

Transition Times



Summer 2009

The year is half spent and the time of harvest nears. Like the weather, for TT 2009 has had its favourable and then testing conditions.

On the sunny side we have been successful in being awarded two grants from the Weymouth and Portland

Local Strategic Partnership for awareness raising projects, one targeted on youth.

On the challenging side none of our ideas under the sustainable Community Act were adopted. Lack of demonstrable support was unsurprising given the tough timescales. As with grant applications maybe better next time.

A formal application to join the nationally spreading network of towns has been submitted.

Other recent activities were the film show at the Ocean room and two talks, one to the Rethink charity and another to NHS managers, a shared TT Tolpuddle festival stall The next steering group meeting has evolved into a social

event at:

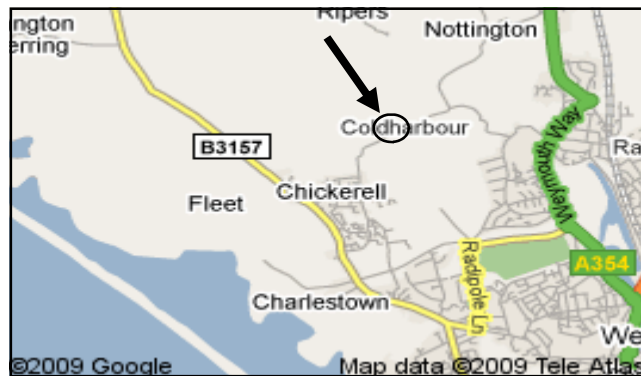
12 Coldharbour

Chickerell

DT3 4BG

Tel 772152

RSVP and bring swimming stuff if a warm day. A dish or bottle to share most welcome.



Man's disconnection with nature is nowhere more evident than in the cramped costly housing brownfields separated from sterile pesticide soaked greenfields. This distinction depends on cheap mass transport and will end.

A new vision would see low impact development with walking/cycling to work, growing food in season for local shops and renewable energy.

To promote such a change of thinking to a low carbon future replies have been sent to recent council consultations.

Other forthcoming issues to consider are the palm oil power station on Portland and voting reform.

If you are brimming with ideas come along .

Be the answer to your question.

Reminder - Events in the Summer.

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
Friday 14th	evening	Heart and Soul group	Preston	Anana Cavill
Wednesday 20th Aug.	6:30 pm	Barbeque and Farm Tour	12 Coldharbour	Jon 772152
?		Social event	Barn Dance, Beetle Drive, Green drinks?	You Decide
Saturday 7th November	All day	Autumn Fayre	Memorial Hall Upwey	

AN AMAZING VISIT

There was a Dutchman who met an Englishman and after an intense conversation the man from the Netherlands returned home with a mission.

I met the Dutchman and the Englishman – Hugo and Miles- when I visited Forres, Morayshire in Scotland last week in mid July.

Forres is a Transition town of some 9,000 inhabitants, full of local shops, surrounded by lovely countryside, very wooded and well farmed on it's outskirts. It is also about 6 miles from the Findhorn Community. This has a certain influence on the folk in the town as a few join in events at the foundation. Adjacent to Findhorn is the Air Force base of Kinloss.

So how did I meet them? My friend Ella helped to set up Transition Town Forres and she thought it an opportunity to get the represented members of the 4 towns together for some feed back of our developments.



Hugo and Miles had attended the Circle Dance Festival at Findhorn in 2008 and that is when Miles engaged Hugo in conversation about Transition Towns. Miles comes from the Northumberland town of Hexham which is an historic old town of some 11,150 population. Their TT town is coming up to 2 years old and they are preparing to dissolve their present Steering group. This is stated as a recommendation in the Handbook so Miles said and could prevent burnout by overload! ! (everyone reading this take note, you could be called upon to “rescue” your fellow in the SG)



Within a year they had set up Transition Towns Netherlands done the Totnes training to teach, help set up Groningam and 2 other towns as TTs, translated the hand book into Dutch with the help of 50 volunteers, held numerous awareness raising events including films with subtitles translated into Dutch,

printed publicity and planted fruit and nut trees. This was achieved by man, wife and one other young person – a university student – as the Steering Group. Isn't that dynamic?

Forres wanted to set up a Farmers` Market and set up an Energy Descent plan and applied to the Scottish Climate Change Fund for money and got a HUGE £184,000, can you believe that?



Pictures of Findhorn

Including their wind farm, ecovillage properties with water recycling and produce in the shop.

A model for sustainable development from Scotland to inspire us.— Ed.

They bought tractors, trailers, storage buildings, hefty stalls for the market, 2nd hand diggers for community allotments, (which I've seen and are very productive even in their first year) and much more. They have regular films, awareness raising events, have a heart and Soul group, Energy Group and a Re-skilling group. Interestingly they have a member from Kinloss Air Base

They gained news coverage in the local paper with a photo of some flowers in a park. These had been set in a cut out of 350.org and were visible from a high point on a street by a bus stop. The explanation of 350.org was there for passers by to read. Look it up on the net!



I spoke about Weymouth and how we were trying to engage with the “non-green” awareness folk. Evelyn's comment was that they want to DO rather than be lectured although this is an integral part of the journey

Maggie T