



Transition Belper News - Early February 2012 - Issue no 8

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Transition meeting

- **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/>

Public Meeting

Saving energy, reducing bills and The Green Deal; what is it, and can Transition Belper help you decide whether it's right for you?

Transition Belper are inviting local residents to a public meeting at **The Strutts Centre, Derby Road, Belper at 7.30pm on Thursday 16th February.**

The meeting will be to:

- Give an overview of the Government's Green Deal plans for property based loans to be repaid through savings on energy bills and to outline the extra help that will be available through the energy companies. Nicky Swetnam from National Energy Action – a charity dedicated to reducing fuel poverty – will give this brief overview and answer questions
- Inform residents of energy saving grants and schemes currently available to them – Amber Valley Borough Council and Apex Carbon Solutions will be on hand to explain schemes and answer questions
- Discuss Transition Belper's plans for a network of Energy Expert Neighbours and how we can assist our neighbours with energy saving advice. How do residents want us to interact with those companies who provide energy saving measures and how can we make sure we are on their side and completely impartial? We'll also be recruiting volunteers and outlining our training plans.

We'll have some displays in the room and plenty of time for looking around and informal chats.

Handspinning Yarns Skill Share Workshop

Saturday 18th February at St John's Chapel & Heritage Centre, The Butts, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 1HX from 10.00 - 1.00pm

Exploring Handspinning of Yarns - How to make a simple drop spindle with a potato, a look at different types of fibre (wool, cotton, linen, animal hair etc.) learning to spin wool with your spindle, and moving on to having a go with a spinning wheel. Beginners and more experienced welcome. If you have some skill and a spinning wheel, you are welcome to come along and help or just loan your spinning wheel.

This Skill Sharing workshop is being organised by Ali Clark and is for up to 10 people. Please [email Ali](mailto:ali@transitionbelper.org) for more details

This has been organised following the January Transition Belper meeting. A bicycle maintenance workshop is being planned for March and there will be more details in future newsletters and on our [Diary](#) page.

For meetings, socials and events see: <http://www.transitionbelper.org/diary.html>

Derwent Valley Mills consultation - January meeting

Transition Belper's meeting in January discussed the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Management Plan. Ian Farmer from DVMWHS gave a fascinating presentation giving rise to a number of themes and observations:

- The Buildings that underpin the WHS are at Risk due to Climate Change
- There are several strong links with the original DVMWHS Belper and the Belper in Transition
- There are significant opportunities to support the DVMWHS engaging the existing communities, students and tourists in projects leading Belper to a more sustainable and resilient community.

These are expanded on in greater detail in a document that is now available on the [web site](#). We have been thanked by DVM for our positive contribution to their consultation.

Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF)

Several Core Group members kept a close eye on their emails and DECC's web site on Tuesday (31st Jan) waiting to learn whether we had been successful in our bid for over £50,000 to carry out several projects locally. We learnt, late on, that because of the volume of submissions there would be no decision announced until Monday 6th February. To learn our fate come along to the meeting on Tuesday night. See <http://www.transitionbelper.org/funding.html> for more details of the bid.

Don't waste your chance to talk about your bins!

Households in Amber Valley are being asked to take part in what could be the biggest shake up of the recycling and waste collection service in 8 years. The current contract is up for renewal in June 2013 and an online survey has started that asks people to give their views about possible new collection arrangements, including the types of containers used by the 55,000 households in the Borough, to store what they recycle or throw away.

The five-minute online and paper survey asks people about what methods of collection they would like to see for both their recycling and rubbish in the future. It also asks about how many wheeled bins they would be able and willing to store at their property. The survey can be filled in online by following this link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DontWasteYourChance> Paper copies are also available from Town Centre Offices

The views will be used to help shape the new service when discussions start with potential new contractors in March 2012. The results of the survey could mean the biggest change to recycling and waste collections since the existing system was introduced in 2005. Transition Belper have been asked by Amber Valley to submit a collective, and possibly more detailed, response to the consultation. If you are completing the survey please also let us know what you think so we can collectively represent your views to the Council. Email your views to any Core Group member. We've also started a discussion on our Facebook page (see link below).

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](#)

Events in 2012

Event Planning is already starting. The first discovery days planning meeting took place on the 31st 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 27th& 28th October 2012.

Volunteer

The Core Group have a lot on their plates at the moment and are appealing for you to come forward and give us a hand:

- **Newsletter Editor** - getting the news and diary dates out to all our supporters is vital. The Mail Chimp system is quite easy to use once you know how and help and guidance is on hand
- **Press and PR** - getting the message out to the public is just as important. This would suit a plain English wordsmith who is happy talking to the media.
- **Workshop organisers** - Ali, Craig and Alan could do with a hand to organise a programme of skill-share workshops. Sharing the work eases the burden.
- **Community Garden organiser** - there's been some discussions and we may be able to kick start something but ideally we'd like someone to take the idea on and make a real go of it
- **Web site editor** - now that the new web site is up and running we'll eventually need someone to take on the role of maintaining it. Currently we are using Dreamweaver, a FTP programme (file transfer protocol) and some Google apps but we are aiming to eventually move to a CMS system (content management system). Full training and required software can be provided.
- **Energy Expert Neighbours** - not to take the load off the Core Group but to spread the energy efficiency message across the whole of Belper. Each EEN will be responsible for helping their immediate neighbours - about 150 households each.

Please get in touch with any Core Group member or come along to a meeting or social for a 'no-strings' chat.

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