



## Transition Belper News – Late July 2012

### Welcome

Transition Belper would like to extend a warm welcome to the 93 new e-newsletter subscribers who signed up at the Belper Food and Real Ale Festival and the 5 or 6 who have joined us via the web site since the last newsletter. We hope you'll find what we have to say interesting and informative. If you're moved by the challenges facing us; climate change and rapidly decreasing reserves of fossil fuels, then do come along to a meeting or social and get involved. We've plenty of existing projects to get stuck into from community gardening, to skill sharing and energy reduction but there are all sorts of other areas where groups could be formed and projects undertaken. We're always looking for people with skills, knowledge or just enthusiasm to raise a banner and gather like-minded thinkers around them. If you have an interest in Local Food and Trade, the Totally Locally campaign or lower carbon transport projects we'd especially like to hear from you.

If, like so many these days, you're pressed for time with work and family commitments it is wonderfully reassuring to us who are doing to know there are so many people out there who are following and supporting what we are doing and trying to achieve.

### Next Transition Meeting

**Tuesday 7th August at the Strutts Centre Belper from 19:30**

There will be a talk given by David and Michelle about the woodland management of Shining Cliff Woods in Ambergate and a brief history of the fascinating Grith Pioneers who settled there in the 1930's. Unemployed young men were given the opportunity to live a lifestyle which encouraged self-sufficiency and cooperation with others, coupled with the chance to be part of and to understand their natural environment. We'll also try to give newcomers a flavour of what Transition is all about and what projects are underway locally. Meetings are quite informal, last about 2 hours with a break for tea/coffee and a raffle and often move on to The Tavern next door once the business is over.

### Transition Summer Social

**Tuesday 21 August, 19:30 – 22:30 at Shottle Farm Brewery, School House Farm, Lodge Lane, Shottle, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 2DS BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

A brewery tour, tasting session and pizza making in the farm's brick oven. £7.50 for 2 pints and make your own pizza – Tony will provide the dough and toppings for you to put your own pizza together. Pizzas free to non-drinking drivers. Please book a place by 14th August as we have to give Shottle Farm some idea of numbers. Email [Kathy](#) to book a place. The only non-

alcoholic drinks available will be tea/coffee and their own home made elderflower cordial. However, you are free to bring your own soft drinks.

See <http://www.shottlefarmbrewery.co.uk/> for more about the farm and brewery. Note that what comes up on the map link on the diary page of the Transition Belper website is not the brewery. Just enter DE56 2DS in Google Maps and then look for Lodge Lane.

## Skillshare workshops

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 include; spinning wool, bike maintenance, energy saving, willow weaving. There may be a small charge for some workshops, to cover the cost of materials.

- **Saturday September 15th 10am to 1pm – Tool sharpening and care** with Adrian Rochford at St Johns Chapel
- **Saturday October 20th 10am to 1pm – Bread making in terracotta flower pots** with Rob Lindop – Venue to be confirmed
- **Saturday November 17th 10am to 1pm – Eco Art** with Julie Clare Marshall at St Johns Chapel

It is essential that you book onto a workshop as places are limited. To book call 01773 827485, leaving your name and contact details. To find further details of these and other workshops, visit the Transition Belper website; [www.transitionbelper.org](http://www.transitionbelper.org). We are very grateful to Belper Town Council for the free use of St. Johns Chapel.

## Off gas free insulation scheme

Transition Belper are working with British Gas to try and identify households who are eligible for free solid wall insulation from British Gas. Eligible households need to have solid walls rather than cavities, have no access to mains gas, be claiming one or more of a range of benefits and heat their home with electricity or solid fuel. We have identified local rural areas off the gas pipeline and plan to deliver almost 500 leaflets through doors in these areas; *Idridgehay, Shottle, Alderwasley, Whatstandwell, Ambergate and Coxbench*. We are also trying to get hold of leaflets for the Oil Buying Scheme, loft and cavity wall insulation offers and set up deals for those using oil or LPG for heating. We'll put all the leaflets and a letter from Transition in envelopes and are looking at doing the delivery rounds in late August or very early September.

**If you can spare some time and can take on some of the deliveries please email [David](mailto:David) or phone him on 01773 821349.**

## Energy awareness event – Saturday 8th September

We'll be running an energy awareness event on Saturday 8th September at St John's Chapel and on the Market Place at the Farmer's Market. The Marches Energy Agency Fantastic Home trailer and exhibition will be with us for the day at the Farmer's Market. From there those who are interested can be directed up the hill to St John's where we'll have energy suppliers, installers and equipment manufacturers set up to demonstrate what they can offer. Of course we hope Transition Belper's Energy Expert Neighbour network will be on hand to offer advice. It will also be an opportunity for those who've had leaflets

put through their doors to come and find out a little more and for anyone thinking of joining our Energy Expert Neighbour Team to talk to us about what is involved.

If you would like to help out on the day or are thinking of joining our Energy Expert Neighbours please email [David](#) or phone him on 01773 821349

## Little Explorers need your help

The Little Explorers Day Nursery at Derby College at Broomfield Hall have been busy over the last couple of months developing their new Forest school area to maximise the outdoor experience they are able to offer the children.

