

Transition Exmouth Newsletter for Members and Supporters

March '19

Sorry if this is a few days late but it's in time to remind you that it's Green Drinks on Thursday with a topical/local talk preceding!

For those who want to join us, the modest sum is easily paid to our Treasurer, or to our Chair. e-mail us for postal address. The 2018/19 subscription rate is £10 plus planting a tree with additional voluntary subscriptions welcomed but totally free to those under 18, students, & the unemployed. The corporate subscription rate is £10.

If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, our details are: 'Transition Exmouth', Cooperative Bank, 08-92-99, a/c 65332739

Please don't forget to mention Transition Exmouth in any relevant conversation. We need to play our part in spreading the good word.

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29-minute Sessions

Firstly Thanks to Anne-Marie Culhane, Mary Culhane, and Anne Bentham who had all signed up to Extinction Rebellion, for the talk last month; see item below.

Thursday 7th March -

Debs Rylands started in post recently as the Wild Exmouth ranger and she has kindly offered to come and give the talk. While getting to know all the areas of Exmouth, she and Tim Dafforn are planning the next 6 months of activities in their 3-year people-centred project.

Tim has said in an e-mail: *“Adrian is the chair of Transition Exmouth and he has given me lots of support in the consultation stage of the bid. Their members will be very supportive of the Wild Exmouth activities and will be a potential source of willing volunteers.”*

Indeed Debs will be organising events and volunteering opportunities for which we can all sign up. The opportunities for involvement of Transition Exmouth are being clarified but we do at least hope that we can be found somewhere public to plant trees to replace our open woodland site at Dennisdene Farm that, in terms of attraction to wildlife, seems to have been so successful we're not allowed to plant anymore!

Thursday 4th April – Kate Smith from the Exeter Deaf Academy

With construction work having begun on-site we must now try to move on from lost opportunities and welcome the Exeter Deaf Academy to our town:

<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/work-begins-on-new-exmouth-deaf-academy-1-5912921>

Those with longer memories here than mine remember how much energy Rolle College bought here and it is to be hoped that a new educational institution can bring back some of that. Those who follow the ups & down of the world of education will however be aware that EDA has been much in the news in recent years and not all for the right reasons. It was said that a major restructuring not long ago was 'to manage a future fall in student numbers'. So what's their plan? What can we expect from them and they from us? come along on 4th April and find out from Kate Smith.

Glimpse how the college ended up: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oEmOKJWCwY>

Green Drinks

Don't forget, our purely-social Green Drinks follows on from the talks; you are welcome to bring your own 'green' table decoration to add to the collection!

Exmouth Community Fund

The Dragon's Den-style event took place. We didn't put in a bid and I've not heard a report from anyone who attended and I can't find out from the Exmouth Town council Website which were the lucky organisations that got funding! Anyone got a list?

Trees

No planning yet for the NT tree planting at Lower Halsdon farm this ~~winter~~ spring!

COLP & Neighbourhood Plan

EDDC Cabinet agreed on 6 February that the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Referendum on 21st March. well done all involved and lets go our and vote FOR it so that all the good ideas can now get funding to proceed.

Plastic Waste Reduction Campaigns

The Town Council Plastics Working Group has been meeting under Chair Lib Dem Councillor Alex Sadiq. All members of the group have tasks to work on, and we should offer assistance where they need it.

On 4th February, the TC had before it notes of the Working Group meeting held on 17th January 2019 and were to ratify the recommendation that the Town Council sponsors a new category in the Exmouth Chamber of Commerce Business Awards at a cost of £600 and that this new Environmental Impact Award be presented to a company that has made changes to improve their environmental impact, including waste management, sustainable transport, energy consumption, behavioural change and plastic reduction.

Alas the minutes haven't been published and I can't confirm that decision

One success is a project that my daughter Joanna has been working professionally on; fishing waste is now being recycled from Exmouth. The items in the attached photo apparently end up recycled in Cambridge into kayaks!



Exmouth Wildlife Group

Members are to meet with the afore-mentioned Debs Rylands to survey open spaces in Exmouth. For more involvement, contact Jan on exmouthwildlife@gmail.com.

