

2011 Harvest Share project gathers pace



As the blossom emerges on local fruit trees, Transition Stratford's Harvest Share scheme is continuing to grow. We already have around 100 trees to pick this autumn, so we have started early to prepare to collect and use literally tonnes of fruit.

Thanks to recent coverage in the local papers, nearly half the care homes in Stratford have signed up to receive free fruit from the Harvest Share scheme in the autumn, and over 20 people have volunteered to help with the harvest.

Detective work is also about to begin on mapping the orchard at Anne Hathaway's Cottage. All the trees used to be labelled, but over the years visitors have taken the labels for souvenirs ...! Work on the complex task of identifying and recording the many different varieties of apple present in the orchard will start in early April as the blossom

comes out, and will continue throughout the summer and autumn as the leaves appear and fruit ripens.

Can you help Harvest Share this year? Is there a fruit tree blossoming in your garden – and will you be able to use all the fruit in the autumn? What about neighbours? Do they have fruit trees in blossom – and will they know about Harvest Share? Get in touch for leaflets to let friends and neighbours know about the scheme.

And more help is still needed for the harvest period from August to November. In addition to help with picking, we are looking for people who could help for an hour or two once a week with sorting the fruit for distribution. And we also need people who could deliver boxes of fruit to local care homes and churches. Could you drive a short delivery round in Stratford?

For more details about Harvest Share and how you can help, contact Transition Stratford on 01789 298503 or e-mail admin@transitionstratford.com.

Dates for your diary

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, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6BG. Adults £10, children £5, refreshments included. Tickets from James at james@nettlesoup.co.uk

Fri 6 May, 7.00pm: Film *Friday From the Heart of the World* Lifeways, 30 Albany Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6PG. Film free, refreshments £2

Sat 7 May, 2pm – 4pm: Plant swap at Ken Kennett Centre, 100 Justins Avenue, Stratford upon Avon CV37 0DA. Bring along your surplus seedlings and swap them for something you need

Sat 18 June, 9.30 – 12.30am: The Really Re-Useful Show – Open Space discussion and marketplace, Stratford Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6EF

Baby, you can drive my car...

There is compelling evidence that car clubs can help to reduce carbon emissions, as well as saving members much of the time, hassle and expense associated with car ownership.

Because users often find they can do without a second (or even first!) car, car clubs help to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. UK studies suggest that each car club vehicle typically replaces at least six private cars, and perhaps as many as 20. It is estimated that there are 300,000 fewer cars on the road thanks to car clubs.

Car clubs can help to change habits, with members reducing their overall travel and walking, cycling and using public transport more often. By encouraging a shift to newer, more efficient and better maintained cars, car clubs also contribute to lower emissions of CO₂, NO_x and particulates. Car club membership often means that a polluting older car is scrapped.

Reducing car miles, increasing non-car travel and taking older cars off the road all help to reduce the environmental impact of personal travel: research suggests that car club members can reduce their CO₂ emissions from travel by 40% - 50%.

So how do car clubs work?

Car clubs provide cars and vans to members on a pay-as-you-drive basis. Cars are located as close as possible to a cluster of members – typically within 10 minutes' walk – so a large city may have several car stations. Vehicles are usually owned by the company providing the

service, but in some cases they are owned communally by club members, or even by an individual member who allows others to use their vehicle.

Car clubs work best for people who need occasional use of a car or van, but don't want the expense or responsibility of owning a vehicle. Car clubs operate in both urban and rural areas, but most commercial schemes are concentrated in highly-populated towns.

There are different types of car club, ranging from commercial businesses such as City Car Club and Zipcar to community car clubs, where neighbours get together to share car ownership and use, to neighbour-to-neighbour car hire schemes

Commercial car clubs

Membership of a commercial car club typically costs £50 - £60 a year. Members can book a vehicle by the hour or half-hour, by telephone or over the internet. The vehicle is collected from a car station using a smart card to unlock the vehicle. At the end of the booking, the smart card sends user and mileage information back to a central computer for billing. Hourly rates range from £5 - £10 depending on the size and type of vehicle, plus mileage rates of around 22p a mile.

Community car clubs

Community car clubs can be run by local authorities or housing associations, or by groups such as Transition Towns. One example is in Llanidloes in mid-Wales: set up in 2007, it now has four vehicles and 24 members,

10 of whom rely entirely on the car club for their motorised transport.

Informal car clubs can be set up with friends and neighbours, using cars already owned by members or purchasing a car together. This has the advantage of flexibility, but it is important to have a structure that is able to take responsibility for tax, insurance and maintenance.

