



A note from the editor

This is a special Christmas edition of our newsletter.

It begins with a list of diary events for the next few weeks, followed by a celebration of 2012 by revisiting some of the exciting events we have been involved in over the last 12 months. Finally, I thought it would be nice to end the year by looking at some of the good news stories across the world which demonstrate that there are large numbers of people trying to make our planet a much better place for us to live in.



I wish you all a restful Christmas holiday and a Very Happy and Prosperous 2013.

Next Transition Meeting

**Tue, 8th January 2013, 19:30 – 21:30 at The Strutt Centre,
Derby Road, Belper.**

Please come along and get involved in planning some of the exciting projects for 2013. There is a great range - something to suit everyone; your ideas and energy are needed to help make our activities relevant for a sustainable and resilient Belper. The following are just a few of the activities Transition Belper will be involved in:

- Energy descent planning
- Energy advice
- Hydro energy projects
- Community gardening
- Totally Locally launch
- Teenage market planning
- Ideas for skills workshops and talks
- Ideas for pop-up shops
- Possibility of an eco festival
- Social events planning

Free Skillshare workshops and Training

Workshops are usually held on the third Saturday of the month. They are run on a voluntary basis and anyone can offer to run a workshop, to share a skill that will help us to become less dependent on oil and to reduce carbon emissions. They are fun and informal, and an opportunity to meet people from our neighbourhood. Past workshops have included: spinning wool, bike maintenance, energy saving, willow weaving, tool sharpening, bread making etc. There may be a small charge for some workshops, to cover the cost of materials. **If you have a skill that you would like to share, please contact [Ali](#)**

December Workshop - Knit a Christmas Decoration!

Saturday 15th December 10 to 1 at St John's Chapel



Finish off Christmas preparations with a decoration or gift cracker that you have made yourself!

Learn basic knitting skills such as casting on, knit/purl, casting off, to make a fab christmas cracker that you can hang on the tree or fill with a special small gift (chocolates/jewellery...). We will be using a variety of recycled or reclaimed 'yarns' such as fabric made into ribbon, pulled out jumpers, wire etc. If you have a jumper you want to reuse bring it along. Take a xmas cracker away with you that you have made, and

the skills to make numerous knitted projects. We welcome men, women, and children with parental guidance to this workshop. Please call 01773 827485, or email info@transitionbelper.org to book a place.

There will be a small charge for materials (about £1).

Transition Belper Christmas Social



Tue, 18 December, 19:30 – 23:00 at The Queen's Head, Chesterfield Road, Belper. There'll be a small cost - £2 for members and £3 for non-members. Come and join us for the annual Christmas party. **We'll be entertained by Julian Butt and Mike Smith (guitar and accordion) singing songs from the 'Mills and Chimneys - Songs of Derbyshire' project.** There will be a Christmas fuddle too, but don't worry if you don't have time to make anything - just bring some crisps or chocolates. Do come and join in in the celebrations and fun!

Energy Descent Action Plan



At the November meeting David George gave us a presentation setting the scene for starting to develop an Energy Descent Action Plan for Belper and the wider DE56 postal area and inviting everyone to get involved in the process. David's presentation is now available on the web site –

see: <http://www.transitionbelper.org/presentation.html> or <http://www.slideserve.com/DavidGeorge/planning-an-energy-descent-action-plan-for-belper>

If you would like to be involved in organising activities to feed into the process there will be an initial EDAP Committee meeting on Monday 14 January at the Old Kings Head, Days Lane, Belper at 8.00. At this meeting we'll try and come up with something a bit more snappy than "Energy Descent Action Plan" and work out how we are going to get the whole community involved.

To do so we are going to have to explain the science and data around climate change and peak oil and ask people to work out the likely scenarios if we fail to respond to these challenges. We're calling this the Doomsday Scenario. Then we need to collectively imagine how brilliant life could be in 2030 or 2040 if we take action now to build resilience, reduce carbon emissions and live more simply with much less reliance on burning fossil fuels. Then we work out how to get there. We'll need to draw on our past and particularly times of shortage and hardship to help inspire solutions for the future. We'll also need to be inventive and creative in how we present the plan and then begin to put the words into practice.

