**Transition Buxton Monthly Meeting, Tuesday 11 April 2017, 7:30pm at The School Room, Poole’s Cavern**

**Present:** Jean Ball, Charles Huff, Iain Hawthorn, Sally Benjamin, Ben Evens

**Apologies:** Peter Burgess-Allen, Anne Evens, Veronica Hawthorn

Local Responses to Climate Change – Sally Benjamin joined us to explore the possibility of undertaking her Human Geography dissertation on comparing the local responses to Climate Change in Berwick-upon Tweed and Buxton. Sally is from Buxton, studying at Durham Uni and is currently preparing her dissertation proposal for approval. She was pleased to get a warm welcome and the group was open to sharing information and contributing to her study in any way that we can. Sally was also impressed with the breadth of the topics and activities Transition Buxton gets involved in. She will let us know in due course if her study is to go ahead.

Things We have Been Up To Recently - Project & Group Updates:

1. Coordinating Group – has been preparing some policies and position statements for approval at the General Meeting on 9th May (please try to attend so we have enough people to formally adopt them), and following up on the offer James Beresford made at the last members meeting to contribute financially to an energy saving or renewables project.
2. Awareness Raising Group – the presentation about the outward facing activities that the Awareness raising group organise including film screenings, excursions, school presentations, leaflets, and much much more can now be viewed on the website. Keen to attract more members who might take on specific tasks – if you are willing to get involved, even in a small way, please drop a line to [contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk) to start the conversation.
3. Domestic Energy Survey Service – our newly trained Energy Surveyors have not yet met to sort out the booking and buddy system, this should be sorted in time for the Spring Fair on 1st May so that people can sign up for Surveys on the stall (and via the website).
4. Solar Installations:
   1. Our Waterswallows Floating Solar Array is still on hold until after Easter when we hope the land ownership issue might be emerging from the probate process.
   2. The Rugby pitch project is making progress – the grant application for the feasibility study is nearly ready, just some final measurements and it should get off to WRAP by the end of April.
5. Community Orchard – planting of new trees in our dispersed orchard will pause now until autumn, but tree sponsorships (£20) are still welcome, as are tree wardens to help look after the trees in locations around the town. See website for more info.
6. Well-Being Group has started to meet again after a lull – dates of future meetings TBC

What Else Could We Be Doing - Ideas, Proposals & Opportunities:

1. Spring Fair, 1st May: Ben is sorting the rota including early start for hauling Connie onto site – please let him know via [benjeven@outlook.com](mailto:benjeven@outlook.com) if you can contribute an hour or two on the day. We are also looking for some willing face painters to form a separate rota to offer this popular activity (dinosaur themed) in exchange for donations to Transition for at least part of the day – if you can help please let Ben know.
2. Curtain Lining Workshop: this is best done in summer and was well received when we did it a few years ago. Participants pre-order the amount of thermal lining fabric they need, we buy in bulk, then have a sewing session with a few sewing machines one afternoon in a church hall. Anyone willing to organise this please contact the Awareness Raising group.
3. Buxton Garden Trail, Sat / Sun 10 / 11 June: We want to support the Serpentine Community Farm which will be on the trail, but it would be ideal to also show off a domestic garden using non-chemical gardening methods – anyone with a suitable garden please get in touch.
4. Buxton Art Trail, Sat / Sun 8 / 9 July: We created Connie Consumasaurus for the first one and have run mini-dinosaur making workshops most years, we could do this again and / or something new / different. Sally suggested a mural painted onto cloth (she has some cloth left from another art project) and she hopes to be in Buxton around then. We’d need a venue with a suitable flat surface (floor?) where the painting (messy?) could happen – any ideas? The mural could be made in advance or over the weekend. Ideas and offers to [contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk)
5. Repair Café – where you bring your broken appliances, gain new skills and prevent contributing more junk to landfill. Transition Belper are hoping to start one, Chesterfield has one every month already. Anyone interested in having a go in Buxton?

Discussions, National Transition & Topical News:

Meat – Transition tends to focus on moving away from fossil fuels but there are other lifestyle choices and changes that need to be made too. Eating less, or no meat is one of the most eco-friendly (and healthy) choices that you can make. Beef is a particularly inefficient use of agricultural land and the amount of emissions that cows emit from their bottoms is no joke. Perhaps a topic for an evening talk?

Eco House – Progress is now well under way on the transformation of Charles & Carol Huff’s house into an Eco-House. They have moved into the granny flat above their garage whilst walls are stripped back to the brick, floors are lifted, etc. Completion hopefully September 2017 when Charles would be delighted to host an open house to share their experience and results with others.

Film – Transition Networks (the national network that we are a part of) is promoting the film ‘Demain’ or ‘Yesterday’. View Trailer here: <https://www.demain-lefilm.com/en>

The Big Quilt for Change – Ruby Moon here in Buxton is coordinating the creation if a beautiful quilt made of 8 inch squares made by many different people. Each square depicts something positive like trees, birds, words. For more info see the Quilt Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/907760129327527/>

Go-op Train - <http://www.go-op.coop/> the first co-operatively owned train operating company in the UK.

Refundable Deposits on plastic bottles seems to be getting nearer – lets keep this in the news <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/government-plastic-bottle-tax-tackle-household-waste-public-beaches-landfills-environment-a7537686.html>

Dates for your diary: Newcomers are always welcome at any of our events

**Monday 17 April** & 17th of the month every month, 8pm – 10pm, Green Drinks at The Sun Inn

**Saturday 22 April** from 10am, Connie Consumasaurus annual make-over prior to Spring Fair, Jurassic car park (next to Janet Miller’s ‘Ginger Bread’ house on West Road). Connie needs some TLC after sitting outdoors all winter, come along and help her get ready for her big day out.

**Tuesday 9 May** & 2nd Tuesday of every month, Monthly Open Members meetings, 7:30 – 9pm, Pooles Cavern School Room. The May meeting will be our (Annual) General Meeting – please make an extra effort to make it to this one which will be held in the Pooles Cavern café to accommodate larger numbers.

**Saturday 3 June**, 10am – 3pm, Plant Swop & Street Collection, probably by Turners memorial – please bring your seedlings and make some time to spend an hour helping on the stall.