

# transition news

February 2011

## Spring is sprung (well, nearly...)

As we look forward to warmer weather and lighter days, Transition Stratford is gearing up for the new growing season.

### Harvest Share volunteers needed!

Last autumn, we organised a pilot Harvest Share project designed to collect fruit that would otherwise go to waste and put it to good use. In just eight picking sessions, we collected nearly a third of a tonne of apples and pears and distributed them free of charge to local care homes, children's centres and other community groups.

We're planning to run Harvest Share again in 2011 - but on a much bigger scale. The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has kindly offered us the chance to pick and distribute the fruit from the orchard at Anne Hathaway's Cottage in Shottery. That's over 70 trees – equivalent to about 30 gardens!

So although the trees are not yet in blossom, we're already starting to organise for the harvest. We hope to find premises where fruit can be sorted and stored, but we'll also need:

- Volunteers to help pick and sort fruit - we're planning regular weekly picking sessions from August to October
- Help with transport and distribution - we'll need regular delivery runs to local recipients
- Help with organising volunteer rotas, processing orders for fruit and checking equipment



- More users - we are looking for more local organisations who can make good use of free fruit regularly through the season
- More trees - cherries, plums, damsons or even nuts would be lovely - but we want to know wherever good local fruit is going to waste

If you can help in any way with Harvest Share 2011, please get in touch with Roger on 01789 298503.

### Growing community at Lifeways

Regular gardeners at the community garden at Lifeways in Albany Road, Stratford, are busily preparing plots, installing a donated greenhouse and planning for a productive year - maybe even including some livestock! If you'd like to get involved in communal growing, please get in touch with James at [james@nettlesoup.co.uk](mailto:james@nettlesoup.co.uk)

### Garden Share

Our Garden Share scheme - which matches up owners of unwanted or unmanageable plots with would-be growers who have no access to a garden or allotment - is now a year old. In 2010, eight garden shares were set up. A couple of new matches have been agreed over the winter, and more will be up and running soon.

We have some garden spaces available, so we're keen to hear from people who want to garden as well as from owners who might be willing to share some ground. If you know someone who would love to grow their own, or you have a neighbour who is struggling with their garden, please contact Joy at [malone.godwin@gmail.com](mailto:malone.godwin@gmail.com)

### Progress on allotments

Many growers benefiting from Garden Share had applied for an allotment in Stratford, where there are over 100 people on waiting lists. We have been working with Stratford Town Council - which has a legal duty to provide allotments - to try to improve local opportunities for growing. We've supported the development of a new policy to help people find ways of growing their own and helped produce a leaflet about growing opportunities in Stratford. And we've carried out a survey of vacant plots, as a result of which the Council is in the process of bringing a piece of land into use as temporary allotments.

# Community Energy Warwickshire is born!

Transition Stratford is playing a leading part in the creation of a new local organisation - Community Energy Warwickshire Limited. The new body has two main aims – to invest in local renewable and sustainable energy projects and to help local people and communities to become more energy efficient.

Community Energy Warwickshire is a Community Benefit Society - a form of co-operative, which is owned and democratically controlled by its members (shareholders). Founder members of the new organisation met recently to elect directors, who include all three Transition Stratford officers - James Pavitt, Roger Matthews and Barbara Cooper. As its first local investment, Community Energy Warwickshire is working on plans to install solar photovoltaic panels on roofs in Stratford and Warwick districts. Money to finance this investment will be raised from the sale of shares to members of the public, planned for Summer 2011.

Community Energy Warwickshire is also developing an inclusive community programme which can help members, their families, friends and neighbours and the wider community to become more energy-efficient and reduce their carbon footprints. For more information, contact Barbara on 01789 298503.

## Get into energy training

Transition Stratford's Energy Champions scheme offers free training in home energy saving, with a simple survey to help identify simple and cheap ways of cutting energy use.

After a successful pilot last summer, we'll be running another training session in Henley-in-Arden, with more sessions planned across Stratford district later in the year. Training is free – all we ask is that Energy Champions share what they've learnt with friends and neighbours. For more information, contact Roger on 01789 298503.

## Making older buildings more sustainable

Transition Stratford is working with other local organisations, including Stratford Town Council, Stratford District Council and the Stratford Society, to make information available about ways to make older and historic buildings more sustainable.

Following a well-attended workshop last May, which heard from national speakers, work is in progress to design a website to provide building owners with information on sustainable options. For more information, contact Roger on 01789 298503.

## Dates for your diary

**Thurs 3 March, 7.30pm:** Annual Town Meeting, Stratford Town Hall, Sheep Street, CV37 6EF

**Fri 4 March, 7.00pm:** Film Friday *Baraka* Lifeways, 30 Albany Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6PG. Film free, refreshments £2

**Mon 7 March, 7.30pm:** Transition Stratford Steering Group. All welcome, for venue please contact Barbara on 01789 298503.

**Sat 12 March, 10 - 12am:** Energy Champions training, Henley-in-Arden. For more information, contact Roger on 01789 298503.

**21 - 27 MARCH: CLIMATE WEEK 2011**

**Mon 21 March, 7.30pm:** Transition Stratford quarterly general meeting: Energy and Climate Change (venue and speaker to be confirmed)

**Fri 1 April, 7.00pm:** Film Friday (*Astro*) *Turf Wars* Lifeways, 30 Albany Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6PG. Film free, refreshments £2

**Mon 11 April, 7.30pm:** Transition Stratford Steering Group. All welcome, for venue please contact Barbara on 01789 298503.

**Sat 16 April, 7.30pm:** Ceilidh with Silver Bough Ceilidh Band, Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Old Town, CV37 6BG. Adults £10, children £5, refreshments included. Tickets from James at james@nettlesoup.co.uk

## Contacts

### Officers

**Facilitator:** James Pavitt,  
james@nettlesoup.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Roger Matthews, 01789 298503

**Secretary:** Barbara Cooper, 01789 298503

### Group representatives

**Energy:** Hugh Chatwin,  
hughchatwin@btinternet.com

**Food:** Joy Godwin,  
malone.godwin@gmail.com

### Other Steering Group members

Joan and Peter Burgess,  
pandjburgess@waitrose.com

Lila Morgan, abmorgan@ntlworld.com

Shelagh Sandle,  
shelagh@queenbeecottage.co.uk

### Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a co-opted member of the steering group, which meets monthly. If you would be interested in joining the steering group, please contact Barbara Cooper on 01789 298503 for details