8 tons!). It takes approximately 50 trees to capture 1,000kg of CO2, so we calculate that this is equivalent to planting 400 trees!

Keep bringing us your worn and faulty items on the 4th Saturday of the month, and tell your friends. There is plenty of stuff in the world already. Let’s reduce the need for more/new. See diary section of this newsletter for details.

Totals for each range of products collected

Scheme	Total collected (kg)	
	To date	Since last newsletter
Crisp packets	375	24
Writing Instruments	79	9
Dental products	70	13
Biscuit Wrappers	44	10
Confectionery Wrappers	25	2
Pringles Cans	24	7
Cheese Wrappers	15.5	3.0
Hygiene Home packaging	1.5	0.3
Bakery items packaging	4.5	3.1
Coffee pouches	3.2	2.2

Veronica Hawthorn



Helen Brown

Community Orchard



This year the orchard trees are producing quite a reasonable amount of fruit. Is this happy circumstance due to favourable conditions during the pollinating and growing seasons or is it due to the judicious pruning in the winter?

One of the tasks at about this time is to look for clusters of little apples and remove at least one to make room for the others.

There was concern during the very hot few days that the trees, we planted in the winter, might suffer. However, the rain came to the rescue so the need to search for buckets and containers did not arise.

Some years ago we were given several blackcurrant bushes, which were planted at Cote Heath Park.



During early August we picked about ten pounds of blackcurrants, which have been donated to Zink and the High Peak Food Bank and received with delight. Poking around amongst the foliage we discovered that one bush was actually white currants. Looking after the orchard can really be quite exciting! Would you like to help with the Community Orchard, whether you are a first timer or tree expert? If so, please get in touch via email: orchard@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Ben Evens and Robin Edwards

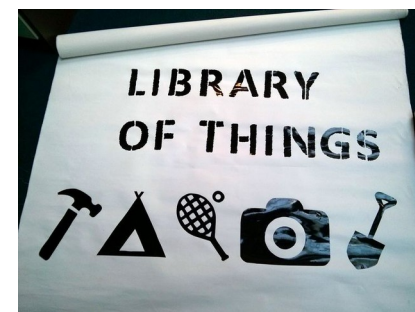
A Library of Things – Making it easier to share in Buxton

As the holiday period comes to an end, it's time to move forward with our plans to set up a Library of Things in Buxton. A Library of Things would allow us to rent rather than buy items that we only use occasionally. It'll reduce clutter in our homes and stop the endless flow of stuff that we buy, underuse, and then later throw away.

What's needed

The main things we need are:

- Information about the level of interest and the types of things people would be interested in borrowing.
- Things - either donated or bought.
- Money to buy things that we can't get by donation.
- Premises to store the things and places where people can pick them up and drop them off.
- People to help run the library.
- A means of tracking requests and items as they are lent out and returned.



What's been done so far

We joined the Transition Together Rethink Waste discussion space to learn from others based on projects they've done <https://vive.transitiontogether.org.uk/>

We did a local survey and there is interest. Popular items are carpet cleaners, gardening tools and DIY equipment.

We've also been in touch with a Bollington group who have started a Library of Things <https://bollingtonborrowers.myturn.com/library>. We're considering the software that they use for maintaining their catalogue and checking items in and out.

What's next

We need premises. We have not ruled out the idea of a distributed library with a central inventory but I think it would be better to have a dedicated premises. Any ideas are very welcome!

We are preparing an application for a Transition Together Seed Funding grant to help buy things we can't get by donation and other start-up costs.

We are a few people interested in helping get the project off the ground, but there's certainly room for more. If you can help in any way, please get in touch inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk or phone me on 07511 043124.

Jane Reynolds



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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

Can you Help! Let's be part of the solution

In the face of all that is going on in the world at the moment it can be difficult to remain positive and optimistic. In these challenging times one of the best things you can do for your own well-being, and for our shared future, is to invest time and effort in positive sustainable local actions. Could you take on a task or role as a Transition Buxton volunteer and help our community travel in the right direction? Some suggestions below, but we are wide open for ideas, suggestions, offers, and inspiration.

Education & Outreach to support our activities and events with children and young people in schools and the community. We want to help others learn about climate issues, caring for our environment, nature and wildlife. If you are free on the morning or afternoon of Thursday, November 10th then you might enjoy helping with our Transition Buxton Student Conference. Drop Frances a line at education@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Library of Things Team to set up and manage an item borrowing system that works on and offline, provide some supervision for work experience trainees; who we hope will do much of the day to day admin, find and manage a physical space where the items are stored, secure funding and manage the budget, attract donations of items to loan out, ensure the items are maintained (with support from Repair Café team), and provide info to colleagues who will help promote and publicise the new resource once it is operational. Contact Jane on contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Diary

- Wed 7th Sep, 7:30pm: **Plastic Clever Group** Meeting via Zoom
- Tues 13th Sep, 7:30pm: **Members' Meeting** with Guest Speaker; HPBC Climate Change & Biodiversity Officer, Gillian Wright
Pooles Cavern Café, All Welcome
- Sat 17th Sep, 8pm: **Green Drinks**, The Old Sun Inn, All Welcome <http://www.greendrinks.org/Derbyshire/Buxton>
- Thurs 22nd Sep, 5:30pm-6:30pm: **Inform & Inspire Group** Meeting, via Zoom
- Sat 24th Sep – Sun 2nd Oct: **Big Green Week**
- Sat 24th Sep, 10am-2pm: **Repair Cafe**, last item in 1:30pm, Methodist Church on the Market Place
- Sat 1st Oct, 10am-2pm: **Big Swishy Swop**, Buxton Community School. Bring stuff you don't need or want anymore and take different stuff home.
- Sat 1st Oct – Wed 23rd Nov: **New Seed Potato Ordering Service**, Oct–Nov place your order, collect Sat 28th January (approx.) See our webpage for details, <https://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/potato-day-2023/>
- Tues 11th Oct, 7:30pm: **Members' Meeting**, Speaker / Topic TBC, Venue or Zoom TBC
- Mon 17th Oct, 8pm: **Green Drinks**, The Old Sun Inn, All Welcome
- Thurs 20th Oct: **High Peak Borough Climate Summit**, New Mills Town Hall (by invitation)
- Sat 22nd Oct, 10am-2pm: **Repair Café**, last item in 1:30pm, Methodist Church on the Market Place
- Thurs 27th Oct, 5:30pm-6:30pm: **Inform & Inspire Group** Meeting, via Zoom
- Thurs 10th Nov, 9am–3:30pm: **Youth COP27**, The Octagon



WE NEED YOU!

Communications Support to help amplify our messages to a very broad audience and keep it fresh and interesting. Working as part of the Inform & Inspire team you might help with social media, press releases, even graphic design if you can, and the website. Indeed, the website could be a role on its own if you are up for it. Contact: inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Plastic Clever Buxton Team Members to support our drive to achieve 'Plastic Free Community' status using the Surfers Against Seage Toolkit to reduce single use plastic within Buxton and the adjoining area. The team meet as required and communicate by email. There are one off tasks and ongoing roles, activities to organise, more Plastic Champions to recruit, and more. Please contact Derek at plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk to have a chat and see what suits you.

Zoom link requests

plastic@transitionbuxton.co.uk
inspire@transitionbuxton.co.uk



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



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