If you'd like to be involved please contact David: d.george349@btinternet.com or phone him on 01773 821349 or simply turn up on 14 January. Note that if anyone who wants to be involved has any objection to meeting in licensed premises we'll move the meeting to another venue.

Totally Locally Planning



If you are a local independent shop or business owner or a member of the general public and would like to get involved in this exciting project, please come along to the meeting at St John's Chapel Heritage Centre on 15th January 2013 from 5pm to 7pm. The following is a brief introduction to what this scheme is all about:

"Totally Locally gives your town an award-winning marketing and branding campaign, just like the big multinationals have (and spend thousands of pounds on!). The only difference is that it's free for any town or village to use. That's because we're a bottom-up campaign... rapidly becoming a properly awesome social movement. Totally Locally gives you a shiny kit of marketing and branding stuff, and a good old fashioned plan. You'll need a team of committed people, your town's Totally Locally Champions, to use this stuff to change your town. It costs nothing except some passion, some drive, a bit of elbow grease and determination to get things done. Totally Locally is more than a shop local campaign. It's about working together to lift your whole town."

And now for the celebratory bit - an overview of some of the events we were involved in 2012

On Monday 6th **February**, Transition Belper learnt they won a share of the **Local Energy Assessment Fund**. Winning the bid allowed us to achieve the following which will help accelerate Belper's progress to becoming a lower carbon community, where energy supply is both secure and affordable:

- A desktop Solar PV survey for Belper - Around 60 per cent of all buildings are suitable for solar panels and you can see the results for your property by following the link on our website <http://www.transitionbelper.org/solorpvbelper.html>
- A hydro power opportunities survey for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site corridor
- A solid wall insulation case study and show home
- A planning guidance document on the installation of energy saving measures and renewable energy generation equipment in the World Heritage Corridor and Conservation Area
- The purchase of a Flir thermal imaging camera which demonstrates insulation loss in buildings
- The purchase of 10 house energy monitors and 10 appliance monitors

Marches Energy Agency brought their 'Fantastic Home' exhibition to the Belper Farmer's Market on Saturday **10th March**, which was a success. Volunteers from the Transition Belper group helped the MEA experts hand out free energy and water saving devices as well as giving advice on insulating homes.



Amazing News in **June!!!**

The "Community Energy Challenge" - launched by The Co-operative in conjunction with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) - has confirmed Transition Belper as one of seven groups across the UK selected to share £200,000 of support including specialist mentoring, enterprise development and technical advice.

Belper Jubilee Celebrations at the Belper River Gardens - **June**. A very cold and wet day - but great fun, especially with Alan's wind-up gramophone.



Kathy's open garden in **July** raised £1000 for charity, of which £245 was for Transition Belper



Our first ever Well Dressing in **July**. Amazing fun!!!



Belper summer food fair **July** - an amazing crowd - fabulous food - our plants sold well



September & October. Transition Belper involved in both *East Midlands* and *Britain in Bloom* competitions.

Although more than 1,200 cities, town and villages entered the competition earlier this year, Belper was considered to be the best amongst the best!!! Transition Belper are extremely proud to have been involved; both in the pre-judging preparations and during the judging process.



Derwent Valley Discovery Days **October**

Transition Belper were involved, mainly at the 4 hydro openings, talking to people and explaining how hydros work. There were over 200 visitors and many of them showed a lot of interest in the idea of community owned hydros.

Train Station Community Day **November**

Having adopted the green spaces at the Belper Train Station in April, Transition Belper volunteers, with the help of the Probation Service and other Belper citizens spent months tidying up the neglected gardens. During our community day, the first phase of the planting began. Members of Transition Belper, employees of East Midlands Trains and Network Rail, adopters from other stations and members of the general public all worked together.



November & December Christmas Lights Switch on and Food Fair



It was absolutely wonderful to see so many people come to Belper. The community spirit was wonderful. Great food, good entertainment, voluntary organisations stalls, events for children; in other words: a perfect day.

