

Great ideas for reducing waste



Some really useful ideas have emerged from The Really Re-Useful Show – the public meeting organised by Transition Stratford in June to find new ways to reduce waste and increase recycling.

It's been agreed to plan a **Plastics Free Week** to coincide with Ecological Debt Day next April. Of course, "plastic free" is impossible, but we can look at our use of plastic to see how it might be reduced.

One way to reduce your use of plastics is to have more control over your buying. The idea of setting up a **Food Buying Co-op** was raised at The Really Re-Useful Show – and one has already been set up in Stratford!

A third idea is creating a **Register of local repairers and re-users** - local businesses/organisations which offer repairing and re-use services - to publish on Transition Stratford's website. Let us know of repairers or services which organise the re-use of things that can go on the list.

Finally, it's been suggested that Transition Stratford could promote a **Swap and Share Day** when people "put out" things they don't want for others to take/use. This needs some thought – there are questions about product safety, trading standards, and overlaps with car boots/garage sales. A meeting will be arranged in the autumn to discuss in detail about how this might work.

If you want to get involved with any of these projects, phone 01789 298503 or get in touch through admin@transitionstratford.com. It doesn't matter if you missed The Really Re-Useful Show – everyone's welcome to help turn these exciting ideas into practical projects.

Dates for your diary

Mon 1 August:

Harvest Share starts! Phone 01789 298503 for more details

Thursday 4 August, 7.30:

Stratford Fairtrade Town – meeting to discuss future of Fairtrade in Stratford. Friends Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6XT.

Monday 15 August,

7.30pm: Transition Stratford Steering Group. All welcome - phone 01789 298503 for details.

Monday 26 September,

7.30: Transition Stratford Steering Group. All welcome - phone 01789 298503 for details.

Sunday 9 October:

Transition Stratford Harvest Home celebration and Annual General Meeting, Lifeways, 30 Albany Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6PG

Harvest Share starts

Transition Stratford's Harvest Share scheme gets under way at the beginning of August. With around 300 trees to pick, there will be picking sessions every week through to the end of October, and regular sessions to sort the fruit and arrange its delivery. If you want to help, contact Roger Matthews at roger.matthews@phonecoop.coop.

More and more Garden Share

Transition Stratford's Garden Share scheme – which matches people who want to grow but lack the land with people willing to share some space in their garden – continues to grow. Following the recent advertisement of garden plots, several new growers have joined, taking the number of share this year to 15. And plots are still available.

Garden Share is run by a team of four volunteers – and with the growth of the scheme, they are looking for help. Could you spare a bit of time to help to organise shares? Some experience with gardening and growing will help. Contact Joy Godwin (malone.godwin@gmail.com) for more information.

Community Energy Warwickshire

Community Energy Warwickshire, the community energy co-operative which Transition Stratford has helped to start, has now got agreement to plans to install solar panels on roofs at Stratford and Warwick hospitals. And the organisation has been praised by Energy Minister Greg Barker, who described the hospitals scheme as “exactly the kind of project delivered through exactly the kind of partnership that we need to see more of”.

To find out more about Community Energy Warwickshire, see its website www.cew.coop or e-mail info@cew.coop.

Fairtrade's future

Transition Stratford is a supporter of Stratford Fairtrade Town, so we heard with concern that the Fairtrade Town steering group has recently disbanded.

A meeting to discuss the future of Stratford as a Fairtrade Town is being held on Thursday 4 August at Friends Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road, Stratford, CV37 6XT, starting at 7.30. If you are interested in Fairtrade and want to see an active future for it in Stratford, please go along.

Website changes

We've been having problems with Transition Stratford's website recently – www.transitionstratford.com – and so it's a bit out of date! But we will shortly be moving to a new system which will enable us to update the site more easily – and look even better!

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.

Website

www.transitionstratford.com