

Greetings from Transition Exmouth

Members' and Supporters' newsletter from Transition Exmouth (TXE).
November & December 2014.

From Chair, Adrian Toole aka @GreenManExmouth

email: tte.inform@gmail.com

All events (ours and others that I am aware of) will be on our calendar at www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk

Contents:

1. Name Change
2. Christmas Party
3. Noel
4. TTE Film and Discussion evenings
5. Community Allotment – Last Chance!
6. LETS News
7. Sustainable Exmouth
8. COLP
9. Umbrella Group Meetings
10. Membership & Subscriptions
11. Social Media and Website
12. The Buturi Project
13. XCycle Christmas Bike Ride
14. COIN: Climate Outreach & Information Network
15. Around the Region
16. And Finally

1. Name Change

A debate and vote on a name change was taken at the end of the last film & discussion evening as planned. The vote was to adopt 'Transition Exmouth'; to avoid confusion with Exeter, this is to be abbreviated to 'TXE'.

Please bear with us while we (mainly Rob) makes all the necessary changes.

2. Christmas Party

The TXE Christmas Party will be courtesy of Green Drinks and at Green Drinks' regular venue on Green Drinks' regular date.

There will be food provided, with plenty for veggies and even vegans at a price of only £5. It would help in ordering the food if people would contact me in advance. First come first served! Drinks will have to be bought from the bar.

Thursday 4th December from 19.30 at The Park Hotel, 114 Exeter Rd, Exmouth EX8 1QH. Hope to see you there.

3. Noel Harrower

Noel has made a good recovery and although he will not be taking up the role of Secretary again he will still participate and sit on the UG. I am looking for a new TXE Secretary.

Further information on TXE can be obtained from our website:

www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk. Anyone interested in this post is invited in the first instance to email Chair Adrian Toole – tte.inform@gmail.com.

4. TTE Film and Discussion evenings

This initiative was planned by Noel who suffered considerable time in hospital after falling on the way to the first meeting, but who made it to the third for which the film was InTransition 2 a motivating and at times moving account of Transition initiatives around the world. Representatives from “SidEnergy” spoke briefly after the film .

Noel felt many elderly people were reluctant to come out on winter evenings but might in warmer weather so Noel and Rob may be continuing with another series in the Spring

5. Community Allotment – Last Chance!

Glenorchy hopes to become an “eco-congregation/church”. To this end, they had tried to start a community allotment but nobody has come forward to work the plot, which they will soon be forced to relinquish. Gwen Jennings
gwenjennings@gmail.com

6. LETS News

The LETS AGM managed to find volunteers to fill the roles on the Core Group and we even have a new 'Events Organiser' Dave McAuley. Yours truly agreed to be the liaison between LETS and TXE.

Exmouth LETS (Local Exchange Trading System) is a not-for-profit, community-based barter system. It comprises individuals and groups from

Exmouth and surrounding areas who have pooled their skills and resources to form a local network that allows members to trade goods and services without using money in line with TXEs drive for local resilience. Instead, Exmouth LETS has its own virtual 'currency', the Cockle. Exmouth LETS is managed by a Core Group, elected by the members. Why not visit their Website <http://www.exmouthlets.org.uk>

7.Sustainable Exmouth

We are grateful to the Town Clerk Lisa Bowman for organising the opportunity for Andy Lock, accompanied by Adrian, to give a presentation, “Sustainable Exmouth”, to the town’s Regeneration & General Purposes Committee On Monday 24th. We had a very positive reception. It is expected that a developer will be revealed very soon for part of the Queens Drive Development (QDD). Adrian and Andy will approach the Developer to urge sustainable design.

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/SustExm.pdf>

8. COLP

TXE is represented by myself and Rob Masding, an addition volunteer for standby would be welcome.

Expanding the Represented Community Groups

One agenda item we pushed is that of expanding the represented community groups. We approached Churches Together In Exmouth (CTE) and Rev. James Hutchings, the Holy Trinity Team Rector spoke at the November COLP meeting describing CTE's social involvement in the town and asserting that CTE would be an asset to COLP. A vote was taken asking the Town Council to issue an invitation to CTE to join.

Integrated Transport Interchange (ITI)

DCC's plan for stage 1 of the ITI is now to happen. COLP generally welcomed the last-minute changes that ECA had achieved but Zebra Xing is to be built and the long-term future of the subway is not secure.

I do not report in these pages everything that happens in COLP but can share this with anyone who is interested.

