

# Transition Exmouth Newsletter for Members and Supporters

## February '19

Sorry about the weather but remember folks, it's winter! What better to do this weekend than sit in the warm and read your Transition Exmouth newsletter? Note in the Dates for your Diary that there are several interesting events happening over the next few days!

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 Chris Woodward, the Jurassic Coast Trust Ambassador as well as an Exmouth & District U3A Trustee. The title of his talk in January, which I gather went down well, was:

*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.*

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Extinction Rebellion

Extinction Rebellion is a fast-growing movement whose members, despairing of inaction by our political leaders, are involved in non-violent direct action. Their local focus is on a successful push for DCC to declare a climate emergency:

(<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/county-council-to-meet-un-emissions-target-as-devon-becomes-carbon-neutral/>). Our very own Climate activists Anne-Marie Culhane, Mary Culhane and Anne Bentham, have signed up and, will tell us what it's all about. 19.30 at The Park Hotel, 114 Exeter Road, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1QH.

Anne-Marie is co-facilitating a Non-violent direct action training session in Exeter on Monday evening 4th Feb with Extinction Rebellion Come along. Its free. To book click:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nvda-training-exeter-xr-tickets-55602090349>

<https://rebellion.earth/>

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Wild Exmouth

Debs Rylands started in post a few weeks ago 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 yet to be 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!

## 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

Transition Exmouth members did not apply for a grant from the Exmouth Community Fund, administered by the Town Council. The bids however are all in and the awards process is described as follows:

*Decisions on applications will be made at a special Exmouth Community Funding event to be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019; all eligible applicants must attend. Applicants should be aware that all projects will be considered carefully but not all will be funded.*

*Applicants need to give a short presentation to pitch for their funding, in the same manner as the popular TV show "Dragons' Den".*

*A panel consisting of two Councillors from Exmouth Town Council, East Devon District Council or Devon County Council, and two Officers with some funding knowledge will ask a few questions pertaining to how well the project meets the fund aims.*

*Everyone attending the event will at the end be asked to vote for the projects they would most like to receive the funding. They'll be able to choose several projects, depending on how many eligible applications are received. The projects with the most votes will be granted the funding they've asked for. All applicants will be informed simultaneously on the day the outcome of their application.*

Some in our group have been invited on their own account but we have been asked to send a representative. Since I am unlikely to be in town, would anyone like to go and represent us? Please contact me ASAP.

## Website

Rob Masding has offered to update our Website with the latest newsletters. I agreed to take over the role of Webmaster but personal circumstances have not allowed me time to get to grips with this. Anyone want to volunteer to do it?

## Trees

Simon Pardoe continues to discuss with the NT tree planting at Lower Halsdon farm this winter. The latest position is that in March they want to plant some 'standards' in their

hedgerows and these would not require the expensive protective fencing. Simon has been assured that the trees will be visible from the public path. Several people paid up-front for the tree-planting component of their membership so we have a budget for this and are awaiting final details. Get in touch if you want to volunteer to plant them. See also my postscript to the 29-Minute item.

## **East Devon and Blackdown Hills Landscape Character Assessment**

East Devon District Council are still consulting on the draft Landscape Character Assessment, which can be viewed at <http://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/2718201/east-devon-lca-draft-for-cmtte-sept-2018-low-res.pdf>

The period for you to submit comments ends 9.00 am on Monday 4 February. Comments will need to be received by this deadline or they may not be considered. They would be happy to receive your written observations by email to [planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk).

## **COLP & Neighbourhood Plan**

Despite our urging more immediate action, the Town Council have again insisted that the COLP Terms of Reference, which need updating, will be reviewed only on completion of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy, which itself cannot be decided until NP adoption. Along with the other community groups on COLP (ECO) we have made our displeasure known and have registered our concern that COLP's role should continue as originally envisaged, whatever form community involvement in the NPIG eventually takes. The issue is that COLP is jointly owned by the groups and the TC whereas the NP implementation will be wholly owned by the TC!

As for the NP itself, thanks to the hard work of the NPSG, the plan is currently with the planning inspectorate for final approval before being put to the public at a referendum in March. We need to gear up for the implementation process by building on the hard work done by Andy & Rob in pushing for a raft of sustainability measures.

## **Plastic Waste Reduction Campaigns**

So is Exmouth on its way to becoming a single-use plastic town? Cllr Tim Dumper tells me that the Town Council working group has met informally and will convene formally in April; they have started on their work despite the looming elections in May starting to overshadow Council business.

In front of the Full Council on Monday will be the recommendation that they sponsor a new category, an Environmental Impact Award, in the Exmouth Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. This would be presented to a company that has made changes to

improve their environmental impact, including waste management, sustainable transport, energy consumption, behavioural change and by request of the working Group, plastic reduction. Tim stresses that the TC is fully behind environmental action so well done and we anticipate our own involvement in the great efforts ahead.

