

NOTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2016

1. Welcome & Explanation of the purpose / format of these meetings

Jean Ball welcomed all to the meeting and thanked those present for coming despite the unfortunately timed thunderstorm. She also apologised for the clash with the Town Team meeting. She explained that the purpose of these meetings is to give Transition Buxton (TB) members a forum for discussion. We have achieved much over the last 8 years, but could now do with building momentum. We are very grateful to the Buxton Civic Association for the use of the Poole & Cavern School room without charge and have booked the room for monthly meetings until Christmas, at which point they will be reviewed.

2. Informal introductions around the room

Those present introduced themselves: Jean Ball, Ben Evens, Iain Hawthorn, Veronica Hawthorn, Charles Huff, Carol Huff, Penny Kill.
Apologies received from Derek Bodey, Ann Evens, Charles Jolly, Janet Miller, Jean Todd.

3. What have we been up to recently - Project Updates

Community Orchard . this has been built up over the last several years and will continue to be developed. Currently there is an opportunity to sponsor more trees for the coming season (@£20 per tree).

Serpentine Community Farm . now a separate entity, having started within TB. The community farm holds its first AGM (along with an Apple Day) this coming weekend (18th September).

Green Drinks . this happens every 17th of the month at the Old Sun Inn and is an informal opportunity to discuss anything of relevance to transition.

Waterswallows Solar array . a presentation showing progress with this project was shown. The idea is to install a floating solar array on the old quarry pit at Waterswallows. We have been granted £20k for a feasibility study for the project which is now underway and will take ~6 months. An initial site visit was made by Dulas who are the appointed consultants on 13th September. The next steps include starting to reach a formal agreement with the owners of the site. Assuming the study is favourable the project will need support in various forms.

Connie and dinosaur making workshops . around 12 such workshops have been held to date, encouraging young people to make use of left over materials. Alternative Christmas workshops are held annually in the run up to Christmas to encourage the making of decorations from recycled materials. We also hold stalls at the Spring Fair and stalls to swop seeds and plants.

Website . our website has recently been moved to a new provider to save us money and we have started to update the content and are continuing to do this.

Meeting with our MP . these occur about once a year.

Wellbeing group . this meets monthly in the Pavilion Gardens café. The group organised a winter feast in February, the profits of which went to the food bank. No summer picnic was held this year, but there are plans for an Autumn/Winter event.

Films and talks . these are held periodically, the last film being the Naomi Klein film 'This Changes Everything' held in May.

Citizenship training in schools . this has unfortunately ceased due to loss of contacts.

TB also participates in the Station Road group a coalition of five organisations which agreed a statement submitted to Nestle outlining preferences of local people for use of the site. We have also had representatives at the Town Team conferences 2020 and Transport

4. What else could we be doing? Ideas, Proposals, Volunteer Opportunities

Frustration was aired by those present that the majority of Buxtonians seem to take no notice of climate change. What more could we be doing to get people to take it seriously? What can we do to change the image of transition from that of 'bandal wearing hippies'? Would it help to hold more stalls in the town to raise awareness of what we are doing?

Some years ago the group had held a successful curtain making workshop but this was not repeated the next year as feelers suggested there was little further interest. Perhaps it could be repeated again now that a few years have past? More recent cookery workshops however did not attract much support, despite being subsidised by a grant.

Another group (Low Carbon Chiltern) hired an Infrared camera to show up energy losses from homes. This could be an idea to complement the proposed energy conservation conference.

We could show more films, aiming for ~ 4 a year and perhaps make our own short film to distribute locally.

Recycling . can we encourage the council to collect tetrapaks? Can we help businesses to recycle (they are charged extra for their glass to be recycled)?

It is proposed to advertise some volunteer job descriptions shortly. These would allow an individual to take on organisation of just one type of activity such as films, speakers or excursions (e.g. to the Derbyshire Eco Centre or Godley Reservoir floating solar array.

5. Dates for your Diary – forthcoming activities, meetings, etc.

Monthly members meetings will continue at the School room, Poole's Cavern on 2nd Tuesday of the month: 11th October (Charles H volunteered to be note taker for this meeting), 8th November and 13th December (which will be a social).

Green Drinks will be held at the Old Sun Inn from 8pm on Saturday 17th September (hosted by Peter Crook) and on 17th October (hosted by Veronica and Iain Hawthorn).

Dates of wellbeing group meeting will go on the website when they are known.

A talk by Paul Beers on the use of technology to reduce our carbon footprint will be held in 3rd or 4th week of October.

TB will be taking a free stall at the market on 5th November which will be an opportunity to promote the Alternative Christmas workshop (19th November) and also do some dinosaur making.