



Weymouth and Portland Group.

Transition Times Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1
Jon Orrell 772152
March 2009



Spring 2009

Welcome to the newsletter.

The Transition Town movement is an unusually entity. It is run from the bottom up. The attraction is that it depends completely on local involvement and energy.

The realisation that the planet is beginning to be faced by mounting environmental chaos could be paralysing. John Beddington, the chief scientist, talks of a perfect storm. This encompasses rising temperatures, dwindling water supplies, depleted topsoil and growing populations.

If you add the peak oil bonanza, that has fuelled out western lifestyles, and is soon to follow the banking sector, one has a depressing cocktail.

However the Transition perspective is that the move to a low carbon future need not be harsh or dismal. Indeed living, working, growing and harvesting with newly discovered neighbours will bring more happiness and fulfilment

The aim in time is to develop an energy decent plan for the borough. Firstly we need to raise awareness of the prob-

lems and positive solutions. These do not need to wait for permission or orders from on high.

Transition Towns are about local empowerment. Our next group meeting is called an OPEN SPACE. This is a great opportunity to bring your own ideas and suggestions for the future, or how to reach out to others. We will seek the views of everyone and then put them into categories. Then people can migrate between new theme groups and engage in activities that catch their interest.

Do come along and join the fun.

Big Green Fortnight - Bournemouth and Poole
When 15 – 31 May 2009
Where Bournemouth and Poole -

Description The Big Green Fortnight is a new event that is taking place throughout Bournemouth and Poole between Friday 15th May and Sunday 31st May 2009 (includes half-term week). Hosted by Bournemouth 2026 and Poole Partnership and supported by Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole, the aim of The Big Green Fortnight is to: Raise awareness of practical solutions for more sustainable lifestyles. Encourage residents and businesses to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint Engage people in fun and exciting ways, offering family-friendly activities for holiday-makers. Show how sustainable living can be easy, healthy, inexpensive and fun. Showcase green success stories within the local area, to include local business and producers. Promoting more sustainable modes of travel i.e. walking, cycling, public transport/school bus services and car sharing. Emily Bullock, Big Green Fortnight Programme Manager, emily@deac.co.uk or Tel: 01202 469907

Reminder - Events in the Spring

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Fri 27th March	7:30 pm	Solar Power in your home	St Frances hall. Littlemoor	John Tomblin 01305 832180
Tues 6th April	7:15 for 7:30pm	Heart and Soul Group	Preston	Sue 01305 835524
Tues 7th April	From 7pm	Green Drinks Tom Browns	High East Street- Dorchester	Sally 01305 267758
Thurs 23rd April	7:30pm	Open space	St Aldhelms	Jon 772152

Less than a year old...

We have been going as a group since May 2008. There is still much to do in terms of raising awareness. However we can be encouraged by our progress so far.

Events so far include:

- The launch event with Ben Brangwyn outlining the positive aspects of transition to a low carbon town.
- A cycle maintenance talk in August
- Home film shows in Nottingham. Money as debt/ Who killed the electric car/Mc Libel.
- Energy talks on solar photovoltaic and water heating, in Radipole and Wyke.
- The Autumn Fair, Upwey. A day of practical skill shows, stalls and fundraising.
- A talk on living from growing food. "Permaculture, Surviving and thriving". by Rebecca Laughton , from her new book.
- Main film shows in Radipole. **The Power of community** - How Cuba adapted to an oil crisis with growing local food, cycling and improved their health and wellbeing.
- **The end of suburbia**— This film looked at peak oil and its impact on our modern lifestyles.
- **11th Hour**—A Leonardo DiCaprio film that considers climate chaos and the action we ought to take .



Dan's
Organic
Food
Stall.



Knitters table.



Local Produce



Display and explanations
from the Weymouth
Energy advice centre.



Autumn Fair 2008



Pottery demonstration
and stall



SOLAR POWER IN YOUR HOME

**A FREE WORKSHOP ON:
SOLAR WATER HEATING
and
SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS
(PV)**

**7.30 pm FRIDAY 27TH
MARCH,**

**ST FRANCES CHURCH
HALL, LITTLEMOOR
ROAD, WEYMOUTH**



Solar PV Panel

**COME ALONG AND
FIND OUT HOW TO
GET HOT WATER
AND ELECTRICITY
FROM THE SUN IN
YOUR OWN HOME.**

**HOW DOES IT
WORK? WHAT WILL
IT COST? HOW MUCH
HOT WATER/
ELECTRICITY CAN I
GET? FIND OUT AN-
SWEARS TO THESE
AND OTHER QUES-
TIONS.**



Solar hot water panel.

**Presented by: HENRY
LOVEGROVE, DA21 Trust-
tee, who has a PV system,
and JOHN TOMBLIN, ex DA
21 staff, who has a solar
thermal system**

**CONTACT: jvtomblin@aol.com Tel:
01305 832180 for more details of
this evening workshop**

Holy Trinity School set a fine example

We have been driving forward the development of our environmental area. As well as the Dorset Cereals Edible Garden that we were given last year we are also providing individual beds for each class and have plans for a willow classroom, a pond with dipping platform, a wildflower meadow and a small orchard.

I am afraid we don't do things by halves. For your interest and the rest of the transition towns group, we will be having a garden open day on

**Sunday 17th May from
2.00 - 5.00**

where members of the public can come and see the Gold Winning garden and meet the designer



Nick Williams-Ellis.

Nick is very keen to help schools to embrace gardening as a valuable teaching aid and fully supports what we are trying to do in our school.