And now for some good news from around the world:



Transition Network is highly honoured to have won first prize in the **European Economic and Social Committee's Civil Society Prize**. This is great recognition for the work of so many people in hundreds of European local Transition communities who are engaging their local civil society in developing low carbon futures and livelihoods which promote wellbeing for all in the community.

The 13-year-old who has the world planting trees.



At the age of nine, Felix Finkbeiner hatched a plan to plant a million trees in his native Germany. Now he's a global eco-superhero - an environmental superstar at the helm of a global network of child activists whose aim is to mitigate climate change by reforesting the planet. His organisation, Plant for the Planet, recently achieved its target of planting one million trees in Germany; now, Felix is spreading his message around the world. Plant for the Planet is up and running in 131 countries, and the British chapter was established last month, with the aim of planting a million trees here over the next few years. Individuals or planting groups can either 'pledge' to plant a certain number of trees or make a cash donation – €1 buys one tree.

Shark Sanctuary

The Cook Islands has approved a shark sanctuary in its waters, making for the largest such sanctuary in the world. The South Pacific island chain declared a 1.9 million-sq-km sanctuary, contiguous with one established last week by neighbouring French Polynesia. That sees a ban on shark fishing and possession or sale of shark products in an area now totalling 6.7 million sq km - nearly the size of Australia.

Zero energy cost building



UK's first zero-energy cost business park, in Wigan Greater Manchester is officially launched. The scheme comprises a range of renewable energy technologies including 90kWp Solar PV, a 6kW wind turbine, nine solar thermal hot water systems and nine heat pumps. All of the business units will have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A+ as well as being only one of a handful of developments in the world to boast a BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) Outstanding rating.

Japan - a proponent of 'zero waste' ideology.

In 2003, Kamikatsu, a small town in south-western Japan, embarked on an ambitious environmental campaign that, if successful, could become a model for the rest of the country, and the world. By 2020, the village's 2,000 residents aim to eliminate the use of landfills and incinerators, and instead recycle or reuse every single item of household waste. There are no waste collections from households at all. People have to take full responsibility for everything they throw away. Residents say the scheme has prompted them to cut down on waste generally and food waste in particular. Kitchen waste has to be composted. Non-food waste is processed either in local shops which accept goods for recycling or in Kamikatsu's Zero Waste Centre. There, people have to sort their unwanted

items into 34 different boxes for recycling. Overall, the scheme is working extremely well, and Kamikatsu now has a waste academy. Although taking the recycling has to be taken to the centre by individuals, a process which could be seen as not energy efficient, residents claim they do it on their way to the shops.

Japan is seen globally as a technological leader and the world is watching its initiatives in recycling and reducing electronic waste. At Toyota's Tsutsumi assembly plant in Nagoya, what was once a vast, gray expanse of industrial might now boasts 50,000 trees that were planted in May, 2009. Insulating vines wind their way up the outside of an employee locker building; 22,000 square meters of exterior walls are coated with photocatalytic paint that, Toyota says, mirrors the ability of 2,000 poplars to absorb nitrous oxide and process oxygen. The Visitor Center's roof is grass, designed to reduce summer's heat by 3 degrees Celsius. Solar lights dot the streets and 800-kilowatt solar panels blanket the tops of buildings. Even the red roadside flowers were genetically engineered to absorb noxious emissions and help evaporate water!

Let's make 2013 an even better year.

Transition Belper Facebook Group

Keep up-to-date with the latest developments and join any discussions on Facebook. [Join us here](#)

Belper's fruit and veg grower's forum

There is a Facebook Group locally for exchanging tips and ideas for your garden and anything to do with growing fruit and veg. [Join the Forum here](#)

Contact

The trustees of Transition Belper are:

Chair – [Ian Jackson](#)

Secretary – [Richard Keighley](#)

Treasurer - Adrian Rochford

Core Group - Craig Scott

Core Group and Energy Group leader- [David George](#)

Trustee, Newsletter Editor and Community Gardens organiser - [Kathy Fairweather](#)

Trustee - Mick Hepworth

Trustee and Core Group - Julie Marshall

Or you can contact us via the Transition Belper email address: info@transitionbelper.org