



## Transition Belper News - Christmas 2011 - Issue no 5

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### Welcome

A warm welcome to the 67 new subscribers signed up at the Christmas Fair in King Street and seasons greetings to all our subscribers. This time last year there were 35 people on our email distribution list. This has grown to over 200 in the space of a year. We'd love to see new faces at our meetings and ever growing numbers of people getting involved in what we are doing - but if you just want to be kept informed your continued interest is most reassuring to us that. If you need a reason to get involved try imagining what life would be like as oil, gas and coal start to run out and the effects of climate change become ever more obvious. We can all help make the vision of a local low carbon economy a reality and change the future into something that is happier and far more positive. We'd like to know about your interests to help us plan future meetings and events. To this end we have a supporter's survey you can complete online and we'd be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete it. Any personal data provided will only be shared with relevant Core Group (committee) members. You can complete the online [survey](#) here.

### Green Drinks - change of venue to the Hollybush, Makeney

**Wednesday 21st December** is Christmas Green Drinks night at the Hollybush, Makeney from 7.30. Come and join us for some informal discussions and a pint. Take a break from Christmas

shopping and raise a glass to what we have achieved this year. In 2012 we'll be moving Green Drinks to different venues and evenings. The January Green Drinks will be at the King William IV on Tuesday 17th January. Venue suggestions are welcomed.

## Transition Meeting

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January, Strutts, Derby Road at 7.30.** Adrian Farmer from Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site will be at the meeting and we are likely to be joined by members of Belper Civic Forum. The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is about to review its 5 year Management Plan. We have an opportunity to understand a little more about the World Heritage Site we live in and also discuss the potential opportunities and issues we face as a result of the challenges of Climate Change and Peak Oil. Note that from February the monthly meeting will be moving to the first Tuesday of the month. This follows consultation with regular attendees and the results of the supporter survey.

## Energy Group Meeting

**Monday 9th January at 7.30** - venue to be confirmed but likely to be at the Cottage Project. We'll be running through the 'Off Gas' help scheme for all our volunteers and, if there's time, discussing the next steps for the Energy Expert Neighbour scheme. We'll confirm the venue and give more details in the next newsletter.

## Congratulations

Former Transition Belper Chair, Maggie Braley, gave birth to Astrid on Friday 9th December. I'm sure you'll join us in congratulating Mum and welcoming her daughter to the world.

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

We now have seven volunteers for the Groundwork 'off gas' help scheme and have identified eight households needing help. There will be a meeting of the Energy Group in early January to go through the help we are offering step by step and to bring volunteers who have not yet been trained up to date on what is needed.

### Volunteers needed

We still need volunteers to 'buddy up' with trained volunteers to help fit energy saving measures and give advice and tips. With five teams that is 4 houses each at an estimated 2 hours per house between now and the end of January. Please contact [David George](#) or [Ian Jackson](#) for more information or to volunteer.

## Energy Expert Neighbour idea takes shape

We now have six volunteers to take on the role of giving basic energy advice to their neighbours. There are another 65 areas to go at before we've got the whole of Belper and Milford covered. If you would like to help your neighbours - each area is around 150 houses - please let us know. We are currently looking at training and funding alternatives and are hoping to launch the EEN Pilot Scheme before the end of March with a leaflet delivery to each house in the six areas identified so far and an energy advice surgery. British Gas are going to provide 6 to 10 energy monitors (no strings attached) for our EEN's to demonstrate to people how much electricity they use per appliance, light etc. Funding opportunities are coming thick and fast so we are busy filling in applications. We'll let you know how we get on. Please contact [David George](#) or [Ian Jackson](#) for more information or to volunteer.

## Funding Bids

The opportunities for bidding for funds are coming thick and fast. We have submitted a bid for the [NEA Community Footprint Award](#) scheme for £2,000 to help kick-start the Energy Expert Neighbour Scheme with the six volunteers we have at the moment. The fund is supported by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and British Gas. We will also be working with Marches Energy Agency - a Community Interest Company - to develop an ambitious bid for the [Local Energy Assessment Fund](#). The Department of Energy and Climate Change are providing a new fund which is available to communities in England and Wales who are playing

an active role in the development of a low carbon society. Money is available to finance projects that increase understanding and uptake of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and help to make energy supply secure and affordable for everyone in our community. Part of the bid may include plans to fit solid wall insulation to a house as a demonstration of the effectiveness of dry lining. If you know of a suitable property that could benefit do let us know. The award could, if successful, amount to more than £100,000 and would move us to another level in tackling climate change and depleted fossil fuels locally.

We are also mulling over whether to apply for the [Big Lottery Communities Living Sustainably](#) fund which could provide funding for suitable projects of up to £1 million over 5 years. This is possibly a little too early in Transition Belper's development to be a realistic project - unless you tell us differently!

## **Melbourne Forest Gardening day**

**Saturday 14 January 2011 – 9.45 – 3pm**

**£10 to include home-cooked hot lunch**

**St Brides Farmhouse, Stanton Hill, near Melbourne DE73 7NF**

Melbourne Area Transition is running a fun and informative day of Forest Gardening at a Forest Garden being newly created near Melbourne in the National Forest. Come and find out what a forest garden is and how you can incorporate elements of an organic, edible, low-maintenance food forest in your own garden. Hear too about Melbourne Area Transition's other ambitious projects in the National Forest.

This is a fun, practical day of learning and planting, with a farmhouse kitchen lunch, suitable for adults and children over 12 of all gardening abilities. Please bring wellies, gloves and warm clothes, and, if possible, a spade. Tickets from: Sarah on 07930 470565 or [admin@melbournetransition.org](mailto:admin@melbournetransition.org) or see [www.melbournetransition.org](http://www.melbournetransition.org)

## **New web site under construction**

The new Transition Belper web site is being put together by David George and Lynne Henley. Content is currently being collated and the new site will be up and running sometime in January. We don't expect to get it right first time so - when it goes live - please let us know what you think. The URL will remain [www.transitionbelper.org](http://www.transitionbelper.org)

## **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 the 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)