



## Newsletter

### February 2010

A focus on food this month, as there have been some exciting developments recently. Also, I want to highlight TE's new Monthly Action Meeting, which aims to get people and groups working together, and a great opportunity for newcomers to find out what's going on and get involved. Posters (for printing and display) and application forms for some of the events are attached to a follow-up email.

[Transition Exeter events](#)

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Enjoy!

Clare Bryden

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### Transition Exeter events

#### Monthly Action Meeting

On Tuesday **9<sup>th</sup> February** from 6.30pm - 9pm at the Global Centre, Exeter Community Centre, St. David's Hill, Exeter.

Our new regular monthly action meeting (put the second Tuesday of the month in your diary) will include a brief talk, and meeting/working time. This month Gerald Conyngham will be giving a Report from Copenhagen: What it was like, where it got to, and what next? Gerald was one of a group who cycled to the Climate Change Conference and reports both path-breaking successes, and failures and outrages, together with an assessment of the present priorities.

There will be news of Transition Exeter events, working groups will be meeting and new groups may be formed. All welcome. Enquiries 01647 24789.

#### Population: Is it an issue?

This promises to be a lively discussion, introduced by Pip Hayes of the Optimum Population Trust and Sue Kay of the Global Centre and Oxfam. The idea is to explore whether population policy needs to be discussed as part of global emissions reduction, or whether the real problem is over-consumption and population is a complete red herring. At the Global Centre on Tuesday **16<sup>th</sup> February** from 7 - 9 pm (note the early start).

#### Media training

This day workshop is on **Saturday 27th February** from 10 - 4.30 at Exeter University, with the help of PR expert for the voluntary sector, Cathy Debenham; Kerry Burton, who did media

work for the Fairmile road protest (Swampy et al); and a local journalist. Learn how to raise the profile of your issue or organization, angle for coverage by particular media or for particular audiences, improve press releases, practise giving interviews etc. Contact Gill Westcott for more details on 01647 24789 or Gill Amos for bookings on [gillamoz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillamoz@hotmail.co.uk). This workshop is open to all voluntary and community organizations, at £25 (£16 before January 31st, some concessions) and free for the prospective Transition Exeter media team!

### **Parliamentary Elections**

Some of us would like to run a Hustings, which is a meeting with all the parliamentary candidates present, to question them about their policies (and knowledge?) about Transition-related topics, climate change, peak oil, policies for sustainability, supporting community initiatives, Transport, Food, climate justice issues and so on. We would like to work with other organizations, such as the development charities. It would be great to have two or three volunteers to help organize. Please contact Gill Westcott on 01647 24789 or [gillwestcott@gmail.com](mailto:gillwestcott@gmail.com).

### **Also...**

Gill Westcott would like to hear from anyone interested in forming an Education Group for work in schools; or who have skills in liaising with local councils over Transition/sustainability related topics. Please contact on 01647 24789.

## **Around the TE Groups**

### **Food Group**

Quite a lot has been going on recently. Please see the Focus on Food section below for the latest on the plans for a local food hub in Exeter's City Centre, and January's workshop on local food, as well as news from Exeter Community Agriculture and Love Local Food.

### **Inner Transition Group – “Create Transformation with Intuition” event**

The Inner Transition Group is offering a seed-sowing inspirational Intuition Event at the Friends Meeting House Wynards Lane, Magdalen St, Exeter EX2 4HU, from 9.30am - 5.30pm on **Saturday 13th March**. (This is an extended day-long version of the event which had to be postponed due to the January snow.) The event will be lead by Darren Eden who has worked in this area over a number of years, combining a knowledge of economics, business, politics and technology with personal and spiritual development. Out of this, he has generated the ideal of 'intuitive democracy' which may help us in our Transition practices and plans with local communities now and in the future. The session will provide opportunities to be in touch with intuitive sources so that we can begin to harness our innate intuitive wisdom to serve ourselves and others in our work on sustainability.

Booking is essential, and the fee is £25 (£20 concessions, plus early bird bookings up to 14th Feb). For enrolment forms and info contact Gail on [su7027@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:su7027@eclipse.co.uk).