Extinction Rebellion and Climate Change Mobilisation

Our members are to the fore in local organisation with XR. You can get involved through Facebook or the XR Website. See 8th March event in Dates for your diary. Further ahead in April there is to be a march on London with participants making their way through Exeter during the days preceding.

It is so distressing the the organised climate-change denial Industry in league with the right-wing press were able to use big money over such a long period to manipulate public opinion and effectively obstruct any effective action to reduce the damage.

For a very comprehensive article on this:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial

For a review of the top 10 climate deniers (note they are all while men!) read:

<https://www.beforetheflood.com/explore/the-deniers/top-10-climate-deniers/>

Desperate effort by scientists and campaigners have by now turned that setback in that Climate-change denial is commonly viewed as being as discredited as Holocaust denial but the damage has been done. Having been shown-up, the right-wing press now tend to ignore the issue altogether!

The good news in Devon is that DCC, with urging from many members of the public including some Exmouth activists, agreed to declare a climate emergency and take steps to reach zero carbon by 2050 [sic]; sorry but that's not a misprint!.

Meanwhile the Church of England's General Synod voted overwhelmingly on 25 February to approve a joint motion from the Dioceses of London and Truro to step up the Church's environmental programme, in response to the escalating threat of Climate Change.

Amongst the measures adopted: to call on every diocese to put in place an environmental programme overseen by a designated member of the bishop's staff team.

Sarah's 7Rs

To be blunt: we all talk about it but Sarah actually does it so take some leaves out of her book. Here is the link to Sarah Allen's blog on the subject of reducing waste:

<http://www.rhubarbandrunnerbeans.co.uk/how-i-reduced-our-landfill-to-almost-nothing-well-about-13th-full-every-3-weeks-but-that-s-not-so-catchy>

Here is Sarah's 7Rs take on that mnemonic: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rot, Recycle, Return. Sarah agreed to my publishing her notes so here is her advice (her last piece for the moment sadly) on RETURN:

- Return to supermarket/company saying why.
- Find an ethical superstore
- Look at Return The Plastic FB page + Greenpeace's recent campaign.

In conclusion she says: 'By doing all this, I end up with very little going in my bin; it might seem like a lot of effort and don't get me wrong in some respects it is. However, I really think a lot of it is simply changing one habit to another'. Thanks Sarah.

Exmouth Community Association

I am very pleased to announce that Geoff Skinner, the chair of ECA has suggested that we reciprocate our memberships; Members will remember that we already have on board, as corporate members, Exmouth Civic Society and Gelorchy Eco-church. We are happy to agree to this and Geoff tells me that their Management Committee is expected to formally ratify the arrangement when they next meet.

Would any one of our members, be able to attend ECA meetings on a regular basis for us?

Energy Descent Plan

All Transition Towns are supposed to produce a local energy Descent Plan in conjunction with other organisations; sadly we have never done so due to lack of resources but I'm grateful to Andy Lock who suggests that this TED talk by Amory Lovins will serve to keep the aspiration alive:

https://www.ted.com/talks/amory_lovins_a_50_year_plan_for_energy?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread

Sadly capitalism being the force that it is, the public are assured that technology will enable us to continue enjoying our energy-wasteful lives whilst still saving the planet. Hear what Amory has to say about it

Visitor Centre anyone?

With the impetus for the project supplied by the anticipated Neighbourhood Plan, aspirations need to be turned into reality. There are a range of putative functions for a community resource building, which central Exmouth is so badly lacking

Past, Present and Future Centre, Past, Present and Future Zone, Exmouth Visitor Centre, Community Hall, Community Centre, Community Cafe, Environmental Interpretation Centre, From Triassic To Tomorrow, Temporary Exhibitions Venue, Tourist Information Point, Meteorological Interpretation Centre and so on

Seems to me that the best interest would be generated by structurally focussing these themes around an actual site and the obvious one is the Thomas Tucker building. It isn't a show-stopper if it is ultimately unavailable, the important point is that it provides a focus for aspirations.

