

CHAIR'S EDITORIAL

We feel that it is important that we continue our communications with our MP, Robert Largan. He has replied to our lengthy communication following our all too brief meeting with him on Tuesday 8th November ([MP Communications – Transition Buxton](#)). While he has responded to some of our points, he has not yet provided a full response to all the issues we raised including:

1. Urgency: Even where he can point to progress, it is too limited and too slow to reflect the fact we are facing an existential crisis. The Science tells us that, thanks to the environmental changes already in train, the majority of carbon emissions need to be cut by 2030, not 2050.
2. While he's keen to stress the progress the UK has made on decarbonising electricity generation, he has not responded to our questions about decarbonising the wider economy. The UK is significantly behind most other western economies in making the transition to clean energy and energy efficiency. In 2019, only 12% of our total energy consumption came from modern renewables, and it's only increasing slowly. Almost every European country did better, with large neighbors like France, Germany, Spain and Italy all somewhat higher, and some, such as Sweden, Finland and Denmark, dramatically better.
3. He has not really addressed the concerns that we, and many other organisations, have regarding plans to scrap many of the current legal environmental protections which we feel need strengthened not weakened.

We are currently drafting a follow up communication and would welcome additional or different points from you - our Members.

Ian Bowns, Chair, Transition Buxton CIC contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



Transition Buxton

Towards a sustainable community

Inside This Issue

Guest article from Mark Cocker

Hard to Recycle Info

Repair Café Update

Exciting News

Planting & Pruning

And more!

Dates For Your Diary

Mon 9 Jan, **Library of Things Project Team Meeting**, 6:30pm, Zink Clough St SK17 6LJ

Tues 17th Jan (17th every month, different days), **Green Drinks**, The Old Sun, 8pm, see <http://www.greendrinks.org/Derbyshire/Buxton>

Thurs 26 Jan (4th Thursday of the month), **Inform & Inspire Meeting**, 5:30-6:30pm, via Zoom

Sat 28 Jan (4th Sat of the month), **Repair Café**, 10am-2pm (last item in 1:30pm), Methodist Church on the Market Place

Sat 28 Jan, **Seed Potato Order Collection**, c/o Repair Café, Methodist Church

Wed 1 Feb, **Plastic Clever Meeting** 7:30pm via Zoom

Tues 14 Feb, **Members Meeting**, 7:30pm, incl Community Energy in Derbyshire presentation, venue TBC

Fri 17th Feb, **Green Drinks**, The Old Sun, 8pm, see <http://www.greendrinks.org/Derbyshire/Buxton>

Thurs 25 Feb, **Inform & Inspire Meeting**, 5:30-6:30pm, via Zoom



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



www.transitionbuxton.co.uk

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

As humans we have got ourselves into a challenging pattern of consumption and waste that threatens to make our planet inhospitable, so we now have to do everything humanly possible to change the pattern, use resources responsibly, and allow nature to recover.

Transition Buxton is committed to doing what we can to reduce damaging impacts locally, support sustainable living, driving positive change, and building our community resilience. Would you like to be part of the solution? Whatever skills you have or don't have, we want you. Your time is one of the most valuable things you can offer. **Even a couple hours a week would make a real difference.** The ideas below are just a sample of some of the work you could get involved in.

Drop us a line, or come to a meeting contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



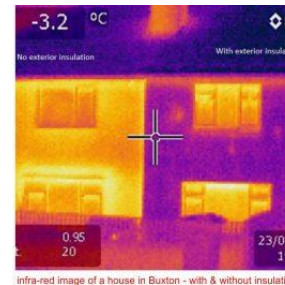
Newsletter Coordinator – pull together the words and images provided by colleagues into an attractive newsletter ready for circulation every two months.



Education & Outreach Team – help grow the team who work with schools, scout/guide groups and young people to support active learning about the natural environment, pollution, pollinators, sustainable living, and more, including taking Billy, our glorious 3' fibreglass Bee, on tour. Billy, beautifully decorated by local artist Pam Smart, is not heavy, fits in the back of most cars, and normally lives at Buxton Station when not travelling. education@transitionbuxton.co.uk



Community Energy Project - we have ideas and ambitions to develop community owned local renewable energy generation project(s) if you'd be up for helping to frame and make this happen.