We will be inviting other Weymouth and Portland schools >to enter a scarecrow competition and by doing so encourage them to come along to see the garden and maybe inspire them to do something in their own schools.

Helen Toft

Adopt a garden?

How the Scheme Works

The scheme tries to match up would-be gardeners with people who own too much garden, preferably living close to each other. The garden owner allows the gardener to use a part of their garden to grow food or flowers, and in return, that part of their garden is cared for.

The gardener may wish to share some of their produce with the

owner, or help to keep another part of the garden looking nice, but this is not a condition of the scheme.

The garden owner also has the social benefit of regular visits from the gardener and the knowledge that when they are away there is an extra pair of friendly eyes to check on their property

There are other models for this concept.



Heart and Soul Group

HEART & SOUL GROUP

This is one of the many 'sub-groups' that can exist within the overall loose structure of the Transition Towns movement. Its function is to explore the psychological, spiritual and consciousness aspects of transition, i.e. how to understand and help people adapt as we begin to rise to the challenge of peak oil and climate change. A good place to start is by reading **chapter six** of the **Transition Towns Handbook** by **Rob Hopkins** in which he describes, amongst other things, the stages of change and how to manage them using a multiplicity of strategies.

One point is, for example, the realisation that fifteen years ago most people were not aware, or thinking, of climate change or peak oil. Now however there has been a big shift and a large majority have heard of these topics. However there are many different levels of understanding, some people can feel so overwhelmed that they feel quite helpless whereas others want to get stuck in and **DO** something, and that something may vary from using low energy bulbs to having a complete solar/wind power system installed; from only buying British to only buying local produce.

Just as there are many ways forward, there is no final answer, but constantly evolving themes depending on who is in the TT group, what needs addressing, and the help that is available. This is where a H&S group can come into its own by helping to support the individuals and groups, during the lows as well as the highs, for it is recognised that in any project the planning and action stages are usually exciting whereas the maintenance and integration of change into a life style takes some doing.

On 30th January I went, with Clare to a meeting with 3 TT'ners from Dorchester to look at what we understood an H&S group did. We ended up with an outline of how we thought the group meetings could be held and a list that we needed to consider at a future date. These included how we could; support, make sense of transition, humour and look after each other in the sense of community.

There is a lot more. Ultimately each TT needs its own H&S group. We need more people from W&P to join us to help envision the/our future and how to get there. At the next meeting 2 people from Purbeck TT have indicated that they would like to join us until they can establish their own group. For further information try <http://totnes.transitionnetwork.org/heartandsoul/home> [the Totness group have been going for some time and can give good insights to this work]. The Heart and Soul group is exciting, challenging, inspiring.....

Please if you would like to know more, or join us, don't hesitate to call me on 01305 766783. Thank you for reading this. I look forward to the future. Remember as they say in Totness:

Energy Descent– Consciousness Ascent!

Ananan Cavill

National Transition Conference.

The 2009 [Transition Network conference](#) at the Battersea Arts Centre in London, 22 to 24-May, is beginning to look rather special.

We're finalising a programme that includes:

- a wide range of workshops including "how can Britain feed itself?", constellations, Transition business, the financial crash, engaging with your local authority and much more
- training courses in the days before and after the conference,

including Transition Training and Permaculture design

- an Energy Descent Action Plan in two hours
 - lots of open space sessions
 - Transition movie premiere
 - exciting range of speakers for Saturday evening's public meeting
- an open mike party
We've set the price at £85, covering just about everything except breakfast and evening meals - even an early morning guided cycle trip on Saturday if

you're crazy enough.

Thanks very much for all your wonderful work and we're looking forward to seeing you in London in May.

The Transition Network team.

Transition Network, 43 Fore St,
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5HN, UK
email: [confer-
ence@transitionnetwork.org](mailto:conference@transitionnetwork.org)
phone: 05601 531882

Ben Brangwyn

Green Energy in Portland

Exhibition and Public Consultation

W4B are proposing to develop a Green Energy Plant in Balaclava Bay. The plant will generate enough renewable energy to power 9,000 homes.

They look forward to welcoming you to an exhibition of the plans, and providing you with an opportunity to comment. For more information on the exhibition or the Green Energy Plant please email Richard on rgudgeon@w4bre.com

Date Saturday 28th March 2009

Venue Britannia Passenger Terminal

Portland Port, Castletown, Portland. DT5 1PP

Time 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



Other peoples events.

ENERGY AT HOME

OSMINGTON VILLAGE
HALL
SATURDAY APRIL
25TH

10.30am - 2pm

For more information
contact Mary Kempe
(01305 834095), Peter
Wyman ([peter@wym
an66.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:peter@wym
an66.freeserve.co.uk))

Homes for Good -

When 17 - 18 Apr 2009

Where Westpoint Arena,

Description Build Sustainably -
Live Sustainably. The sustainable
homes and gardens exhibition
offering expert advice about sus-
tainable building, renewable en-
ergy, energy efficiency etc. Ex-
perience new and revolutionary
green technology with over 90
exhibitors and FREE products
demos for trade and consumer.
Contact corina@ecostrust.org.uk

Bridport Peace and Jus-
tice Group

St Mary's Church, South
Street Bridport
Saturday 25th April
7.30pm

Talk: by author Richard
Connaughton, on A Brief
History of Modern War-
fare: The changing face
of conflict, from the Falk-
lands to Afghanistan.



www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk/

On 28th March thousands will
march through London as part
of a global campaign to challenge
the G20, ahead of their 2nd April
summit on the global financial
crisis.

To join from Weymouth 772152