

## Improving energy efficiency in the old...

How can Stratford become more sustainable when there are planning restrictions on many of the town's older historic buildings? That will be the subject of a half-day conference which Transition Stratford is organising jointly with Stratford Town Council and the Stratford Society.



The conference, which will take place 2.00 – 5.00 on Tuesday 18 May at Stratford Town Hall, will hear speakers from English Heritage, the Building Research Establish-

ment and Stratford District Council talking about some of the technical opportunities for sustainable energy for historic buildings. The meeting will also hear a speaker from the Marches Energy Agency, which is leading a project funded by the European Union, on recent initiatives with historic buildings in Shrewsbury.

The conference organisers are also hoping to organise a "market place" where local businesses with experience in helping make historic buildings more sustainable will be able to talk to participants about their work.

If you are interested in attending the conference, or would like to know more about the project, please contact Roger Matthews on 01789 298503.

## Dates for your diary

**Every Sunday afternoon:** Community gardening at Lifeways Therapy Centre, 30 Albany Road, CV37 6PG. Contact james@nettlesoup.co.uk

**22 Feb - 7 March:** National Fairtrade Fort-night (see [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk))

**Fri 5 March 7.15pm,** Lifeways: continuing our popular series of Friday night films, *Pig Business* argues that intensive pig farming is "bad for our food, our health and the livelihoods of our rural communities."

**Mon 8 March @ 7.30pm:** Transition Stratford Steering Group (venue tbc, contact Barbara for update on 01789 298503)

**Wed 17 March @ 7.30pm,** Friends Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road, CV37 6XT: quarterly meeting with speaker from ClimateXChange

**Fri 2 April @ 7.15pm,** Lifeways: Film Friday *The 11th Hour* This documentary shows that if we can reduce our footprint enough, we can still change the course of our planet's future.

## ...and the not-so-old

The speaker at our quarterly general meeting on Wednesday 17 March will be Jo Hamilton, ClimateXChange Co-ordinator at the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University. Jo will be talking to us about the annual Eco-Homes Open Days, when proud owners of eco-renovated homes in Oxfordshire open their doors to visitors.

As the organisers say: "The event aims to empower and inspire members of the public to make environmental changes to their own homes through seeing what practical steps other people have taken in their homes. It is about people learning from the experience of others and making positive changes to reduce their environmental footprint."

Please come along and hear about what has been achieved in Oxfordshire, and perhaps pick up some ideas about how you could improve the energy efficiency of your own home. The meeting will be held at Friends Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road, CV37 6XT starting at 7.30pm.



# Green shoots at the Town Hall

## Garden Share launched

Garden Share was launched on 3 February at a Public Meeting called by Stratford Town Council to discuss ways of meeting the burgeoning demand for allotments and growing spaces. A dozen would-be growers signed up there and then for the opportunity to grow their own in someone else's unused garden. Offers of spare plots are also coming in and our co-ordinating team—Anna Corser, Joy Godwin, Michael Rolfe and Susie Drummond—are hard at work matching up offers and requests in time for the new growing season.



The Gardn Share team enjoying some sunshine

If you (or a relative, friend or neighbour) have some spare garden or allotment space which could be shared with a grower, or if you would like to grow your own but don't have access to land, please contact Michael at [michaelrolfe@ntlworld.com](mailto:michaelrolfe@ntlworld.com) or

phone Transition Stratford on 01789 298503

## To the promised land....?

Other options discussed at the Public Meeting included the release of land owned by Stratford District Council for temporary use as allotments or community growing spaces. Transition Stratford has come up with some new ideas for making land available, which we're actively discussing with the Town and District Councils and other local landowners.

The Town Council is also keen to investigate the ownership of unused or derelict plots around the town that could be brought into productive use. If there's an unused plot near you, let us know and we'll get it looked into.

## Digging in at Lifeways!

A number of would-be growers at the Public Meeting also expressed interest in joining the friendly community gardening group at Lifeways. Plans are well in hand for spring, including the opening up of more growing space for cultivation on permaculture principles and the establishment of a communal seed bank.

The group meets on Sunday afternoons at Lifeways - if you'd like to join them, contact James at [james@nettlesoup.co.uk](mailto:james@nettlesoup.co.uk) —or just turn up.

## Getting Transition out and about

Starting in April, Transition Stratford will be running a stall on the morning of the third Saturday in the month in central Stratford. We'll be talking to people about Transition Stratford generally – and also about specific projects, starting in April with gardening and Garden Share. If you can spare an hour to help, please get in touch.

We'd also like to hear from you if you know of any opportunities to run a Transition Stratford stall at fetes or garden parties over the summer. Give us a ring on 01789 298503.

## What should we do about...transport?

Transport accounts for 25% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and depends heavily on oil. Transport - and the congestion and pollution it causes - is also a major concern for people in Stratford.

Some local initiatives are already under way, including plans to make it safer to cycle around Stratford and proposals to try out an all-electric bus on the 222 route. What should Transition Stratford be doing? Would you be interested in helping to organise a public Open Space meeting on transport? Or would you like to take part in a transport group to develop practical projects such as car-sharing? To let us know what you think, contact us on 01789 298503.

## Contacts

### Group representatives

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