

## Transition meetings

- **Tuesday 7th February** - Transition Belper meeting from 7.30pm at Strutts, Derby Road, opposite Babington Hospital.  
Nicky Swetnam from National Energy Action will give an overview of the Green Deal and an introduction to giving energy advice as well as talking about fuel poverty and what help is available to people. This is part of the support being given to Transition Belper by NEA and the Department of Energy and Climate Change as part of the Green Deal and Affordable Warmth Support Programme. Our bid, last Autumn was one of only ten selected across the country - and the only community organisation to receive such support. Those who are enthused by what Nicky has to say will have the opportunity for more in depth training in March. We'll also be outlining the 'Energy Expert Neighbour' scheme and looking for volunteers to take on their own small patch of Belper. See the [web site](#) for more details
- **Tuesday 6th March**
- **Tuesday 3rd April**

## Green Drinks

**Wednesday 22nd February** is Green Drinks night at the **Cross Keys, Market Place, Belper** from 7.30. Come and join us for some informal discussions and a pint. The last Green Drinks at the King William in Milford was well attended and enjoyed. We're planning ahead and the March Green Drinks will be at the **Greyhound, Whitemoor Lane**. It will be earlier than usual - on **Thursday 15th March** - as we'll be holding a **Climate Change pub quiz** in Climate Week. For more details about Climate Week see <http://www.climateweek.com/>  
For meetings, socials and events see: <http://www.transitionbelper.org/diary.html>

## New web site launched

The all new Transition Belper web site was launched this week after several weeks of intensive work by David George and Lynne Henley. You can find it at: [www.transitionbelper.org](http://www.transitionbelper.org) It features the new masthead as above and a decorative pinboard on every page advertising the next meeting and social event. The pinboard is a tribute to the original hessian and buttons theme of the previous web page. The site should have most of the relevant background to climate change, peak oil and what we can all do about it as well as a fairly full record of Transition Belper to date and our plans and ambitions for the future. There are still a few tweaks to be made and what has been done is not cast in stone so if you see any errors or have any suggestions do let us know. Email [David George](#)

## Skills workshops idea taking shape

After the January Transition Belper meeting the Facebook site was buzzing with ideas for a monthly skills workshop with a different topic each month. The suggestion was for a Saturday at Strutts. Here's Ali Clark's Facebook post exploring the idea:

*I've just been to the transition meeting and every time I mean to say this...*

*I would like to start a regular transition skill share event at the Strutts community building once a month on a Saturday, where a session is given freely or very cheaply by someone with a skill that will help others towards a lower carbon lifestyle e.g. bicycle maintenance/ and old craft such as spinning/ rag rugging/ fruit tree pruning/ how to raise seedlings/ jam making/ how to 'up cycle' old things into a new purpose, mending tools, build your own dynamo hub wind generator etc. etc.*

*If anyone is interested in meeting up to get this going in any capacity (promotion/sharing your skill/booking the venue etc.) please get in touch. The core group may have some ideas about how this fits in with other transition things going on and when is the best time to get it going...any suggestions anyone please.*

[Contact Ali Clark](#)

There's more at: <http://www.transitionbelper.org/crafts.html> (which we'll soon rename 'Crafts & skills'). Ideas already include Spinning wool with spindle or wheel and a Bicycle maintenance workshop. Please let Ali have any more ideas or let her know if you have a skill you'd like to pass on to others.

## Transition Chesterfield Potato Day 2012

Message from Transition Chesterfield:

This year's Potato Day is coming up. 28 January, from 10am to 2pm, in The Pavements (just opposite Poundland). We'll be selling seed potatoes, onion sets, and garlic and shallot for planting. Many varieties, all at very competitive prices, and no minimum purchase. Potato Day encourages people to grow their own food, it raises money for our other projects, and any unsold stuff goes to local schools to get their students into growing their own food. So please help us out. You can download a poster and hang it up where people will see it, you can tell your potato-growing friends about it, and you can come and help us out on the day (or the evening before, when we'll be packing pre-orders and setting up the shop). If you can volunteer, please email [food@transitionchesterfield.org.uk](mailto:food@transitionchesterfield.org.uk) to let us know.

We hope to see you there!

### Groundwork help for 'off gas' houses – update

Eight people are currently paired up in teams to give energy saving advice and fit draught proofing and other small improvements to nine 'off gas' houses in the area. The Energy Group met on 9th January to go through all the procedures and dish out the jobs and materials. See: <http://www.transitionbelper.org/offgasscheme.html>

### LEAF bid submitted

After a lot of work putting it all together the bid for support from the Local Energy Assessment Fund has been submitted. The final sum being sought is just over £50,000 and includes:

- Fitting internal solid wall insulation to an end terrace house to act as an occasional show home and to monitor and publicise the resulting energy savings,
- commissioning a desktop analysis of the potential for solar pv on every building in Belper,
- commissioning a thermal image aerial survey of Belper to identify buildings that could benefit from extra insulation,
- adding the results of the solar pv and thermal surveys to the web site,
- commissioning a broad study of the feasibility of further hydro schemes in the Derwent Valley and tributaries south of Cromford and north of Darley Abbey,
- commissioning planning advice to give clear guidance when considering energy efficiency improvements in the World Heritage Site or conservation area
- holding public events to raise awareness and tell everyone about the results of the studies

We'll find out whether we've been successful at the end of January and will have to have everything finished and the money spent by the end of March. The bid has been submitted in partnership with Amber Valley Borough Council who will act as oversight and bankers.

### Events in 2012

Event Planning is already starting. The first discovery days planning meeting takes place on the 31<sup>st</sup> January. Awareness events we will be involved with this year;

- The Derbyshire Eco Centre's next big event is the Spring Fair and Derbyshire Wool Weekend which will be held on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th April from 11am-4pm on both days.
- Belper Food and Drink Fair mid July 2012
- Belper Christmas Food Fair December 2012
- Discovery Days weekend 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### Belper chosen to host regional event

Transition Belper will play hosts to local authorities and community groups from across the East Midlands at an event this spring. The event will be held to share the experiences of being involved in the NEA's Green Deal and Affordable Warmth Programme. The other regional bid selected was that of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP). Nicky Swetnam will be able to tell us more about this at the February Transition meeting.

## **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 new 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 - [David George](#)

Trustee - Mick Hepworth

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