

Transition Stratford: setting our course

Transition Stratford will be holding its first Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23 September. This will be our first chance to get everyone involved in Transition together in one place, and we are really looking forward to an exciting exchange of ideas about our future direction and priorities.

It's an important meeting for another reason, too. Up to now, Transition Stratford has been run by a number of volunteers who have come together as an informal steering group to try to get things up and running. At the AGM, control of the organisation will be transferred to registered

supporters, providing a broader, more democratic and more inclusive basis for planning our future activities. There are lots of opportunities to get involved, so please let us know if you are able to give some of your time and skill to helping to run the organisation.

With this newsletter, Registered Supporters will receive more detailed information about the decisions to be taken at the AGM, including the election of officers for the next twelve months. If you'd like more information about the AGM, please contact Barbara Cooper at barbara-cooper@108shipston.freemove.co.uk.

Affordable energy in a low-carbon, low-oil future

It's now generally accepted that major changes are needed in the ways we generate and use energy, both to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and to reduce our dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels.

The need for change starts in our own homes. More than a quarter of the UK's total carbon emissions are associated with the energy used to heat, light and run our homes. Worse still, it's estimated that around half the energy we use is wasted, particularly through inefficient appliances and inadequate insulation.

A sustainable low-carbon future at a price

everyone can afford will clearly require major changes in the ways we generate and use energy—but what are the options, and what should be our priorities for action?

Transition Stratford is holding a public meeting on Saturday 3 October to explore these questions. Like the successful public meeting on Food held in May, the meeting will use the "Open Space" format to enable those present to determine for themselves what topics they wish to discuss without the constraints of a pre-set agenda. So whether you're interested in renewable energy, community insulation projects or just saving money, come along and have your say.

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of *transition news*, the monthly newsletter for registered supporters and friends of Transition Stratford. We'll be bringing you information about our activities and forthcoming events in Stratford and neighbouring communities, as well as news about developments in the wider Transition movement. Please let us know if there are particular areas of interest you'd like to see covered in future issues.

Printed copies of *transition news* will be sent to anyone who does not have access to the internet, but you can help us to save money and resources by making sure we have your correct e-mail address.

Contacts

Working groups

Energy: Hugh Chatwin, hughchatwin@btinternet.com

Economy: Roger Matthews, rogermatthews@108shipston.freemove.co.uk

Food: James Pavitt, james@nettleoup.co.uk

Skills: Barbara Cooper, barbaracooper@108shipston.freemove.co.uk

Current officers

Facilitator: James Pavitt

Treasurer: Roger Matthews

Secretary: Barbara Cooper

General enquiries

Transition Stratford, c/o 108 Shipston Road CV37 7LR, tel. 01789 298503

The future of food?

Following the successful Food Open Space in May, a number of local food and growing initiatives are now being developed.

Transition gardening

A Transition garden has been established at the Lifeways Centre in Albany Road, with volunteers meeting at 7.00 pm every Monday to help develop the garden. A wide range of vegetables is already being grown and harvested and further work is planned to develop the garden using permaculture principles. If you are interested in the Lifeways garden, please contact James Pavitt – or just turn up on Monday evenings.

Permaculture training

Permaculture has been defined as “consciously designed landscapes which mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fibre and energy for the provision of local needs”.

Transition has many values and principles in common with permaculture, so an introductory permaculture design course held at Lifeways on 8 and 9 August was well attended by local supporters. The course, which covered the philosophy and principles of permaculture as well as looking at

how these might be applied in practice, has created considerable interest and it's been suggested that a local permaculture interest group should be set up.

Sharing garden space

The Food Open Space identified a need to connect people with unwanted or unmanageable garden space with people who want to grow their own but lack the space. Similar initiatives—such as the Landshare scheme set up by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall—have emphasised the care needed in putting arrangements together, as those with spare space are often elderly and understandably wary about letting people into their garden. Transition Stratford's Food Group is starting work on the details of a local scheme. If you'd like to know more or want to be involved, please contact James Pavitt on james@nettlesoup.co.uk.

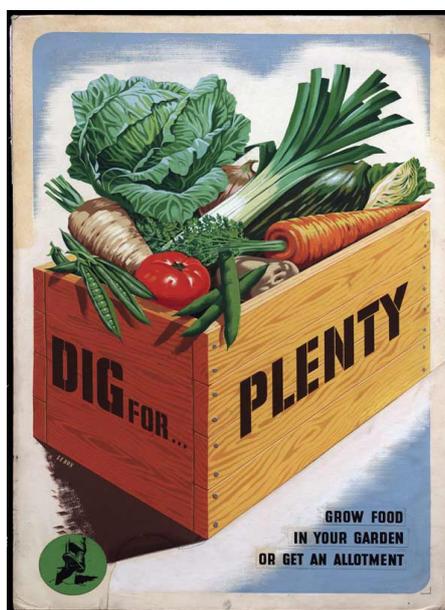
Muck and magic

A composting workshop led by Barbara Cooper, a volunteer with the Warwickshire Master Composter scheme, will take place on 17 and 18 October at the Lifeways Centre. For more details, or to book your place, please contact Barbara on barbaracooper@108shipston.freeserve.co.uk.

Grow your own at the Town Hall!

Every September, Stratford's historic Town Hall opens to the public during the Heritage Open Days—a series of events all over England that offer a chance to discover hidden architectural gems and participate in events and activities on local history and culture.

The theme of this year's Town Hall Open Days is “Grow Your Own”. Transition Stratford has been invited to run a stall on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September, offering us a great opportunity to explain what we are doing to promote local food production. If you have a couple of hours to spare on either day and can help to run the stall, please contact Roger Matthews at rogermatthews@108shipston.freeserve.co.uk



Another chance to see....

Over the next few months, Transition Stratford will be screening films and DVDs on issues relating to climate change and peak oil, starting with *A Farm for the Future*. First shown on BBC2 in early 2009, this inspirational film shows the dependence of modern British farming and food production on oil and looks at some more sustainable options for the future.

A Farm for the Future will be shown on Friday 25 September at 7.30 pm at the Lifeways Centre, 30 Albany Road CV37 6PG. Numbers will be limited to a maximum of 20, so please ring 01789 298503 to book your place.

Dates for your diary

Fri 11—Sat 12 Sept, 10.00 am—5.00 pm: Transition Stratford stall at Heritage Open Days, Stratford Town Hall

Wed 23 Sept, 7.30 pm: Transition Stratford Inaugural General Meeting, Stratford Town Hall (NB Registered Supporters only)

Fri 25 Sept, 7.30 pm: Film *A Farm for the Future* Lifeways Centre, 30 Albany Road

Sat 3 Oct., 9.30 am: Energy Open Space, Stratford Town Hall

Sat 17—Sun 18 Oct, 10.00 am Composting Workshop, Lifeways Centre, 30 Albany Road