

## Garden Share is busting' out all over!

Transition Stratford's Garden Share scheme has really taken off over the last month, with the Garden Share team of Anna Corser, Joy Godwin, Michael Rolfe and Susie Drummond visiting nearly 20 potential garden sharers and helping to organise four Garden Share agreements.

The scheme was reported in the *Stratford Herald* and BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire made a special live report from the garden of Mary Jeffery – who, with Martina Hunt, became Stratford's first garden share partnership earlier this month. And the Town Council's newsletter, *Bridging the Gap*, gives front-page coverage to Garden Share and other Transition Stratford growing initiatives.

At the moment, demand for gardens is outstripping the supply of gardens, with roughly twice as many people wanting garden space as there are plots currently available. So if you think you can help find new gardens, please get in touch. You may know a neighbour who would like to share,

or you may be able to put up a poster or arrange a talk to a local group with which you are involved. If you think you can help, contact Transition Stratford on 01789 298503.



Garden Share currently operates in Stratford town, where the team is based. But Transition Stratford can also help to set up schemes in other parts of the district, so if you live outside Stratford and think your community could benefit from Garden Share, please get in touch.

## Finding land for food

With over 100 Stratford people on allotment waiting lists and a lack of available land in the town for growing food, Transition Stratford has launched a survey in Stratford to see whether there are unused or derelict pieces of land that could be turned over to food growing.

The survey, which is being led by Transition Stratford Steering Group member Hugh Chatwin, is starting by looking at pieces of land identified by members of the public at Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council's meeting on allotments last month. The

Town Council has kindly provided details of these pieces of land, and it is hoped to get further information about possible plots from other landowners.

If you would like to help with the survey – or if you would like to suggest a piece of land to be investigated – contact Transition Stratford on 01789 298503. The aim is to prepare a report that can be presented to the Town Council, who can then explore with landowners possible ways of bringing land into productive use.

## Dates for your diary

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

**Mon 12 April @ 7.30pm**: Transition Stratford steering group (venue tbc, please ring 01789 298503 for details)

**Sat 17 April @ 9.30—12.30**: Transition Stratford street stall, outside White Swan, Rother Street

**Fri 7 May @ 7.15pm**, Life-ways: Film Friday: E F Schumacher's moving film testament, *On the Edge of the Forest*, is paired with the instructive, uplifting and entertaining *Permaculture in Practice*

**Mon 10 May @ 7.30pm**: Transition Stratford steering group (venue tbc, please ring 01789 298503 for details)

**Sat 15 May @ 9.30—12.30**: Transition Stratford street stall, outside White Swan, Rother Street

**Tues 18 May @ 2pm—5pm**, Stratford Town Hall: Workshop on sustainable energy for historic buildings. Booking essential: ring 01789 298503

**Every Sunday afternoon**: Community gardening at Life-ways, 30 Albany Road, CV37 6PG. Contact [james@nettlesoup.co.uk](mailto:james@nettlesoup.co.uk)

# Transition Stratford takes to the streets

Transition Stratford will be running its first street stall of 2010 on Saturday 17 April, to coincide with the popular Farmers' Market. We'll be setting up stall on the pavement outside the White Swan in Rother Street and plan to be there between 9.30 and 12.30.

April's stall will be showcasing Transition Stratford's work to encourage local food growing, including the Garden Share scheme (see front page). In May, we will be highlighting energy effi-

ciency, and in June we will be promoting the work of the Warwickshire-based charity Practical Action, which promotes the use of sustainable technology in developing countries and helps communities to adapt to the effects of climate change.

If you're in Stratford on Saturday 17 April, make sure you come and see us. And if you can spare an hour to help with the stall, please get in touch on 01789 298503.

## Monitor your energy use

Did you know that you can borrow an electricity monitoring meter from Stratford Library? The Library has five Owl meters available for loan, which can help you check how much electricity you use in your home—and how it gets used.



To help people get the most out of borrowing an Owl meter, Transition Stratford has prepared a straightforward leaflet explaining how to use the meter and giving tips on how to save energy as a result.

Copies of the leaflet are available free from Transition Stratford on 01789 298503 and we are discussing with Warwickshire County Council ways of making the leaflet available through public libraries to encourage energy saving.

## Be an Energy Champion

Transition Stratford is working with other local groups on a scheme to establish a network of Energy Champions. Energy Champions are volunteers who are trained to provide basic energy efficiency advice to householders, helping them to identify ways to save energy and reduce carbon emissions.

The scheme is a development of the "Greening Your Street" proposal put forward at Transition Stratford's Energy Open Space meeting last October. Since then, work has been carried out to design a simple home energy survey and arrangements have been made with Act on Energy, the Wellesbourne-based energy advice service, to provide technical advice and support for the scheme.

A project group is being established to plan for the launch of the scheme, including training for volunteers and testing the survey approach through a series of pilots. If you are interested in saving energy and would like to be able to help others to do so, why not become an Energy Champion? Contact Transition Stratford on 01789 298503

## Contacts

### Group representatives

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