Neighbour-to-neighbour car hire
Neighbour-to-neighbour car hire schemes offer a way of making car clubs available in smaller communities which might not be able to support a large fleet of vehicles. They involve individual car owners sharing the use of their car with other car club members. Schemes of this kind are offered by the social enterprise Commonwheels, which takes on responsibility for maintaining the car and organising bookings. The owner gets free use of the car, and also receives payments when the car is used by other members.

What do you think?

Could a car club work in Stratford? What about rural communities? If a car club was available locally, might it encourage you to scrap your own car? Would you be prepared to let others use your car through a neighbour-to-neighbour car hire scheme?

To let us know what you think, e-mail us at admin@transitionstratford.com

Celebrate the spring!



It looks as if winter is over – and it's time to get busy with preparing the garden or allotment for summer. But why not take a break and celebrate the spring with the Silver Bough Ceilidh Band at Holy Trinity Parish Centre on Saturday 16 April.

Doors open for the Transition Stratford Ceilidh at 7.00 and the dancing starts at 7.30. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children, including food during the evening. For tickets in advance, contact James on 07848 030345 – or buy on the door.

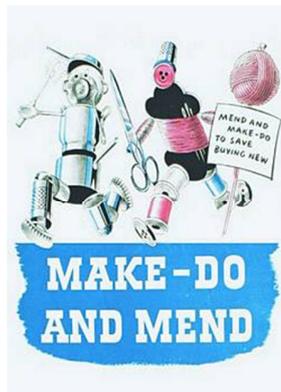
Getting people growing with Garden Share

Transition Stratford's Garden Share scheme – which matches people who want to grow with people who are happy to share some of their garden – was launched last year, and 10 shares were arranged during 2010. Now, thanks to a number of offers from garden owners over the winter, eight more plots are currently available in Stratford through Garden Share to people who want to get growing at the start of spring.

Anyone can take part in Garden Share, which is currently organised within Stratford town. So if you are interested in growing – or know someone else who's looking for the opportunity to grow their own – get in touch with Transition Stratford on 01789 298503 or e-mail us at admin@transitionstratford.com.

The Really Re-useful Show

Make a note in your diary now for The Really Re-useful Show at Stratford Town Hall on the morning of Saturday 18 June. The event will combine an Open Space discussion and a marketplace showcasing ways in which we can reduce waste and turn things that might otherwise be thrown away to creative new uses.



There will be speakers and exhibits, plus opportunities to discuss your ideas for practical things we can do in Stratford and district to reduce waste and make better use of resources.

For advance information, or to offer help with organising and publicising the event, please contact Transition Stratford on 01789 298503 or by e-mail at admin@transitionstratford.com.

Energising Warwickshire



Work to establish Community Energy Warwickshire has received a boost with the news that support will be available from the national organisation Carbon Leapfrog, a registered charity which provides free professional advice for community organisations and projects which aim to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. Carbon Leapfrog advisers have already provided the new organisation with help and advice in developing its business plan, and the way is now open for more assistance in the form of free legal advice and help with developing a marketing plan.

Community Energy Warwickshire is an Industrial & Provident Society – a form of co-operative – which has been set up by neighbouring Transition initiatives in Stratford, Shipston and Leamington and other community groups in south Warwickshire to invest in local renewable and sustainable energy projects. As its first project, it hopes to install solar photovoltaic panels on roofs of public buildings in Stratford and Warwick.

To find out more, contact Barbara Cooper on 01789 298503 or visit CEW's website www.cew.coop.



TRANSITION SKILLS SURVEY 2011

An important part of Transition is helping everyone to gain the skills to live more sustainably – particularly by learning to grow or make the things we need and repair the stuff we already have rather than throw it away.

Please use the spaces below to tell us what skills you already have and would be willing to teach to others, and what skills you would like to learn. These could be anything from bicycle repair to baking or computer skills to composting – it doesn't matter as long as it's something that could help you or someone else to make better use of time and resources.

I'd be happy to share my skills in....

1.

2.

3.

4.

I'd like to learn to....

1.

2.

3.

4.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

E-mail.....Phone.....

Please send your completed survey form to Transition Stratford, c/o 108 Shipston Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 7LR. Alternatively, just send us an e-mail to admin@transitionstratford.com telling us what skills you can offer or would like to learn.



Contacts

Officers

Facilitator: James Pavitt, tel 07848 030345, e-mail james@nettlesoup.co.uk

Treasurer: Roger Matthews, tel 01789 298503, e-mail roger.matthews@phonecoop.coop

Secretary: Barbara Cooper, tel 01789 298503, e-mail barbara.cooper@phonecoop.coop

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, e-mail barbara.cooper@phonecoop.coop for details

Website

www.transitionstratford.com