The next challenge they have set themselves is to make a greenhouse from recycled plastic bottles. This is where they need your help..... they need to collect 1,500 plastic 2 litre bottles!!! If you could help with this challenge it would be very much appreciated, especially by the children who are very excited to get started in building their own greenhouse.

If you could send these direct to nursery that would be great or feel free to drop them into nursery and have a look at our new developments. Alternatively do let us know if you can volunteer to act as a collection point in the area. Kate Cox is running the project and can be contacted on 01332 836620.

## Scientists have produced a new free map app of the soils of Great Britain.



The app, mySoil, also enables the general public to upload information about the soil where they live, helping to improve our knowledge about the properties of soils and the vegetation habitats that they provide. Using mySoil you can view a map of soil parent material – the underlying geological material – click on an area to get information about soil depth, texture, pH and organic matter content, and explore vegetation habitat data across the UK. The scientists are encouraging land users, especially in cities, to send in descriptions and pictures of their soil. The public can play a big role in contributing to soil science data, for urban areas in particular, where the data is limited.

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/press/releases/2012/13-soil.asp>

## UK environment improves as chemical climate responds to air pollution policies

NERC's Centre for Ecology & Hydrology's major new review (June 2012) reports that:

- Emission controls have reduced sulphur dioxide emissions by over 90% from their peak value in the 1950s

- Emissions of nitrogen oxides have decreased by 58% since 1970, with a corresponding 50% reduction in air concentrations of nitrogen oxides
- Peak ground level ozone concentrations declined by almost 30% since the 1980s. However, emissions throughout the northern hemisphere have led to background ozone levels increasing by about 15% between 1987 and 2010
- The amount of metals deposited in the UK from the atmosphere greatly exceeds the amount of metals reported to be emitted from anthropogenic sources by up to a factor of 10, thus we are unsure where all this metal originates
- Over the last twenty years, large decreases in the rainwater concentrations of acidity (85%) and sulphate (75%) have occurred. Dry and wet deposition of sulphur in the UK have decreased by 93% and 57% respectively, over the last twenty years
- Large reductions in soil and freshwater acidity have been recorded and biological recovery of freshwater ecosystems is slowly progressing
- Nitrogen deposition has decreased the plant species richness in a range of habitats of high conservation value widely in the UK and shows no signs of improvement
- Ozone reduced UK wheat production by 1.2 million tonnes in 2000, representing 7% of production

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/press/releases/2012/16-chemical-climate.asp>

## **Green Plants Reduce City Street Pollution Up to Eight Times More Than Previously Believed**

ScienceDaily (July 18, 2012) — Trees, bushes and other greenery growing in the concrete-and-glass canyons of cities can reduce levels of two of the most worrisome air pollutants by eight times more than previously believed, a new study has found. A report on the research appears in the ACS journal Environmental Science & Technology.

Thomas Pugh and colleagues explain that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and microscopic particulate matter (PM) – both of which can be harmful to human health – exceed safe levels on the streets of many cities. Past research suggested that trees and other green plants can improve urban air quality by removing those pollutants from the air. However, the improvement seemed to be small, a reduction of less than 5 per cent. The new study sought a better understanding of the effects of green plants in the sometimes stagnant air of city streets, which the authors term "urban street canyons."

The study concluded that judicious placement of grass, climbing ivy and other plants in urban canyons can reduce the concentration at street level of NO<sub>2</sub> by as much as 40 per cent and PM by 60 per cent, much more than previously believed. The authors even suggest building plant-covered "green billboards" in these urban canyons to increase the amount of foliage. Trees were also shown to be effective, but only if care is taken to avoid trapping pollutants beneath their crowns.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120718143913.htm>

## Belper Well Dressing

This was a joint project between Transition Belper, Belper Connect and Eleanor Letham and was highly enjoyable, even though we were not always sure of what we were doing



## Belper Train Station Adoption

These photos were taken on 11th July. The clearance work is well underway and it's easy to see the potential of the green spaces now. If you would like to get involved, please email [Kathy](mailto:kathy@transitionbelper.org)



## Belper in Bloom

Belper Open gardens as part of Britain in Bloom were a great success. The weather was great and both the garden owners and visitors enjoyed the day. Three Transition members opened their gardens. The next judging phase will take place on 3rd August and Kathy will be representing Transition Belper.

## Belper Food and Real Ale Fair

Just for once the rain stayed away and the sun shone bringing out thousands of visitors to Belper's King Street, Memorial Gardens and Market Place. The theme of our stall this year was seasonal food. If everyone bought food that was in season locally there would be less need to import potatoes from Egypt or beans from Kenya (for example). Apart from selling locally

cultivated herbs, trees and fruit and vegetable plants (and a few flowers), we gathered a large box of produce picked just the day before from gardens in and around Belper – see photo. This was the prize in our free newsletter sign up draw and was won by Pete Hurst of Spencer Road.



## 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 - Alan Foord

Core Group - Craig Scott

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

Core Group and Community Gardens organiser - [Kathy Fairweather](#)

Trustee - Mick Hepworth

Or you can contact us via the Transition Belper email address: [info@transitionbelper.org](mailto:info@transitionbelper.org)