

Transition Exmouth Newsletter for Members and Supporters

December '18

Annual membership is due now and a great thanks to those who have already paid. For the others, our subscription 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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Oh dear what a lot of news but worth reading on these stormy, dark days!

29-minute Session – Thursday 6th

Firstly Thanks to Noel and Rob who told us about the perils of self-publishing earlier this month and about Noel's novel Yestermorrow. More about that below.

On 6th December we will welcome Lorraine Ross, the ever-friendly face at Mother Earth, the health shop in the Strand. Lorraine tells me:

"I have been helping people for the last 20 years, and have followed all the health trends throughout that time. I can help most people on a physical, mental, and emotional basis, knowing that 95% of all illness is brought on by emotional upsets. I would love to let people know what they can do, just with a few basic vitamins and minerals, how they can maintain wellness, or return to wellness, also how they can release buried emotions to help their bodies restore the energy flow. A healthy mind means a healthy body and a healthy planet".

Not to be missed; 19.30 at The Park Hotel, 114 Exeter Road, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1QH.

Looking ahead, to 3rd January we can learn more about the wonderful environment in which we live when Chris Woodward will talk to us. Chris is a retired teacher specialising in Geology, Geography, Travel & Tourism, Leisure & Tourism, Business, and Horticulture. Currently he is the Jurassic Coast Trust Ambassador as well as an Exmouth & District U3A Trustee. The title of his talk will be:

Once Upon A Time In The East (Devon that is!). The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site (Where What Why Who) with a focus on the key position of East Devon in relation to geological time & events.

A not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn the sad truth about our dinosaurs! Chris may even bring one along!

Green Drinks

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

Yestermorrow ** Competition ******

With help from donations, we are able to give away copies of member Noel Harrower's new novel 'Yestermorrow'. A good, uplifting read, it demonstrates a faith in ability to surmount difficulties by coming together as a community.

To be entered into the draw for the prizes, All you have to do is to answer correctly these five questions, all of which are relevant to the subject of Noel's novel:

- Q1 What is the name of the UN body tasked with investigating anthropogenic climate change?
- Q2 what does anthropogenic mean?
- Q3 What temperature increase is the IPCC now recommending as a limit to what our civilisation can cope with?
- Q4 "Yestermorrow" is a story set in an East Devon coastal town between the years 2035 and 2099, although the place names and some of the geography are changed. On which real town does Noel Harrower base the story?
- Q5 In his book, Noel has rising tides destroy a neighbouring coastal village. What steps are being taken now in Exmouth to prevent the flooding of the River Exe and of the seafront?

Please send in your answers ASAP to Noel at noelharrower@btinternet.com The cut-off time for your e-mailed answers is midday on 6th December and the draw will be made by our 29-minute speaker, Lorraine Ross that evening.

Plastic-Free Exmouth Campaign

The good news is that following Rob Masding's unsuccessful motion to the Town Council earlier this year proposing that Exmouth take action to reduce single-use plastics, our supporter Tim Dumper put forward a similar motion this week and it was passed! There is to be a Working Group set up on which Tim and Rob will be active!

On Saturday November 17, Doreen Sandham and I set up stall in the Magnolia Centre giving away the 35 or so fabric bags that Doreen and helpers had been making at The Hub in previous weeks.

The good citizens of Exmouth did not seem very keen to get something for nothing but the bags were eventually given away and we hope will save some plastic packaging. Alas the other anti-single-use-plastics event organised through Facebook at Tescos on Salterton Road for the same afternoon did not go ahead following objections for their Management but Sal Regan tells me that it will occur at a later date.



Exmouth Civic Society

ECS are a corporate member; their current newsletter came just too late for my own newsletter last month but their editor Vanessa Freeman particularly asked for me to pass on their news. Despite the death of two of their most active members, ECS continues to play a positive role in the town, not least on COLP, where alongside us and others their Secretary Ian Cann makes forceful interventions whenever he sees the amenities or heritage of the town being put at risk.

As well as COLP, their members have played an active role in the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Vanessa urges everyone to find it on the Town Council website and read it thoroughly before next year's referendum.

Looking ahead, one of their forthcoming activities, on Wednesday 17th April, is a talk by Ian Dowell on the subject of Exmouth Docks as was; he is publishing a book on the history of the Docks so the evening promises to be entertaining.

Their recent AGM failed to produce either a chair or a Treasurer so if you feel their activities would be a good use of your time and energies, please contact Ian Cann at galescann@gmail.com

Action for Happiness

The course has now concluded successfully and I'm told that the following comments were volunteered as feedback:

'Helped me cope with negatives'. 'Time to reflect on what matters'. 'Met like-minded people'. 'Better understanding of self and people'. 'Raised my consciousness'. 'insight', 'peace', 'relaxation', 'humour', 'happiness'.

A tribe of 'happiness spreaders' have thus come together who, with Dawn & Ian, plan to further spread what they've discovered together! Ian has already managed to open a Budleigh Happy Cafe. Watch out for announcements on the Facebook Page '@HappyExmouth' or the Twitter Account '@AFHExmouth' or contact Dawn by email afh4dawn@gmail.com

Fracking

Our MP Hugo Swire has responded to several requests for him to clarify his position on potential fracking here. He has reproduced a response from the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. From that letter:

'I fully understand and appreciate people's concerns about fracking, but let me reassure you that the Government is creating a regulatory regime that provides clear, strong protections for the environment. With these in place, I think it is right that we explore and make use of shale gas and oil. The opportunity to extract this energy, as well as to secure jobs and investment, cannot be ignored.'

