



Members' newsletter from Transition Town Exmouth (TTE)

October 2014. From Chair, Adrian Toole aka @GreenManExmouth email: tte.inform@gmail.com

Sorry that there was no September newsletter. Blame it on holidays, which always set me back weeks. In the good old days, when I was doing a proper job somewhere, one just left the workbench, had a relaxing holiday and returned to pick up the work that someone else had been diligently doing. It's not like that now!

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

Contents:

1. Noel
2. TTE Film and Discussion evenings
3. LETS
4. Sustainable Exmouth
5. COLP and Integrated Transport Interchange
6. Umbrella Group Meetings
7. Membership & Subscriptions
8. Green Drinks
9. Social Media and Website
10. Electrosmog, Health & the Environment
11. Holiday in Devon
12. Guild of Independent Currencies
13. Around the Region
14. And Finally

1. Noel Harrower

Noel had an accident last week as he was heading out. His stick slipped on the tiled path and he fell breaking his arm. This would be a setback for anyone but for Noel a disaster. As I write he is still in Wonford Hospital. The prognosis is good but it will take time to heal up and in the meantime, Noel is very disabled. It is not clear where he is to go to recover but he may well be away from home, from computer, and telephone for many weeks. We wish him all the best.

I therefore have an urgent need for someone to step in as Secretary and Noel has provided the following job description:

This voluntary post is key to the development of the Transition Town group in Exmouth. Noel Harrower, the current holder, is in hospital and unable to continue with his responsibilities.

The person appointed will be responsible to the Chairman/Membership Officer, Adrian Toole, and will be assisted by the Treasurer, Robert Masding, and also by the Publicity Officer (if and when appointed).

The work includes:

- Minuting and following up decisions made by the core group (currently called the Umbrella) and circulating the minutes, when approved. The Umbrella meets every six weeks on Monday afternoons in Exmouth Town Hall. It has links with Exmouth Town Council through membership of COLP (The Exmouth Community Organisations' Liaison Panel), which also meets regularly to advise on matters relating to the sustainable development of the town.*
- Maintaining links with the National Transition Movement, with TTE's own working groups and with some other community groups in the town.*
- Working with the Umbrella on the development of projects. Current ones include a local food initiative, a plan aiming to promote Exmouth as a UK model sustainable holiday resort, links with local churches, and low carbon energy groups which help with tree planting and cycling and other transport issues.*

Essential skills include an ability to use a computer and to communicate easily with people, together with an understanding about the need for sustainable life styles.

Knowledge of the broad principles relating to climate change and experience in developing websites, power point presentation and the delivery of talks to groups would be most useful assets.

Further information can be obtained from the following website:

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

2.TTE Film and Discussion evenings

Noel was in fact walking out to his lift to the first Film and Discussion Evening at Glenorchy Church Hall.

I was detained out of town and only arrived later so Rob Masding, our host Robert Jennings, and Martin Goss our speaker had to manage without Noel's introduction. A respectable number of people turned out and I gather the film and Martin's presentation were well received. We hope to put Martin's presentation on the Website.

The discussion afterwards seemed to focus on the way ahead for TTE. A strong suggestion was that we should concentrate on Social Media and such means of engagement. So as well as keeping up my @GreenManExmouth Tweets, I shall be endeavouring to embed in this newsletter an easy action you can all take to further our cause. Wish me luck in this!

The remaining events are on the following dates, all starting at 19.30 in the Glenorchy Church hall in Exeter Road, Exmouth EX8 2SS:

- Thursday, 23 October. Joint presentation by our own David Ireson together with Laura McAdam on the subject of Climate Justice. Laura is Regional Coordinator of Christian Aid.
- Thursday 20 Nov: In Transition 2, A film about Transition Groups around the world and we follow this by breaking into discussion groups and talk about a new name for TTE. On this occasion we hope to have use of the kitchen.

The idea of starting an Exmouth Transition Town group came originally from just such an event six years ago so come along and get motivated.

3.LETS News

The LETS AGM venue is the Rethink Centre, Meeting Street, Exmouth (behind Glenorchy Church on Exeter Road). Time 17.00 on Saturday 15 November.

As usual, bring something for a shared supper, and they are planning a couple of fun activities for the evening too.

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. Instead of using pounds and pence, Exmouth LETS has its own virtual 'currency', the Cackle. Exmouth LETS is managed by a Core Group, elected by the members. If you've not considered joining why not come along and find out.

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

4. Sustainable Exmouth

Our much-prepared for presentation to John Humphries was delivered by Andy Lock on Monday 13th. This was the prelude to our regular UG meeting at which of course, Noel could not be present. Andy had put a lot of thought into this and you can view it yourself at:

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

John is EDDC Member Champion for Exmouth and Ex-Mayor for Exmouth and we were pleased he found the time to come along.

