

Members' newsletter from Transition Exmouth June'17



World Issues

By a twist of Irony that will have passed him by, Trump announced the US's withdrawal from the Paris Climate accord just a few days before tomorrow's (Monday's) World Environment Day. #WorldEnvironmentDay. Still we keep trying and at least Trump's lunacy will serve as a catalyst for those inside and outside the US who have, until now, been sitting on the fence.

My daughter Jo is on her way to the UN's Ocean conference in New York focussing on

SDG14: *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.*

Here is her blog: <https://www.oceancare.org/en/all-eyes-on-ocean>

On the same theme forwarded by our friends in Teign Estuary Transition:

Take the Plastic Challenge from the Marine Conservation Society during June - by giving up single-use plastics. Downloadable pack of tips and ideas for living single-use plastic free available. <https://www.mcsuk.org/plasticchallenge/index.php>

Festival Week

Meanwhile I was myself communing with the oceans on my windsurfer yesterday after an amazing Festival week not least for our Green Man walking stall. Your team of myself, Tricia Cassel-Gerard, and Jane Ashton assembled the props and patrolled the Festival sites asking people to pledge to one of the 20, 5-minute actions that would help save the planet (I gave you those in the last mailing). It didn't start too well; on the 1st Friday I was evicted by 'security'! But that was sorted the next day and our efforts were well rewarded.

It was a clincher that we could and did, approach the most unlikely-looking 'punters' asking them to throw the 20-sided dice or suggest ideas of their own. In many cases we were pleasantly surprised at the outcome.

I'm looking now at the completed pledge forms (kindly printed by Carol Jay who also took the

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photo) and find that we have 40 new, local email contacts as well as 50 completed by other participants who for various reasons we won't be contacting. Many more were approached and declined but at least are now aware that Transition Exmouth exists and is on their case.

Some of the additional positive suggestions offered were:

- Plant seeds that bees and butterflies will pollinate
- Waste less food
- Don't litter and use a litter-picker stick
- Encourage my staff to be more eco-friendly
- Get a more environmentally-friendly car
- Get a water-butt
- Create a harmonious community through song
- Buy a 'keep' cup
- Stick to re-useable nappies (no pun intended)
- Turn off lights when not in the room
- Remove Donald Trump [the actual phrase used was un-printable. Ed]

The last one was suggested several times!

The beauty of the 'walking stall' is that the props are available for re-use another time!

That said, I'm not aware of any Transition Exmouth actions coming up in June but we're always open to suggestions.

Our AGM

For your diaries, our AGM this year is later than usual and is on Saturday 9th September at the Open Door Centre, junction of Church Street and South Street, Exmouth EX8 1PE. Doors open 14.30. We seek to be enlightening, even entertaining so hope to see you there.

Up-coming Events

Here are a couple of events that might interest you:

Climate change - does the 1.5 degree target make sense?

Wednesday 7 June 2017, University of Exeter – Advance booking necessary, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-change-does-the-15-degree-target-make-sense-registration-34656184581>

Supporter Steve Gazzard who in memory of his daughter, Sarah White, indefatigably pursues us to sign up as organ donors is holding an Organ Donor Awareness Day in the Strand Saturday 15th July. From 10.00. Perhaps the Green Man will put in an appearance?