9.Umbrella Group Meetings

These are now occurring at six-weekly intervals. Any member who wants to attend and shape the future is welcome, the next is on Monday 5th January, 14.30 in the Town Hall Committee room.

Anyone who wants to help with any of our projects, please get in touch.

10. Membership & Subscriptions

We have 29 paid up members this year plus 271 newsletter subscribers. Joining is easily done at any of our events or by dropping in a note at Rob's Flat 3, 134 Exeter Road, EX8 1QG or to me at 16 Bicton Street, EX8 2RU. Membership is only £1

11. Social Media and Website

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk>. Thanks to Rob for updating the Website, it will be amended to reflect our new name. Now contains Andy's sustainable Exmouth presentation under 'Groups'.

@GreenManExmouth continues his tweeting, not always on TTE items but always seeking to entertain so be prepared for the bizarre!

Simon maintains the Green Drinks Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/15416577788/>

but also see our international listing:
<http://www.greendrinks.org/Devon/Exmouth>

12. The Buturi Project

Judith Smith, director of the Exmouth charity, The Buturi Project came and talked at the recent UG meeting. Buturi is in Tanzania, is an extended village of 40k people much in need of development, and already badly impacted by Climate Change. Judith is convinced that their future should lie in taking up the concepts of sustainability that Andy Lock has been describing to Councillors in Exmouth!

We are often pointing out the need to reduce energy waste here in East Devon but it was sobering to hear Judith describe the marginal existence that residents of Buturi have to endure; most have no electricity or clean water and Government services are minimal.

The future for all of us surely lies with a consumption of energy and natural resources somewhere between the two cultures? David Ireson and Noel will be

considering whether we could effect some communication with them and help Judith's fundraising. www.buturi-project.org

13 XCycle Christmas Bike Ride

After the Christmas swim and the Boxing Day Run, shed even more of those Christmas calories, by joining us on a festive bike ride to Budleigh Salterton and back via the old railway cycle path and quiet lanes. Don't even think about starting the car or joining the sales rush, just enjoy the bracing sea air and convivial company. Saturday 27th December, 11.00 a.m. Meet at lower entrance of Phear Park.

Lunch in Budleigh , venue to be decided on the day, or bring your own leftovers. Bring your friends; children are especially welcome (if accompanied by responsible adults!). Contact organiser Elinor on 07929732181 or 01395268301 for more details. She strongly advises helmets, gloves, and yellow vests; she can supply some of the latter if required. At present we have no 3-party liability insurance so participation is undertaken at own risk. I'll be there if windsurfing is impossible! Hope to see you

14. COIN: Climate Outreach & Information Network

A plug for COIN, Climate Outreach & Information Network; they cover a lot of the topics we are interested in at <http://www.climateoutreach.org.uk/>

For example, here are extracts from COIN's report 'Young Voices' on young people's attitude towards climate change issues:

- Climate change is fundamentally about the 'here and now' – describing the effect it will have on future generations, undermines the urgency of the problem.
- They want to hear how climate change affects those aspects of their everyday lives that they are passionate about - but communicators must take care not to 'trivialise' the issue by failing to link the 'personal' to the 'political'.
- Fighting organised scepticism is mostly seen as a waste of energy. Scepticism is relatively uncommon among the young and talking 'solutions not science' is a much better approach.
- They often find it hard to talk about climate change with their peers - there was a fear that talking about climate change would set them apart as 'preachy' or 'un-cool'.
- There is widespread doubt that there is a 'concerned majority' among the general public who support action on climate change - communicating a

‘social consensus’ on climate action may be just as important as the scientific consensus.

- They have very little faith in mainstream politicians; ask young people to challenge (not support) politicians on climate policies. Policies and campaign messages should clearly set out what needs to be done – who, when, where and what young people can do to make a difference.
- Climate jargon is unfamiliar and off-putting; they want to hear about specific policies and how these relate to protecting the things they love and are passionate about.

15. Around the Region

Sidmouth

Vision for Sidmouth

<https://www.visionforsidmouth.org/>

Community Energy Company Sid Energy

<http://www.sidenergy.co.uk/membership-share-offer/>

Exeter

Exeter Transition <http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/>

Exeter Community Energy <http://www.ecoe.org.uk/>

Ottery

<http://sustainableottery.co.uk>

Transition Town Honiton

<http://www.transitiontownhoniton.org.uk/>

16. And Finally

Merry Christmas to you all (maybe I'll catch up with the deadlines in the new year?)

Adrian Toole (Chair)

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk/tte.inform@gmail.com>

Please be aware that we do not look at the TTE email every day!