Andy's theme is that those planning for Exmouth's future have to exhibit some vision. If the old attractions on the seafront are to be done away with, and they are, we have to replace them with something fit for purpose in the eyes of our descendants. Buildings tend to stick around a long time and in decades to come, we will be expecting things of our built environment that today don't seem important so lets make them attractive yes, useable yes, but also Eco-positive, that is they should positively contribute to a better environment.

John promised us that he would take our ideas further and the Town Clerk, Lisa Bowman, who couldn't get to the presentation, is to help us get it further viewings. Well done Andy. You can see Andy's presentation on our Website thanks to Rob's maintenance of it.

In any case a major announcement about, what is now referred to as the QDD, Queens Drive Development is to be made next month.

5. COLP

Following the UG's renewed comittment to engage with civic life, your reps continue to participate in Exmouth's Community Organisation Liaison Panel. One agenda item we have pushed is that of expanding the represented community groups. With several of the original founding groups now either not represented or defunct, we suggested approaching others to join. I tried with the Women's Institute (WI) and Noel with Churches Together In Exmouth (CTE). I had no luck with WI but Noel, who is already active in CTE, has persuaded Revd James Hutchings, the Holy Trinity Team Rector to apply to the Town Council, initially just for an invite as an observer on behalf of CTE. I've heard very good things about James and CTE has already been supportive of TTE so we are very pleased that his invitation has now been issued. James is to be asked at the meeting how he thinks CTE would contribute to COLP. He's not even fazed by the prospect of discussing planning matters! Watch this space!

Integrated Transport Interchange (ITI)

The latest DCC plans are proving controversial. Although ECA submitted a comprehensive plan, this is too comprehensive for anyone to consider however DCC have is money available to be spent on improving the approach to the station only. The money must be spent this winter or lost! So much for joined-up thinking.

So the DCC ('1st Phase') plan will see a much improved frontage to the station and road improvements to include a pedestrian crossing at Marine Way immediately outside the station linking with a new footway to the post box in Imperial Way.

Along with ECA, your TTE reps believe that the pedestrian crossing would cause unnecessary traffic congestion and comprise a risk for both pedestrians and also cyclists using the adjacent NCR. Strategically, this '1st Phase' will make it more likely that, in the long term, we will loose the subway, an asset worth fighting for. The money to be spent on the crossing could be better spent on improving the subway. If money is not spent, the subway will deteriorate further, fewer people will use it, and the argument for it to be filled in will strengthen. The DCC contact for your comments is Rob Hooper, rob.hooper@devon.gov.uk

email Rob Hooper

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

6.Umbrella Group Meetings

These are now occurring at six-weekly intervals. Any member who wants to attend is welcome, the next is on 24 November, 14.30 in the Town Hall Committee room.

As well as reporting on activities and checking the finances, we discuss mainly upcoming events, all of which are reported elsewhere in these pages. A couple of additional items at the October meeting were:

- Noel's plan to hold a fundraising workshop. We are always being told that there are grants available that would do wonders for our projects but we have no fundraiser and no expertise.
- Could we lobby to have the town 'Welcome' boards include the words 'Transition Town'?

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

7. Membership & Subscriptions

We have 27 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

8. Green Drinks - At the Sign of the Green Bottle

Our regular socials continue, hosted by the redoubtable Simon Pardoe. 1st Thursday of every month at the Park Hotel Exeter Rd @19.30. Our group will be easily recognisable amongst the regulars but one of Simon's green table decorations will be there if you have any doubts. Next is Thursday 6th November and I'm looking forward to some cosy winter evenings.

We are considering holding a Christmas get together; look out for details.

9. Social Media and Website

<http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk>. Thanks to Rob for updating the Website. 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>

10. Electrosmog, Health & the Environment

Green Drinks fan Lynne Wycherley has invited a pioneering GP, Dr Andrew Tresidder, to talk about "Electrosensitivity" – how all the pulsing microwaves from our innumerable WiFi routers, tablets, iphones, DECT, smart-meters (etc.) have begun to affect many people's health. Lynne will follow him with recent research on bees, plants etc, children, and emerging cancer /dementia risks etc – She is inspired by early work by Caroline Lucas. Come and find out what industry isn't telling us. (a hot Green topic!) Plus handy tips for calming our homes.

Tues 18 Nov, 2014, 19.30 (free), Temple Methodist Hall, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NG (nearest bus stop:Station Road)

The hall is in the main street with the shops just past Rolle car park (by phone box, parking free after 6). 157/357 bus from Strand Exmouth at 17.35/18.05/18.45 gets in 18.12/18.28/19.04). Lynne recommends Chapel St fish & chips as 'scrumptious! tho' slow'

11 Holiday in Devon

Why not holiday in Devon? Can you honestly say you know it all? Tell your friends who are not so lucky as we living here. Our supporter Dave Coulson-Lowes the proprietor of the Swallows B&B, has launched a new website:
www.aholidayindevon.co.uk

Its all about brining more direct trade to locally owned Devon holiday businesses, who in turn are more likely to spend in the Devon community. In Dave's words: "Below is a list of requests I'm asking my friends to help with in order to bring more attention to the website, whilst I add more content and recruit more businesses. A listing is free for the next 6 months and if you know any locally owned B&B, hotel, places to eat, things to do business owners, I'd be really grateful if you could make them aware of the website, likewise any media connections or journalists."