We are still unclear about Hugo's own position on Fracking in East Devon

Seafront Grass!!

If you go down to the Seafront today and find that patch of grass adjacent to where the swingboats swing in the summer, you will find that it looks a mess! A member tells me that this appears to be an ill-considered and badly executed attempt to save rare grasses that previously have been living in peace where the new car park is being built nearby. The member wants our members to query this with EDDC, complaining that the area has been vandalised; it certainly is a loss of amenity. Is this to be a permanent site for the grasses I wonder? Will they survive there? Is the area to be properly fenced in instead of the Haras panels there now? The grass-covered sand dunes that were a notable feature of our seafront were destroyed under the feet of thousands of sand-tobogganing holidaymakers, will these 'refugee' grasses fare any better in that location?

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>

We are all familiar with the 4Rs but here is Sarah's 7Rs take on that mnemonic: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rot, Recycle, Return. After our AGM. Sarah agreed to my publishing her notes so here is her 3rd inspiring instalment, on REUSE:

- Charity shops for clothes, gifts, toys, household items. Just keep passing around things we don't need to buy new.
- Switched disposables items with reusables (tissues to hankies, wipes use flannels, kitchen roll/dish cloths to reusable cloths instead).
- Reusables in handbag (tip out bag, blog post: 5 plastic free tips for out and about)
- Reuse wrapping paper (only bought new twice), cards become gift tags, paper used on both sides.

Thanks Sarah.

Local Grants – still open for Projects

A new grant called the Exmouth Community Fund is in its first year for Exmouth, replacing the former Parishes Together funding. The deadline for applications to be the 2nd January with a competitive presentation event to decide the awards on 21 February.

£31000 is up for grabs and 12 lucky community groups will benefit but with free money to hand, there was hardly an overwhelming response to my appeal last month for you to come forward with your projects. I have discussed this with several people but some of our activities would not meet the criteria and yet others are potentially large and complex and we will have difficulty squeezing out a suitable sized bite of these to qualify. We have one likely contender but Transition Exmouth can apply for grants for several distinct projects so there is still time (just) for you to approach Treasurer Doreen and myself with an idea.

LETS Social & Trading Evening

You are warmly invited to the Exmouth LETS Social and Trading evening between 7pm and 9pm on Tuesday, 11 December at the Devoncourt Hotel bar, Douglas Avenue. Open to everyone, why not join Exmouth LETS members for drinks from the bar, chat and **cash-free** trading. A relaxed evening, it's also your chance to enjoy the hotel's legendary Christmas lights. If you have any seasonal items you'd like to trade for Cockles, please bring them along.

Sustainable Exmouth

Work has started on the new car park and road re-alignment while EDDC have in a planning application extending the life of the temporary attractions and at last action from Wayne Hemingway. Invitations have gone out to an event at the Town Hall on 11th December; our members who were previously involved are included.

This is what Wayne says:

Following the visioning event held in June, we had a remarkable response to the online survey with over 1,200 people sharing their views. We are grateful for the level of enthusiasm for 'positive change' and would like to share and discuss with you our findings and emerging thoughts for the Queens Drive Phase 3 redevelopment.

Aside from what Wayne may actually be reporting back (and we have great expectations!) my advice to those attending is to consider whether this 'findings & emerging thoughts' is the further consultation promised, it hardly fits the description of a 'public' event and although we don't know how many have been invited, the Town Hall can't accommodate many, certainly few of the 1200 responders! I think that is an important issue since many, even of our own members, will want to have a further say.

SUEZ and the EWP

Yes Suez's on the map again. On our behalf, Grant Shipcott has been in contact with both Suez about another visit to their materials recycling centre at Greendale and with Devon County Council about a visit to the Exeter incinerator (err sorry: the 'Energy from Waste Plant') operated by Viridor/Tiru S.A.

We should all be aware that none of our black bin waste actually goes to landfill; it gets burnt. At the plant's opening ceremony, Viridor's Chief Executive Ian McAulay proclaimed: *"We want people to see waste differently and as a resource, not just the spoils of every day life waiting for disposal"*. So that's OK people, obviously the more waste the better! There are many questions that we should be asking. Grant cannot pursue the arrangements further so would those wishing to visit either facility please contact me and we'll set something up.

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

This Saturday morning 1st December

Repair Cafe 10.00 at the Methodist Church, Tower Street. Don't scrap it, repair it!

29-minutes. Green Drinks, and Quiz Draw

Thursday 6th December 19.30 at The Park

Show of Hands Exmouth dates

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 6, 7, & 8th December at the Pavilion

Men's Meet up Thursday 13th December

Every 2nd Thursday at Ocean, 10.00

Deadline for Exmouth Community Grants - 2nd January

Applications must be in by 2nd January. Presentation event 21st February.

ECS talk Wednesday 17 April

ECS talk Ian Dowell on Exmouth Docks - details TBA

And Finally

Hurray for the Swedes, a group of women there have started a social media campaign, pledging not to fly. In case you can read Swedish, here is the link:

<http://www.vihallerospajorden.se/> look for FLYGFRITT 2019

I've taken the pledge but I guess there's no point in inviting them here to speak at a 29-minutes! Perhaps a video link?

Despite the storm clouds over our heads, let me wish all our members & supporters a Merry Christmas. Although our resources are few, I see around me ample evidence that our years of persistence with our mission have not gone unnoticed!

ENDS