



Transition Belper News – Late November 2012

Next Transition Meeting

Tue, 4th December, 19:30 – 21:30 at The Strutts Cent, Derby Road, Belper.

Exciting agenda for the next meeting:

In November 2012, 147 people from all over the UK travelled to Halifax, West Yorkshire, to share their ideas for our towns and their communities, in a two day conference entitled [Townstock 2012](#). The people present were from various walks of life - representatives from community initiatives, active individuals, local government, small business owners large business representatives, students and various voluntary groups. **The speakers were most inspiring** and among the highly enthused listeners were Ian and Kathy from *Transition Belper*. The big message that came out of this fabulous conference was that our high streets, town centres and communities are far from dead and that their future is firmly on the political agenda, with initiatives and policies coming from governments (central and devolved), think-tanks and campaigns led by celebrity names.

Ian and Kathy are giving a presentation on some of the most inspiring ideas from this fabulous conference. If you have a keen interest in making your town centre and community a better and more thriving place to live and work in, please join us next week.

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).

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 Domsday 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.

Community day at Belper Train station Wednesday 14th November



The Community Day brought together around 30 people from a variety of backgrounds - station adoption volunteers from Transition Belper and other Derwent Valley line stations, staff from Network Rail and East Midlands Trains and a few members of the general public. We had a fantastic day; apart from having a great time, we managed to plant all the trees and shrubs, prune overgrown areas and weed and sweep pathways. Lunch was provided by East Midlands Trains and Kathy and it was great to mingle and network during the break.

Thank you very much to all those who helped make the day such a success.



Amber Valley Borough Council's consultation on its "Preferred Growth Strategy"

Amber Valley Borough Council is currently consulting on its "Preferred Growth Strategy". This is a document which sets out how much housing development will be planned for in Amber Valley Borough over the next 20 years, and where the major areas for development should be. It is a key part of the planning strategy for the Borough. Members of Belper Civic Forum and guests from Transition Belper discussed the document at a meeting on 25 October at the Strutts Centre.

None of the major development sites proposed are in Belper, but Belper people should not assume that this means the document does not concern them. One of the sites is very close: at Cinderhill. Around 1500 houses are planned here, which would make the development about a quarter of the size of Belper itself. What impact will such a large development have on Belper? Will it have its own shopping centre, competing with Belper town centre; or will it bring with it transport improvements so that the new residents can take advantage of all that Belper has to offer?

Not all of the planned development will take place on the major sites identified. The document also assumes that brownfield sites will continue to be redeveloped for housing at the same rate that they have in the recent past. Many of these sites have been in Belper, including Debs, Silkolene, Jaeger and Milford Foundry. Is it right that jobs should continue to be relocated out of Belper, and is there a risk that this strategy is turning Belper into a dormitory commuter town? The Civic Forum believes that Belper should be a vibrant market town with a strong, independent local economy, and should be a good place to work and shop as well as reside. We urge all Belper people to have a look at this document, and make your views known. The Borough Council's consultation is open until 21 December. For details, see <http://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/community-planning/community-planning-latest-news.aspx>

Social activities

Belper Christmas Festival & Lights Switch On - Friday 30th November



The Christmas lights will be switched on 5.45pm by the Mayor, Cllr Mark Robertson, Derby County FC Captain, Shaun Barker and Mascot Rammie in the Memorial Gardens, King Street. Free entertainment: Punch & Judy, Clown, Belper Town Wind Band, Barrel Organ, Fairground Organ, Childrens Roundabout, Coconut Shy, Striker, Charity Stalls and Santa's Grotto

Belper Christmas Food Festival - Sunday, 2nd December 2012

Following the success of last year's inaugural Christmas Food Festival the Town Council are organising another event this year.



Transition Belper will have a stall with a variety of exciting goodies, such as 'love food hate waste' competition to win a hamper, organic flour for sale from Heage Windmill, thermal house imaging gift voucher, Belper calendars, etc.

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, organised by Barbara, who writes: "On the night please bring and share a dish with a Christmas Connection for the buffet, whether it be sweet, savoury, a salad or nibbles...Whenever I have been part of a Derbyshire Fuddle the mix of dishes has always worked well. If possible, please also bring your own crockery and cutlery so as to reduce waste." Please email Barbara with any questions or queries.

To book your ticket please email David: d.george349@btinternet.com or phone him on 01773 821349

Belper Calendars

We have a number of the delightful 2012 Belper Calendars for Sale, which would make excellent Christmas presents. If you would like to buy one (or a few) please come to the November meeting or email lan

Other Local News



Green fingered residents in Amber Valley can look forward to their garden waste being collected for free by the Borough Council from April next year. For further information and to order your green waste bin, go to <http://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/press-releases-2012/calling-all-gardeners!.aspx>

Other Local Events

The following are a list of events we have been asked to publicise.

Please note: whilst we are happy to publicise other not-for-profit community organisations' events, this does not necessarily mean that we promote, support or approve them, nor does it mean that we are involved in their organisation.

Belper Short Story Competition



To celebrate Belper's first *Literary Festival*, as part of the wider *Belper Arts Festival*, we are launching a short story competition which offers aspiring writers the chance to have their work published for the first time.

Entrants may submit, by 1st March 2013, an original, previously unpublished fictional story on any subject or genre. The maximum word limit is 2500. There is an entry fee of £5 per story.

There are 2 prizes - the best story will receive a cash prize of £200 and the second prize is a £50 voucher kindly donated by Scarthin books from Cromford. Both stories will be published.

To obtain an entry form, please contact Kathy kathyf100@hotmail.com or Joan jo.hardy52@gmail.com



POTATO DAY 2013: January 26th, in The Pavements (we hope). We are now taking orders for our next potato day, offering 41 varieties of potato, plus onions, shallots and garlic - you can download the order form [here](#). However, we have been warned by our suppliers that their harvest is quite poor, and to expect fairly substantial price rises - this will be the same for all sources, and we still expect our prices to be very competitive. For potatoes our pre-order price will be 12p per tuber - remember you can buy as few or as many as you like - and we hope to sell them at 14p per tuber on the day itself, although this might rise, depending on the final price we have to pay. For more details, email: food@transitionchesterfield.org.uk

And now for a bit of fun:

The new style of gardening for the urban eco warriors - pothole gardens!



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

Trustee and Core Group - Craig Scott

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

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

Trustee and Membership Secretary - Mick Hepworth

Trustee and Core Group - Julie Marshall

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