Might you be interested in helping us to carry out **our Home Energy Surveys**? We visit homes with our infra-red camera showing the residents where heat is being lost. We can then point out how energy savings can be made. It is a valuable service but we have more demand than volunteers to do the surveys. If you might be interested please email: heatloss@transitionbuxton.co.uk

Everyone is welcome to attend **Transition Buxton Members meetings**. We are trying a slightly different pattern of meetings this year: 2nd Tuesday evening of the month, 7:30pm but none in January, July or August, and the December one is given over to a social gathering, so just 8 actual meetings and the **next one is on 14 February** – show the love for our planet and join us for a discussion about Community Energy in Derbyshire.

GOOD WORTH WORKING FOR

Guest article from our friend Mark Cocker, Conservationist, Guardian Columnist and Buxton Resident

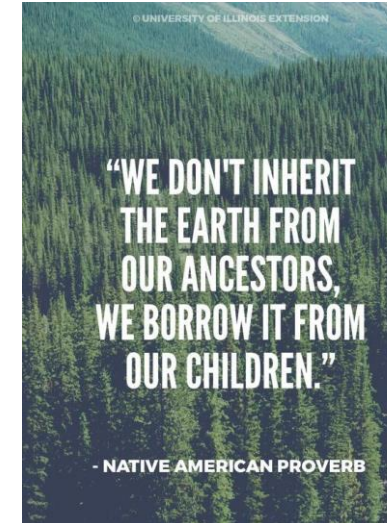
What a year we've witnessed! Biblical floods in Pakistan, Old Testament famines and drought in the Horn of Africa, not to mention burning and fires worldwide. It's surely time to act. Unfortunately, many are so filled with despair at what's happening that their pessimism – eco-melancholia as it's called - is almost as challenging as the environmental threat itself.

Whenever the future feels bleak, I think it's helpful to look back to see clearly the progress we've made. Consider that it was once thought great entertainment to tie a cockerel to the ground, and then throw horseshoes at it with the aim of knocking its head off. This was especially enjoyed during the religious celebrations of Shrove Tuesday. Equal joy was had in tying a bear or a bull to a stake and setting hungry mastiffs on it so they could fight and - hopefully - kill one another.

Some people thought this was wrong and they objected. When legislation was introduced, however, to stop bull-baiting, this vile entertainment was vigorously defended by our MPs. Yet those few kept going against the many noble-minded politicians until bull- and bear-baiting were banned in 1835. Cockfighting similarly took two goes, but it was outlawed in 1849. It took 25 pieces of legislation, starting in 1886, to give the British a widespread right to walk on unproductive ground. Not until the CROW act was this finally granted to us in the year 2000!

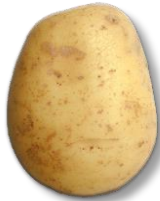
The first legal protection for seabirds only arrived in 1869. It was another 85 years before general bird protection was finally signed into law and it was only in 2004 that the British thought better of harassing a fox with beagles and horses until it could be ripped to shreds by the attending hounds. You start to get my picture. Change takes time.

If you want hope through quick wins you'll be well, disappointed. Take comfort perhaps in the sentiments of the Czech author and politician Václav Havel and made popular in the word of the Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney: *'Hope is not optimism, which expects things to turn out well, but something rooted in the conviction that there is good worth working for.'*



POTATO DAY 2023

This year for the first time Transition Buxton partnered with Transition Chesterfield to offer a seed potato ordering service for the 2023 season.



We 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 as low as 60% of commercial prices, depending on what you order. Ordering was a very simple online process and buyers could select from over 30 different types, so easy to try out a few different types. Ordering was during October and November.

If you placed an order and selected the delivery location as Buxton (to save you travelling to Chesterfield) we have arranged to have some space at the Repair Café on 28 January in the Methodist Church. Come along and collect your order in plenty of time for chitting.

Robin Edwards



WE ARE BUXTON

Transition Buxton is currently the rotating Chair of the We Are Buxton Forum of 9 key Buxton community groups and 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 communicating, collaborating and coordinating the activities amongst the groups. Equally importantly, the representatives are able to discuss shared priorities to help our local authorities move with the grain of the community. When the Forum meet next on 17 January, with so many buildings in the town centre subject to change, the theme will be our built environment. The groups are also considering options for a possible third Big Buxton Conversation.