### **Inner Transition Group – NVC Practice Group**

The Inner Transition Nonviolent Communication Practice Group meets on the third Thursday of the month (**18<sup>th</sup> February**) at the Global Centre 7-9.00pm. All are welcome...

## **Transport Group – Vision and Consultations**

The Transport group has been working on our vision for Exeter's transport in 2030, and based on this on a submission to Devon County Council. The Council is due to be running a public consultation on its forthcoming Local Transport Plan for 2011-2026 in various parts of Exeter sometime in February. Also, Exeter City Council is also due to hold a public consultation on their proposed growth area at Monkerton/Hill Barton at the end of February. Details of both as yet unknown, but keep your eyes open for dates and venues in the press etc. The Transport Group will be responding on behalf of Transition Exeter, and hope to involve the wider TE community in putting the responses together - more news soon.

For more information about the Group's activities visit our Google group page at <http://groups.google.co.uk/group/transition-exeter-transport-group> or contact Sue Kay on 01392 204253. Our next meeting will be at the TE monthly action meeting on **9<sup>th</sup> February** (see above). New people and new ideas are always welcome.

## **Transport Group – Sustainable Communities Act**

The Transport Group's two proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act successfully went through the selection process and are now with Secretary of State. These are for bicycle racks on all rural buses, and for the local authority to be able to keep money raised from parking charges at supermarkets.

## **Energy Group – Good Energy**

Transition Exeter has signed up as an affiliate of Good Energy. Please consider switching to 100% renewable energy from Good Energy ([www.goodenergy.co.uk](http://www.goodenergy.co.uk) or 0845 456 1640), and quote our affiliate code GE243. TE gets £20 from every referral.

## **Other news and events**

### **Low Carbon Community Challenge**

Transition Town Totnes is one of [ten successful winners](#) of the groundbreaking 'Low Carbon Community Challenge' fund. This means that the group will part of an exciting project to help people to change their homes and lives. The Department of Energy and Climate Change is also keen for other local communities and action groups to be part of the learning and insights that will accrue from this project, so it's good news for all Devon groups. Congratulations to Transition Town Totnes and partners!

### **LETS Exeter events**

Trading Day and renewals – **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February**, St Sidwell's Centre, 10am till 1pm. Visitors and prospective members are very welcome to the Trading Days and Fairs. Come along to meet members, ask questions and see how LETS works. You will be able to join and start trading or just use sterling. See [www.exeterlets.org](http://www.exeterlets.org) for more info.

### **UN Association “Beyond Copenhagen - The Outcome and What Next?”**

On **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February** from 1.30-5pm at Jury Inn, Western Way, Exeter. This free conference is organized by the Exeter Branch of UNA-UK and is open to all interested people. Places are limited, and if you wish to attend you should fill out and send off the application form so that it arrives by **5<sup>th</sup> February**. The speakers are Jeff Ridley from the Met Office (and Transition Exeter) on the climate science; Duncan Russel from Exeter University on the political aspects; and Stewart Barr from the University on behaviour change. There's more information at [devonclimateactionnetwork.ning.com/events/beyond-copenhagen](http://devonclimateactionnetwork.ning.com/events/beyond-copenhagen).

### **Seminar on Transition Farms**

To be held on **3<sup>rd</sup> March** at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, hosted by the MSc students in International Rural Development. Presentations and discussions will emphasise research and working examples of addressing the problems of a growing population (with more living in towns than rural areas), reliance on fossil fuels, and climate change. For more information, contact [irdseminar@rac.ac.uk](mailto:irdseminar@rac.ac.uk).

### **Community Council of Devon – “Funding the Fundamentals”**

An evening session on the key steps to developing a more successful funding base for your organisation, from 6pm - 9pm on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** at Pollyfields Centre, Bideford or **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April** at Heathfield Community Centre, Newton Abbot. Contact Gail Hickson on 01392 383443 or [gail@devonrcc.org.uk](mailto:gail@devonrcc.org.uk).