Noel has produced an appeal document (messages of support rather than money!) and is promoting the idea; he is looking for publicity opportunities so anyone who can help with the social media side of this and wants to read his appeal, please get in touch:

noelharrower@btinternet.com

Sustainable Exmouth

No news on Hemingway's next presentation alas.

Social Media and Website

Website: <http://www.transitionexmouth.uk>.

You can contact me Adrian Toole, Chair, on transitionexmouth@gmail.com

[@GreenManExmouth](#) continues his tweeting, not always on TE items but always seeking to entertain so be prepared!

We have a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/15416577788/>

and a page: <https://www.facebook.com/transition.exmouth>

Not to forget the ever popular Green Drinks: <http://www.greendrinks.org/Devon/Exmouth>

Dates for your Diary

Save Exmouth Museum - Thursday, 7 March

Anyone who has kept an ear open in the town in recent times will know that we need to Save Exmouth Museum with a great deal of money!!!

Their next Fundraiser Coffee Morning will be on Thursday, 7 March 10:30 at the Axis Centre, (next to the Community Church) in Market Street, Exmouth. This is just behind the Savoy Cinema.

'All donations of baked or store bought goods and raffle prizes welcome, but most of all your presence will be the icing on the cake! 100% of proceeds to the Museum Building Fund. Contact Tricia 01395 267372 for help and details'.

Extinction Rebellion Exeter - Friday March 8th

Rise up, be involved. Your planet needs you. Everyone welcome!

General meeting 18.00, Friends Meeting House, Wynards Lane, Exeter, United Kingdom, EX2 4HU

Annual Town Meeting - Monday 11 March

The annual town meeting open to all residents will be held on Monday 11 March at the Telfer Centre, Exmouth Community College, Gypsy Lane, Exmouth EX8 3AF starting at 19.00. Come and meet your Town Councillors and have your views heard!

Hard Questions Cafe - two March dates

Monday March 11th Monday 11th March; Should we go on eating meat? How do Christian and other religious traditions inform our decision? 7:30—9:00pm, Axis Centre, 7-9 Market Street, EX8 1HP (behind the cinema). Speaker: David Clough, Professor of Theological Studies at the University of Chester and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Animal Welfare at the University of Winchester

Monday 18th March, Modern Day Slavery: What are the issues and what can the community & churches do about it in Exmouth? Same time, same place

Speaker: Chris Forster from the Clewer Initiative, which assists Church of England Dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care.

Exmouth LETS Beetle Drive Wednesday, 13 March

Bay Leaf Cafe on the Strand 19.00. 'Light refreshments will be available, and you are invited to bring any items (home grown/made produce, unwanted Christmas gifts, etc.) for trading. Our past Beetle Drives have provided much hilarity, and are a great way to meet your fellow LETS members, so we hope to see a good crowd of you there on the night. Do feel free to bring a guest, but please let us know how many of you are coming to give us an idea of numbers for the catering'. exmouthlets@gmail.com

Exmouth Men's Group - Thursday 14th March

Meets 2nd Thursday's 11.00 upstairs at Ocean. [ed: not sure what the Gender Equality law has to say about this but please don't sue or at least not me!]

Exeter Vegan Market - Saturday 16th March

Exeter Vegan Market 10:00-14:30, Exeter Corn Exchange, EX1 1BW Exeter.

Next: Saturdays 25 May, 20 July, & 14 September

Neighbourhood Plan Referendum - Thursday 21st March

At a polling station near you

ECS talk Wednesday 17 April

Exmouth Civic Society's Ian Dowell who has produced five books on Exmouth in order to raise money for Exmouth and Lympstone Hospiscare will present an illustrated talk based on one of his books sold for charity. The title is not yet finalised but it may well be 'The Story of Exmouth Docks'. This will be another really good 'local' evening at the Salvation Army Hall, Sheppard's Row, Exmouth EX8 1PW (opposite the Exmouth Museum) starting at 19.30.

And Finally

In stunning photographs Edward Burtynsky follows the path of oil through modern society, from wellhead to pipeline to car engine -- and then beyond to the projected peak-oil endgame. The Landscape Of Oil in his Ted talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/edward_burtynsky_photographs_the_landscape_of_oil

ENDS