Jean Ball



contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk



www.transitionbuxton.co.uk

HARD TO RECYCLE UPDATE JANUARY

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 take items belonging to the categories listed in the table below. Once we have collected sufficient of a particular category we send the material to Terracycle for recycling. The schemes continue to evolve to increase efficiency, for example, for crisp packets we now need to send off a box weighing at least 10 kg. It can be quite a challenge to stuff this amount into a box, so to assist they provide vacuum bags which enable us to squeeze a lot of the air out and get more packets in. We have recently reached our 30th consignment of crisp packets sent for recycling since we started this work in July 2019. For a wider list of where to recycle various items see our website:

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

Total kilos for each range of products collected:

Product type	Since September Newsletter	To Date
Writing Instruments	10	89
Dental products	20	90
Pringles Cans	6.0	30
Crisp packets	29	404
Biscuit Wrappers	10	54
Confectionery Wrappers	3.0	28
Cheese Wrappers	2.5	18
Hygiene Home packaging	0.2	1.7
Bakery items packaging	3.0	7.5
Coffee pouches	1.8	5.0

COMMUNITY ORCHARD

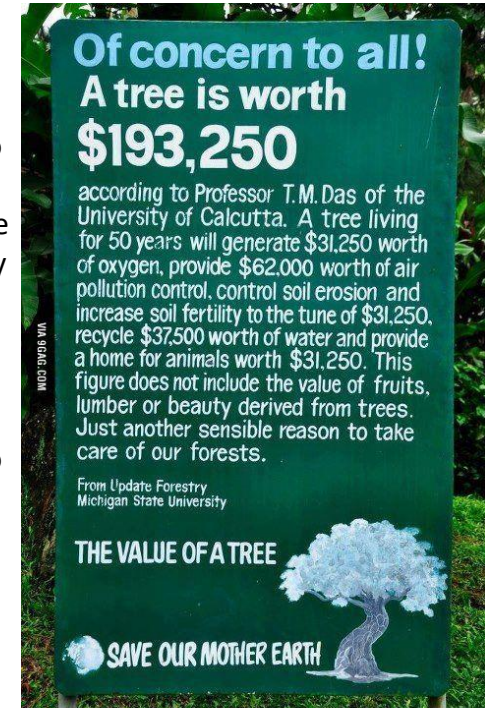
Planting & Pruning


With thanks to those who kindly chose to give a tree in our growing dispersed community orchard as Christmas gifts, and a recent successful grant application, we will be adding to our orchard this winter. We have over 100 healthy trees across a dozen or so locations and hope to plant another 20 or so this year.

As most of our trees are apple, pruning time is between November and March to stimulate growth.

If you might be interested in helping with the orchard please drop an email to orchard@transitionbuxton.co.uk and we will keep you up to date with plans and let you know when our next working party is.

Ben Evens and Robin Edwards



 9GAG is your best source of fun.

Considering some home energy efficiency improvements? Check out the helpful Warm Homes Facebook Group we share with others in the district ([7\) Warm and Eco Homes - High Peak | Facebook](#)

TRANSITION BUXTON EDUCATION OUTREACH

If you are interested in helping to inform and inspire children and young people to join in our Transition Buxton activities then we'd love your help, please contact us on education@transition.co.uk.

Here are some of the current projects and activities that you could get involved with:



Buxton Wild Weeks

In May and June we will be hosting our 3rd Buxton Wild Weeks for Buxton schools to focus on nature and wildlife. They will explore their school grounds and local environment to improve habitats for wildlife, learn about biodiversity and enjoy connecting with nature. If you want to share your love of nature and wildlife with younger generations then your support would be very welcome.

Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum

We also have a Climate Pathfinders Youth Forum in partnership with Tideswell and District Environment Group. This small group of young people from across High Peak and Derbyshire Dales meet online to use their voice. They have met an MP and Derbyshire County Council representatives to make sure their views on climate change are heard. They also meet in person for environmental and climate change projects

Link to <https://tdeg.org.uk/climate-pathfinders-youth-forum/>

Climate and Environment Awareness for Community Groups

We have delivered climate awareness and nature activities to local community groups including Scouts and Girl Guides. We hosted a Making Space For Nature stall in Derbyshire Dales engaging families in nature exploration. We would like to do more of this if we have some more support.