## **Focus on Food**

### **Exeter's City Centre Food Hub**

The working group presented its progress report to a meeting of over 20 TE food folk on 11<sup>th</sup> January at the St Sidwell's Centre. There was an extremely useful discussion and challenge from producers, retailers and others on the theme 'Have we got this right?'. Two units have already been identified in Paris Street and negotiations for the lease are about to start. The business plan is being put to the test with the help of two experienced retailers in the local food sector. Once sure of our figures, we will go out in early April for a 'Community Share Issue' (under the name of the legal identity 'Exeter Local Food') to raise the initial capital. We are being advised along the way by Wessex Community Assets.

The meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January helped the working group to define the shop's 'core offer' around the themes 'local', 'affordable' and 'community owned'. The project consists of a shop and an interconnecting bakery and cafe. The story will be the story of food and the authenticity of its provenance. It will remind people of the seasons and offer the cake as well as the icing on it. It will be a 'hub' that attracts a wider footfall than 'the converted'. It will be knowledgeably stocked and staffed to offer the convenience and range of fresh produce expected by a much wider range of people than the traditional 'green' market. It will, we hope, offer a model that can be replicated. BUT we are still waiting for a name for the shop. Any ideas? Please bring them to the TE monthly open action meeting on **9<sup>th</sup> February** at 6.30pm in the Global Centre, or contact David Mezzetti at [dmezzetti@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:dmezzetti@ukonline.co.uk) for any other information or offers of support.

### **An Appetite for Local Food?**

This was the invitingly provocative title for a groundbreaking workshop held in Exeter recently. The event was the brainchild of Transition Exeter's Local Food Group, and was hosted by Transition Exeter, with amazing support provided by partnerships and organisations as various as Devon NHS to the National Trust. For the first time, a wide set of public, private and voluntary organisations with a shared interest in the many aspects of 'local food', were brought together to consider issues around local food. Costs of 'business usual' were shown to be huge, from the hit to council tax bills caused by food waste going to landfill, to soil erosion, carbon footprint, flooding and loss of biodiversity. The benefits of taking a more sustainable, low carbon approach to food were shown to be potentially enormous. The participants then considered what could and should happen right here in Exeter?

Transition Exeter suggested that we need a Local Food Strategy, setting out achievable objectives, towards which a range of local organisations can work. This is being done in other areas with great success. This idea received strong support, alongside many others, including

procurement policies favouring local food more, working on educating all of us about the impacts of our food choices, and making it easier and more affordable for people to make good, sustainable food choices.

The full report of the event will be posted on our website any day now so look out for that if you want to find out more. The Local Food Group is meeting at the monthly action meeting, on **February 9th**, 6.30pm, Global Centre, to discuss our next steps. Anyone interested in supporting a more strategic approach to local food action is welcome to come along.

*Lynn Wetenhall*

### **Exeter Community Agriculture**

Would you like to be involved in a community agriculture project? Have a supply of organic vegetables and learn about growing? Exeter Community Agriculture is now planning its second exciting growing season. We are renting four acres of organic land in Shillingford, where we have had our first season with a bumper harvest of potatoes and lots of good times together on the land. Our site is part of a larger field, and during these winter months we have fenced the 4 acres and will shortly be planting a native Devon hedge. We have begun our crop plan for harvest 2010 and welcome new members. We are an evolving organisation, working together to share skills and grow organic food. If you'd like to find out more about us, come along and visit and see what we are doing do get in touch with Katie on 434925 or email [info@exetercommunityagriculture.co.uk](mailto:info@exetercommunityagriculture.co.uk). You can also find out more on [www.exetercommunityagriculture.co.uk](http://www.exetercommunityagriculture.co.uk).

*Nicola Beglin*

### **Love Local Food**

Love Local Food is an Exeter-based group of not-for-profit organic food producers – a social enterprise established by Shillingford Organics, Emma's Bread, organicARTS and West Town Farm. It runs a mobile shop in Exeter, where you can buy local produce, and regular workshops, farm explorations & educational projects. It is in the process of launching its new website at [www.lovelocalfood.org.uk](http://www.lovelocalfood.org.uk), and this should be live by the end of next week. If you would like to be in the Love Local Food address book and receive regular updates about what is on the van and about workshops and events, then please send an email to [info@lovelocalfood.org.uk](mailto:info@lovelocalfood.org.uk) AFTER Thursday 4th February with the subject INCLUDE ME!. Love Local Food can also be found on Twitter at llfexeter.

*Love Local Food*