## Exmouth Wildlife Group

Regular readers will remember that Jan Gannaway and Heath Nickels have formed the Exmouth Wildlife Group and, anticipating involvement in the Neighbourhood Plan's Biodiversity Action Plan (action point 16.1), have been out surveying. They also want to work with the Wild Exmouth team in this and have given me to understand that already in that project are new wildlife meadows and a commitment to survey all Exmouth's green spaces. They hope that the Wild Exmouth project, although only budgeted for three years will leave a lasting legacy.

Jan and Heath have also alerted me to a major change in planning law that the Government are consulting on. This time it seems to be good news!

A very brief and part précis is that 'Biodiversity Net Gain' can be ensured by requiring potential developers to do biodiversity surveys of the land in a fixed format that will produce a quantitative result in 'Biodiversity Units'. The Developer would then have to demonstrate that as a result of the development, Biodiversity on the land would be increased. The proposal is that failing this test, the gain could be achieved on another site or instead a significant payment would be extracted by the planning authority that would be ring-fenced for achieving biodiversity gain elsewhere.

This proposal, if enacted, would set England on a track that will reverse the appalling biodiversity loss that we have become so used to over the last ... actually over the last millennia! Jan and Heath hope that our readers will take take the time to respond positively to the DEFRA consultation:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/net-gain/consultation/>

## Public Access

Jan is also pursuing the public access provisions of the Neighbourhood Plan as anticipated. To this end she has marked a map with the 96 public footpaths in and around Exmouth and wants volunteers to walk these and report back to her. So if the weather ever improves why not contact Jan on [exmouthwildlife@gmail.com](mailto:exmouthwildlife@gmail.com) and take a walk?

## 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 on RECYCLE:

- Anything not able to be dealt with using the previous "R's" is recycled if possible.
- Kerb-side: plastic bottles and containers, glass, tins/cans, textiles, shoes, batteries, paper, cardboard, electrical items and foil. ([www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk), scroll down to 'Recycling and Rubbish', click and then click on 'A-Z of recycling and disposals')
- Tesco/Coop: plastic food bags from things like fruit, bread, frozen peas, cereal bags etc. to be recycled with carrier bags. (I have a lot less than I used to but still have some)
- Sainsburys Pinhoe Road: Plastic film such as the non-stretchy type around products like spinach, the top of ham packets and cheese bags.
- Recycling labelling- often plastic inside cardboard (do the squeeze test) "Not Yet Recycled", this simply means less than 20% of local authorities collect it across the UK, it doesn't actually mean you can't recycle it. (link <https://plasticfreeportal.com/reduce-reuse-recycle-superboosted>)

Thanks Sarah.

## **Sustainable Exmouth**

No news on Hemingway's next presentation.

## **Happy Cafe**

The project to open a Happy Cafe in Exmouth is still at the discussion stage. Ian helped start the one in Budleigh's Health Centre (Point 110, Budleigh Salterton Health & Wellbeing Hub, East Budleigh Road) so Exmouth can't be far behind! Anyone who has energy and experience to offer in a long-term commitment, please get in touch.

## **Bread Club**

Bread Club did meet at the end of last year and although the organisers are busy with other things at present, it will rise again!

## Social Media and Website

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

You can contact me Adrian Toole, Chair, on [transitionexmouth@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Exeter LETS Trading Day – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Friends Meeting House Wynards Lane Magdalen Street EXETER EX2 4HU. Trading and shared lunch, from 11am - 2pm. The next is scheduled for 6th April.

### Molly Scott Cato on Green priorities for Brexit - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Saturday, 2 February·11:00 – 13:00, Exeter Community Centre, 17 St. Davids Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG. Morning session open to public, afternoon session for GP members only.

### Exmouth Repair Cafe - Saturday, 2 February

Monthly on the first Saturday, 10.00 – 13.00, Exmouth Methodist church, Tower Street.

### Non-violent Direct-action Training - Monday 4th Feb

With Extinction Rebellion. Come along, get active; its free. To book click:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nvda-training-exeter-xr-tickets-55602090349>

<https://rebellion.earth/>

### 29-minutes, Extinction Rebellion - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Extinction Rebellion, 19.30 at The Park

### Men's Meet up Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday upstairs at Ocean, 11.00

### East Devon Green Party February Event - Tuesday 19th February

The Marine Conservation Society on 'Making a Difference to Our Seas'.

EDGP on Tuesday 19th February will host a talk by Jules Agate about the work of the Marine Conservation Society, the threats our seas face today and the things that everyone can do to help. This is an open event, all are welcome.

The talk will take place at the Telfer Centre, Exmouth Community College, Gypsy Lane, EX8 3AF. Refreshments will be available from 7.00pm and the talk will commence at 7.30, followed by discussion.

### **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!

### **ECS talk Wednesday 17 April**

ECS talk Ian Dowell on Exmouth Docks - details TBA

### **And Finally**

Zoe Williams of Exchange & Mart wants me to publicise their The Beginners Guide to Driving Electric Cars and why not?: <http://www.exchangeandmart.co.uk/electric-cars-guide>

Their guide mentions the Government grants available for charging points. To my knowledge, East Devon has none (anyone know whether their new HQ in Honiton has any?). So lets get on and lobby our EDDC Councillors to get some installed in Exmouth.

ENDS