Frances Sussex,
education@transitionbuxton.co.uk



TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET March 2022 – March 2023



TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET

Our year long National Lottery Together For Our Planet Community Fund project is allowing children and young people's groups to learn more about climate change and how to communicate their ideas to address issues. The Lottery project finishes in March with 10 groups benefiting from the project and using their Climate Action grants to promote climate awareness in their local communities.

Together For Our Planet Student Conference

Last Autumn we hosted our 2nd Buxton Students Conference during COP27. 120 students from 7 schools and Buxton & Leek College came together to meet organisations who can support their climate and environment projects. Students are following up activities in their school Eco-Councils and Climate Clubs.

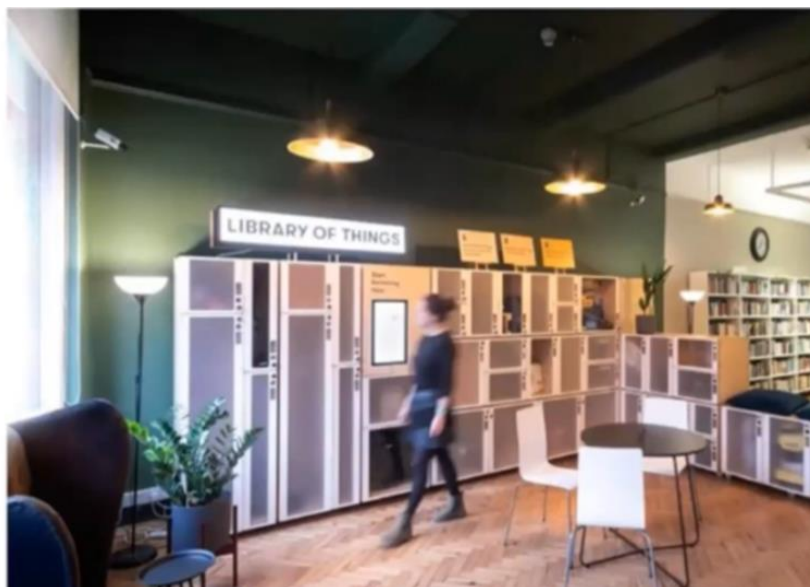


EXCITING NEWS!

Some exciting news; **we've been awarded a grant** of £2,700 for our Library of Things project! The grant is from the National Lotteries Community Fund and projects are chosen by Transition Together. We got the good news on December 1st and it's been really hard to keep quiet about it while Transition Together inform all grant applicants.

So, in the new year, it'll be time to start turning our plans into reality. Our biggest task now is to find a location for our Library. We're hoping that Buxton Library might be able to host it, as long as we have enough volunteers to staff it, but it could take quite some time to get a decision. So, if anyone knows of any empty units where we might get a meanwhile lease, a place where we could put a container, or clean empty garage space, please let us know.

If you'd like to get involved in the project in any way, please get in touch with Jane Reynolds (jane.reynold@gmail.com, telephone 07511 043124) or come along to the first project meeting on **Monday 9 January, 6:30pm** at Zinc, Clough St (at the back of the Cattle Market car park).



Keep in Touch:

Facebook Page ([3](#)) [Transition Buxton | Buxton | Facebook](#)

Facebook Group ([3](#)) [Transition Buxton | Facebook](#)

Twitter: [Transition Buxton \(@transitionbux\) / Twitter](#)

Email: contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk

REPAIR CAFÉ

The Repair Café session on 28 January will be our 21st! We held the first Repair Café in September 2019, and after pauses and restarts during the pandemic, we are back to 10 sessions a year – 4th Saturday of the month, but none in July or December.

We are grateful to our hosts at the Methodist Church for accommodating our team and embracing us as part of their community activity.

At the November session we welcomed a total of 33 items, of which 27 were fixed or improved / advice given – including the church's electrical circuit and Christmas lights, and a sewing machine that someone had dismantled while trying to fix it and then couldn't get it back together again – two items are returning (with spare parts to be installed) and only 4 were not fixable.



Helen Brown, Buxton Repair Café

repaircafe@transitionbuxton.co.uk

