

Transition Exmouth Newsletter for Members and Supporters

January '19

For those who have not yet paid their subs, 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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Another year passed (I've been writing this newsletter for five years now!) and it's not been all bad news; our cat Zebedee returned anyway!

There are things to celebrate both in Exmouth and globally So Happy New Year to you all from the Transition Exmouth Umbrella Group

29-minute Session – Thursday 3rd

Firstly Thanks to Lorraine Ross, the ever-friendly face at Mother Earth, the health shop in the Strand who impressed us at the start of December with her passion for healthy living.

Next Thursday, 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! 19.30 at The Park Hotel, 114 Exeter Road, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1QH.

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 Results

With help from donations, we were able to give away three 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.

I have to be honest and admit that I don't remember who the winners were but here are the Q&A 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? *Ans: IPCC, Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change*
- Q2 what does anthropogenic mean? *Ans: Originating in human activity*
- Q3 What temperature increase is the IPCC now recommending as a limit to what our civilisation can cope with? *Ans: 1.5 deg C*

- 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? *Ans: Exmouth*
- 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? *Ans: the environment Agency will be making improvements to revetments and raising walls by up to 0.5m, within the next five years. Note, there is a further commitment to more extensive wall-raising by 0.5-1.2m between 2030 and 2110 to keep pace with climate change.*

Exmouth Community Fund

Sad to say that I have had no substantive response to my appeal for projects that we could put forward as applications to this fund of nearly £31000.

Website

With the departure of Rob Masding who did sterling service maintaining the Website. I agreed to take over the role of Webmaster. Alas my personal circumstances have not allowed me time to get to grips with this and although the Website exists and is the means by which people may sign up to get these newsletters, nothing has been updated.

East Devon and Blackdown Hills Landscape Character Assessment

East Devon District Council, working with partners commissioned Fiona Fyfe Associates to produce a new Landscape Character Assessment and are now consulting on a draft report.

The draft Landscape Character Assessment 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 runs from Thursday 6 December 2018 to 9.00 am on Monday 4 February 2019. 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 either email or post which should be sent to: Planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk or Planning Policy, East Devon District Council, Knowle, Sidmouth EX10 8HL.

COLP

Despite our urging more immediate action, the Town Council have decided that the COLP Terms of Reference, which need updating, will be reviewed only on completion of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy, which cannot be decided until NP adoption. As for that process, we were advised in November that the final steps are to:

1. secure the approval of the Examiner [might well have been secured already],
2. secure the approval of the District Council,
3. get the support of Exmouth voters in a referendum.

The town is on track towards a referendum next March. Since community organisation participation in the NP implementation is necessary, it will not surprise me if COLP does not continue in its current form and remember that as currently constituted, COLP is jointly owned by the groups and the TC, the NP implementation will be wholly owned by the TC!

Plastic Waste Reduction Campaigns

In my last newsletter, I mentioned briefly that member Cllr. Tim Dumper was successful with his motion to the Town Council to consider practical actions to reduce plastic waste.

Following is an extract from the TC minutes of 26 November:

C18/148. Review of the motion from Councillor T Dumper to set up a working party to consider practical actions to reduce plastic waste and implement them by working with other groups. Both Councillor L Elson and Councillor S Gazzard confirmed that their groups were in support of the motion and that like local businesses the Town Council should move forward with acting to reduce use of plastics.

Councillor T Dumper, proposed, seconded by Councillor L Elson, that the Town Council sets up a working party to consider practical actions to reduce plastic waste and implement them by working with other groups.

RESOLVED that the Town Council sets up a working party to consider practical actions to reduce plastic waste and implement them by working with other groups.

The Chairman confirmed that Councillors R Masding, T Dumper, K Norton and B De Saram had expressed an interest in joining the working party.

So is Exmouth on its way to becoming a single-use plastic town? Lets congratulate Tim and help the Councillors make a real difference.

DCC Climate Emergency?

As urged by Claire Wright, I wrote as follows to our DCC Councillors in support of a Climate Emergency motion tabled by Councillor Jacqi Hodgson.

'Dear Councillors Scott & Trail

Today Councillor Jacqi Hodgson will propose a motion to Full Council to declare a climate emergency. I urge you to support it.

The recent report from scientists on the IPCC makes clear that life on our planet faces an existential crisis; the worst effects of which are yet avoidable by achieving rapid and dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

I commend Devon County Council for its foresight and leadership on addressing climate change. In particular the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2014 which underpins the Council's strategies, action plans, public statements and advice to businesses, residents and parish councils. However, current plans and actions are not enough; we need far more ambitious action and we need it NOW.

I therefore call on you to back the Climate Emergency motion on Thursday which will commit Devon County Council to make the county of Devon carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions; call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible; work with other governments both within the UK and internationally to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C; continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans; and report to Full Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.

Thank-you. I look forward to hearing from you and trust you will be able to assure me of your support for this motion. '

I later received the following updates from Councillor Richard Scott:

'The motion has been referred to Cabinet for consideration.'

and from Cllr Jeff Trail BEM.

'Many thanks for your email. Cllr Scott and I will listen to all arguments relating to climate and vote accordingly if and when required.'

Exmouth Friends in Need

Exmouth Friends in Need is a Facebook group run by a lovely lady, who has done wonders to help those struggling, particularly over the Christmas period. And done with compassion, and dignity.

Whether you are wanting to help or in need of something, why not check it out?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2221982244741759/?ref=share>

IPCC Report and You

In their latest report, the IPCC scientists are really urging action to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 deg C. New in this report is a direct address to consumers, i.e. You and me.

To summarise Here's what consumers can do:

*Transportation: travel less, with a preference shift to more sustainable choices: car-sharing, hybrid and electric cars. The report also looks at using more efficient modes of travel, e.g. swapping cars, trucks and planes to buses and trains.

