**Transition Buxton Monthly Meeting, 14th March 2017,
7:30pm at The School Room, Poole’s Cavern**

1. **Present:**

Jean Ball, Peter Crook, Peter Burgess-Allen, Ben Evens, Iain Hawthorn, Veronica Hawthorn, Charles Jolly, Alan Kent, Janet Miller and James Richardson. Apologies: Jean Todd

**2. Project and Group Updates:**

1. **The Awareness Raising Group**

Janet gave a presentation on the activities of the Awareness Raising group within Transition Buxton. The group has been around for a long time after experience showed it to be more effective as a separate group from the Co-ordinating group (Directors). The group has recently prepared a remit document which feature the task *to ‘encourage sustainable choices and recruit new supporters and members’*.
The current members of the group are; Ben Evens, Charles Jolly, Janet Miller and Jean Todd and they’d love it if others wanted to join them.

The group’s activities to date have included:

* Preparing and distributing leaflets and fliers (they are currently designing a new leaflet).
* Newsletters; these are distributed to libraries and waiting rooms etc., at events, and put on the website
* Preparing an E-bulletin which is sent to supporters about every 3 months
* Films: > 30 have been shown to date, with a lot shown in the early years. For most of these we have the DVD, Derek looks after these, see list on website to borrow.
* Talks: About a dozen have been put on, with the aim being to arrange these about twice a year. Topics have included climate change, permaculture and textiles.
* Seminars e.g. Alternative Economics seminar held in November 2013.
* Visits, trips out – e.g. Wye valley charcoal burning, Waterswallows recycling centre.
* Stalls in the town, i.e. Plant/Seed swap with street collection licence, market stalls
* New Mills One World Festival, we have participated several times (event not happening this year)
* Connie Consumasaurus – Connie was made in 2010 for the first Buxton Art Tail and has been to numerous events since. She has her own Facebook page.
* Working with children – we have discovered that children love making dinosaurs from rubbish
* Traditional Christmas workshops, making decorations (and dinosaurs)
* PSHE sessions in local schools (contact now lost but hope to do again some time)
* Other talks to school children including a group of Spanish exchange students
* 2015 Environment and Sustainability General Election Hustings
* Decorating the town as part of Buxton in Blooming Winter

**What next:**

* Spring Fair, 1st May and Plant Swap, 3rd June (see below for more information)
* Open /Gardens Trail 10th/11th June – last year we had an unmanned display at Christchurch, but could do more this year (the Serpentine will be a venue this year so we could go there).
* Buxton Art Trail 15th/16th July
* Outings e.g. Godley Reservoir, CAT, an Eco-home
* Films – hope to show something, possibly ‘Demain’, in the Autumn

The group would be very pleased to welcome more members to help it achieve more.
There is the option of being involved in just one aspect of the group’s work, if there's something that is of particular interest.
The group meets approximately monthly, at a time to suit the group members. If you are interested please get in touch with Janet - contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk or call 71041.

1. **Domestic Energy Check service**

Nine people attended the HPBC funded 1 day course on Saturday 11th March led by Caroline Harmon from Marches Energy Agency. The next step is to sort out the documentation, set up a spreadsheet for the figures and do some practice checks on each other’s houses. We will then be ready to recruit households to have their energy use studied. There is also the possibility of further funding to allow more support and telephone backup. Aim to launch in ~ one month’s time with information on the website, in the meantime a message can go on Facebook to say that the course has happened and that we are consolidating in order to provide domestic energy checks soon.

1. **Community Orchard Expansion**

On 25th February around 14 people braved some very wet weather to plant five trees at our newest site for the dispersed community orchard at Hogshaw Drive. We are hoping to install some signage near each of the sites soon. Peter C has a contact at Burbage primary school and will enquire whether they have any space for some trees there.

**3. What Else Could We Be Doing?**

1. **Participate in ‘Earth Hour’** from 8pm to 9pm on 25th March 2017, see: www.earthhour.org
2. **Spring Fair Bank Holiday Monday 1st May**. Ideas suggested so far for new activities for the stall include: dinosaur face painting, dinosaur headdress/mask making, hand crank sewing machine, energy producing bicycle/Scalextric, cooking something in a hay box, display of underwear through the ages as 'proof of global warming'. Ben is considering making a game based on the relative heat losses from different parts of a house (inspired by the energy training). Connie will need some maintenance prior to the event, volunteers required, date for this fixed for 10:30am 22nd April. She will also need three pairs of men’s old black shoes – if you have some to spare please email contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk .
3. **Plant Swap and street collection Saturday 3rd June**, we were encouraged to be sowing our seeds for this now!
4. We are currently mulling over ideas for a regular practical activity. An example is a ‘**Repair Café**’ as happens at Chesterfield and Farnham, but this would need enough people with the requisite skills. We could also reinstate the **reskilling workshops**, for example a curtain lining workshop. Previously we have bulk bought material to order and on one occasion made up the curtain liners communally.

**4. National Transition News/Topical News Items**

 The Transition Network, which describes itself as *‘a movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world’*, is now ten years old. See: <https://transitionnetwork.org/news-and-blog/celebrating-10-years-transition-town-totnes/>

There is currently a big push on fossil fuel divestment, including a petition from some of Derbyshire’s Transition groups, see: <https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-derbyshire>

If you don’t already receive the free monthly Climate Change Action Network Newsletters they are full of local green news and activities, here is the link to a recent one <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a3462e33d801fa085b0123db1&id=09235d4241&e=c3e13bceaa>

**5. Any other business**

Transition Buxton runs on a shoestring and lots of volunteer effort but does need some money to cover things like insurance and website hosting. If you would like to donate either a one off or regular amount there is now a form on the website to enable you to do so <http://www.transitionbuxton.co.uk/home/funding-and-donations/>

James Richardson who joined us for the evening told us about his involvement in the Cuckmere Community Solar Company which plans to build a part-commercial, part-community solar farm. He was in the area as his company has recently built a solar farm in Denstone, Staffs. He offered free advice on solar for our Waterswallows and Rugby Club projects and also some funds from the community investment commitment from their Staffordshire project – the Directors will discuss the possible donation at their meeting next week and get back to James accordingly.

**Next Members Meeting**, Tuesday 11th April, 7:30pm here at Pooles cavern School Room.

Then Tuesday 9th May will be our Annual Meeting so we will be in the Pooles Cavern café for this larger gathering – it is important that Members either attend or send in proxy votes for the General Meeting to ensure we have sufficient numbers to make/approve decisions. Papers will be sent out closer to the time.

**Volunteers for Notes and Goodies**

 Thanks to Anne Evens for the yummy flapjacks supplied for the meeting. No-one spoke up to provide the treats for the April meeting but do feel free to bring something along if you get the urge to bake.

 Thanks to Veronica Hawthorn for writing the notes for the March meeting. **We need a volunteer** to do the same for the April meeting – please let Jean Ball know if you would be willing to take a turn.