- Visit the website - www.aholidayindevon.co.uk and have a look around (please feel free to feedback any errors, typos or suggestions)
- Click through to the websites of the businesses featured to generate 'traffic'
- Like A Holiday in Devon on Facebook by clicking through the icon at the bottom of the homepage.
- Follow on Twitter [@aholidayindevon](https://twitter.com/aholidayindevon) and favorite or retweet any of our tweets.
- +1 A Holiday in Devon on Google +
- Send on or share this email with any friends
- Subscribe to the newsletter using the link at the bottom of the homepage
- Add a comment in the News section about any of the events posted in this section - [click here](#) for an example
- For the more technically minded or those with your own website, a link or back-link would be excellent - especially if you're high ranking in searches!

"Anyone or all of the above will really help to boost the rank of the website in any searches people make if looking for a holiday in Devon.

12. Launch of the Guild of Independent Currencies

Following the success of the Bristol Pound and the surge of interest in local currencies it has created, you are invited to this Conference to join together and help to create the Guild of Independent Currencies.

3rd and 4th November 2014, The Watershed, Bristol

To discuss:

- How to realise a local currency where you live.
- Help to define and build the Guild of Independent Currencies

Tickets £22, including Day 1 lunch at the Watershed

They aim to help other places to create a wave of new independent currencies around the UK, and will be sharing all they have learnt so far with the Bristol Pound. Could be useful for us?

13. Around the Region

Sidmouth

Simon Pardoe and myself attended a lecture by Professor Iain Stewart on the history and future of the Oil Industry. It was part of Sidmouth Science Festival Week, organised by Vision Group for Sidmouth; great initiative. I spoke there to VGS' Chair Dave Bramley, who was full of encouragement for us in Exmouth. We will talk to him again. <https://www.visionforsidmouth.org/>

VGS are posting an event on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th November: Cafe Scientifique - Topic to be decided. When: 15.00 Tuesday 18th November, Where: Costa Coffee, Old Fore Street, Sidmouth, EX10 8LP

Community Energy Company Sid Energy have launched their Share Offer; needless to say you can read all about it on their Website:

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

Also look on their Website for their Green Open Homes programme that runs through to December.

Exeter Transition

Thursday 23 October / Exeter Community Centre / 7:00pm

Exeter is growing, our roads are getting more crowded and fuel is getting more expensive. Crisis or opportunity? We've developed a positive vision about how Exeter's transport can be improved in the next few decades. Come along to hear our ideas and share yours - all welcome. For more info contact transport@transitionexeter.org.uk.

What Next For Real Food?

Open Space, Saturday 01 November / 10.30am to 3pm / St Matthews Hall, Newtown, Facilitator: Andi Tobe

Within the next 18 months the Paris Street shops will be facing demolition to make way for the Bus Station re-development.

What should be the shape of Real Food, version 2? We want your input whether you are a supplier, grower, shopper, Real Food member or just curious. Light lunch provided. The event is free and is jointly hosted by Real Food and Transition Exeter. Donations welcome to defray costs. Booking is essential via info@realfoodexeter.co.uk

<http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk/> and <http://www.ecoe.org.uk/>

Exeter Community Energy (ECOE)

Lessons from their event with Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network (WREN) are explored on their Website:

<http://www.ecoe.org.uk/newsevents/learnt-wren/>

This has relevance for us in Exmouth so worth reading and they are looking for large roofs suitable for community-owned solar panels, so if you know of any such, let them know.

Event on Tuesday 11 November 18.45: 'The role of district heating in our future'.

A rare chance to get inside information on the work of the Exeter and East Devon Low Carbon Task Force (LCTF) – most notably plans for a centralised district heating system. The LCTF's chair John Rigby will give a presentation and ECOE have an open forum to explore the significance of these plans and how ECOE can work with the LCTF to address our energy challenges at a local level.

At The Meeting Room, Stephens Scown Solicitors, Curzon House, Southernhay, Exeter. Networking at 18.45, talk at 19.15 followed by open session for learning together. Free event, all welcome, refreshments available. Contact Gill Wyatt on 07806 623311 or email info@ecoe.org.uk.

Sustainable Ottery

<http://sustainableottery.co.uk>

Now run by Jill Dixon but no events advertised

Transition Town Honiton

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

TTH are planting fruit trees for a new Community Orchard in Honiton.

Saturday 25th October from 10am – 12pm. Find them in the park between Millers Way and the Bowling Green, alongside the river Gissage. Bring friends, families, wellies and a woolly jumper. Tools and trees provided.

14. And Finally

Wind power generated 20% of our electricity on Saturday 18th!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-29715796>

No pollution, no show-stopping breakdowns, no fires. Can we have one in Exmouth please?

Note: TTE is neither aligned with any political party nor with any faith

ENDS