*Buildings: the IPCC suggests that people shift to more sustainable behaviour when it comes to their homes, for example using smart thermostats or more efficient air conditioners (this is for Americans, lets hope the UK does not go down the road of ubiquitous A/C!).

*Diets: the IPCC's narrative suggests that people need to consume about 30% less animal products. Eating less meat is one of a number of mitigation strategies suggested by the IPCC to overhaul agricultural and land-use practices, including the protection of forests. The livestock sector is estimated to account for 14.5% of greenhouse gas emissions globally, more than direct emissions from the transport sector.

If you want a depressing summary of the current situation but also some positive actions:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46384067>

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 REPAIR:

- Clothes mending
- Anything else try to fix; repair cafe [This year starting February on first Saturday of each month in Tower St. Methodist church, 10.00 - 13.00].

and on ROT:

- Home compost and used in garden to grow some of our own veg
- Council green bins

Thanks Sarah.

You might also like to look at DCC's newsletter that contains much 'green' advice:<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/christmas-the-most-wonderful-time-of-the-year-and-the-most-wasteful/>

Exeter Peace Shop in Resurgence

I found myself in print in Resurgence, not actually for some fully researched must-read article but instead a letter to correct an omission in the previous edition whereby in an article about Exeter the writer didn't apparently know about the Exeter Peace Shop at 31 New Bridge Street. The shop has been there for decades run by dedicated volunteers and deserves not only a plug but the thanks of the whole disarmament movement.

Anglican Green Action Newsletter

Thanks to Joannie Harris of the Exeter Diocese who is retiring after many years of editing their Green Action News (amongst other duties). from her last newsletter:

This is my final mailing in the Devon Churches Green Action series as I step back to retire in a few weeks' time. Its origins were in a news bulletin which began as a paper circulation in the 1990s under the title 'Creation, Community and Church' and gradually evolved into this monthly emailing.

I hope to continue my own personal writing in due course but will be taking a break of some months. Thank you all for your interest and support in our work over the past years/decades.

I trust the churches in Devon will continue to be a beacon of challenge and change in the face of the ecological crises we face, working ever more for social and environmental justice. For the future please contact David Curry for information from January 2019: david.curry@arocha.org

I hope their newsletter will continue; anyone who wants to read her last one, I can send you a copy.

Grant Opportunity for Transport Projects

FIT seeks to fund people and projects that will make a really big difference to transport patterns. We favour projects directed to achieve change on the ground, as opposed to reports and policy reviews.

More information here: <http://integratedtransport.co.uk/fit-social-investment-fund/> .

Contact details are info@integratedtransport.co.uk

Planting Trees Without the Effort!!!

I have finally got around to taking up Rob Masding's suggestion to use ECOSIA as my search engine and all their profits go to planting trees!

Just visit www.ecosia.org and follow instructions. I just did it and it added itself to Firefox. in a few seconds. Not sure whether it works on any other Web browser.

Sustainable Exmouth

I have notes from members Andy Lock and Anne-Marie Culhane who attended, along with 50 others, the recent meeting with Wayne Hemingway. Thanks very much to them.

I can share their report with any member who asks.

Hemingway presented his survey results (available on his Website). The research provided direction to a design approach for the execution of any ideas which are contemporary, eclectic, and environmentally sensitive. The design brief is broadly intended to reflect the local topography, sea-front location and use of 'natural' materials wherever possible.

Hemingway shared 12 concepts which were presented as highly finished designs. He emphasised however that these are for consideration only and that at THIS STAGE the discussion remains entirely open and not only are new ideas welcome but that the designs themselves will require further consideration as the entire plan for the site evolves.

It would appear however that nothing truly innovative has been considered, all the possibilities mentioned can likely be found elsewhere and thus our report's note of a lack

of vision seems justified. Seems that Tourist Resort marketing is the intention and facilities that would really please us did not get much support. Our yardstick must remain:

'A FORWARD-LOOKING ECO-DESIGN THAT FEATURES ALL THE LATEST THINKING IN MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION AND RENEWABLE UTILITIES.'

We can yet revert to Hemingway with proposals but he was clear that a commercial case must be made out for the profitability of the whole.

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

29-minutes @ Green Drinks 3rd January

Chris Woodward 19.30 at The Park

Exmouth gig Saturday 5th

No not messing about in boats, Ian Wycherley's band Something About Mary has a gig in Exmouth on Sat 5 Jan.

The Grapevine on Saturday 5th , playing from 9pm. Ian hopes to see you there

Men's Meet up Thursday 10th January

Every 2nd Thursday at Ocean, 11.00

Eden Project Free 2 hour workshop on getting people involved in your group Tues 15 Jan 6-8pm

'Oh We Already Have Enough Helpers!' Said No-one Ever: The Art of Bringing in Others, recruiting volunteers, attracting customers, finding new core members - bringing people in to your community project can be an ongoing struggle!

Come and share challenges and ideas, hear tips and stories which have worked for others, and learn from whatever brought you to your project in the first place.

This relaxed, open workshop will take place online, please email Peter at:

plefort@edenproject.com for joining instructions.

Exeter Vegan Market - Saturday 19 January

Here are the remaining dates for the year: Saturday 16 March, Saturday 25 May, Saturday 20 July, Saturday 14 September. All at the Corn Exchange

ECS talk Wednesday 17 April

ECS talk Ian Dowell on Exmouth Docks - details TBA

And Finally

Thinking of a holiday close to home, taking a craft-skill workshop or just looking for a good organic lunch, why not try Trill Farm: <https://www.trillfarm.co.uk/pages/about-us>

Thanks to Turn Lyme Green for that link

ENDS