

Transition Exmouth Newsletter for Members and Supporters

October '18

Annual membership is due now. Your subscription *** see AGM item below ***is easily paid to our Treasurer, or to our Chair. e-mail us for postal address.

If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, our details are: 'Transition Exmouth', Cooperative Bank, 08-92-99, a/c 65332739

Please don't forget to mention Transition Exmouth in any relevant conversation. We need to play our part in spreading the good word.

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29-minute Session - Tomorrow

Firstly thanks to Carol and Ron Metcalfe who last month explained the concept of compassion in Buddhism. The session involved a meditation exercise; I'm sorry I missed it; If you can do that in a pub, you can surely do it anywhere! Carol is asking whether anyone would like to join-in with starting a meditation group?

This month, **in fact tomorrow**, you can learn from Helen Tribble, Projects Director at the Open Door Exmouth about their activities. The organisation is a great, much needed resource about which, I for one, should be better informed. On their Website is the message:

'Whether you are struggling with housing, relationships, addiction, mental health, domestic abuse, financial crisis, unemployment, loneliness, bereavement, or simply need someone to listen and to care, we are here for you.'

Is any one of us free from all those worries? 19.30 sharp or you'll miss it at The Park Hotel, 114 Exeter Road, Exmouth, Devon EX8 1QH.

On November 1st, Noel & Rob will be talking about Noel's novel Yestermorrow (see below) and about self-publishing. Since the novel features members of a Transition group fighting off flooding while living in sustainable housing, we'd best all get along to find out what roles he assigned to each of us! Will there be a film deal? Noel's belief is that we need to build a vision of where we wish to travel to help us get there. Too many people lose hope and drop out of groups like ours and this gloom and doom spoils our chances. Rob has been Noel's publisher for this project so his experiences will be of interest to any budding authors out there.

Green Drinks

Don't forget, our purely-social Green Drinks follows on from the talk; you are welcome to bring your own 'green' table decoration to add to the collection! Transition Exmouth's AGM – 22 September

AGM Report

We met up formally at our AGM on Saturday afternoon 22nd, at Glenorchy Church Hall; the venue was provided FoC because Glenorchy is a corporate member. 22 people, not all members, came despite the bad weather and it would be nice to think that the display constructed by Roger Gibson and myself in the Hub's shop window played a part. Thanks to Jill Webb for that facility.

Local zero-waste celebrity Sarah Allen delivered a well thought-out presentation that managed to walk the tightrope between preaching and being informative by simply telling us how she went about filling her black bin only after 6 months (4 in her family!). The key seems to be that one needs to re-programme consumer habits such that after a while it all becomes 2nd nature and life is better. See next heading for more info.

Back to the AGM. you will not be surprised to learn that I am still Chair and Secretary and have taken on several additional duties, not thankfully that of Treasurer; the wonderful Doreen Sandham stepped up to the mark on that one.

Many thanks to Rob Masding who, in addition to several other roles, has been our conscientious Treasurer for the last four years. Rob remains as a member.

Your Umbrella Group now comprises, in addition to Doreen & myself, Andy Lock, Noel Harrower, and Jane Ashton. Cllr Tim Dumper who is our liaison with the Town Council also attends.

The other item that will be of interest to those who are, or are planning to be, members is the yearly subscription. There was a lively debate about the pros & con's of increasing it but we routinely balance on the brink of insolvency and that is not sensible. The increasers eventually carried the day and the following resolution was passed:

'The subscription rate for the next 12 months for both individual members and corporate groups is agreed to be £10 (plus planting a tree) with additional voluntary subscriptions welcome but totally free to those under 18, students, & the unemployed.'

It goes without saying that anyone wanting to join and start their own project is welcome as is anyone wanting to help with the work of the Umbrella.

Sarah's 7Rs

Here is the link to Sarah;s blog on the subject:

<http://www.rhubarbandrunnerbeans.co.uk/how-i-reduced-our-landfill-to-almost-nothing-well-about-13th-full-every-3-weeks-but-that-s-not-so-catchy>

We are all familiar with the 4Rs but here is Sarah's 7Rs take on that mnemonic: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rot, Recycle, Return.

To be blunt: we all talk about it but Sarah actually does it so take some leaves out of her book. Sarah has agreed to my using her notes so here is the 1st instalment, on REFUSE:

That's what I'd been doing when I started to look for recyclable packaging. It's the main R in tackling rubbish, so top of my list. I refuse all sorts of things now, that previously I would have accepted. Simply put, if you don't need it or want it refuse it! Shopping is the front-line in refusing; as one thing ran out I looked for recyclable options initially but now I try to refuse plastic and packaging

- Shop around
- Plastic-wrapped fruit and veg, (The Farm Shop). Buy loose, put straight into the basket or reusable produce bag
- My Kids have a free choice but I deal with the rubbish further down my R's system
- I still eat cakes, biscuits, chocolate and crisps!

- Cakes and biscuits (un-packaged or homemade)
- Chocolate (foil or foil and cardboard e.g. Green and Blacks, M&S, Smarties, Cadbury's Creme Eggs). Pick and mix in the market.
- Crisps (often an alternative will work e.g. pistachios (from Lidl) or olives but now I also make crisps)
- Unpackaged shops (Nourish and Plastic Free Pantry) I am now able to buy products such as pasta, rice, lentils, dried fruit etc plastic-free or without packaging).
- Refuse Bin liners (I just don't use any), plastic sticky tape (for our own present wrapping; I use paper tape instead), cling film, most conventional cosmetics and toiletries, tea bags wrapped in and containing plastic.

Flood Protection Scheme - trees

As you will be aware, the Environment Agency are about to spend large amounts of money in raising our sea defences against Climate-change related sea-level rises. They have recently lodged a planning application. Remember this is coinciding with the latest IPCC report that tells us how urgent it is to reduce carbon emissions NOW; we won't keep the sea at bay for ever! I couldn't go to the public exhibition but Ian Cann of Exmouth Civic Society, one of our corporate members, did and he has alerted us to one unfortunate detail. Anyway although I can't imagine anyone is against the overall scheme, the proposal is to raise the height of the estuary-side wall behind the railway station and to achieve that, they want to fell the row of trees that top the existing embankment. Google StreetView shows the trees as they were 10 years go and they now seem well-established, mature, and provide a welcome landscape feature in this desolate corner of Exmouth; they are of course providing in themselves a defence against Human-induced Climate Change. I have not yet tunnelled in to the detail of the application to discover whether the contractors intend to plant new saplings somewhere 'in exchange' but in any case we all know the fate of many such new plantings, they don't survive!

Ian Cann's suggestion is that the trees are kept insitu and the new wall is build along the edge of car park. It seems to be a good plan especially considering that it must be easier and cheaper for the contractors to build there (something like the concrete walls that are replacing metal crash barriers down the middle of all our motorways) rather than to re-build the whole embankment. As a property owner in The Colony, obviously I have a vested interest in the scheme going ahead but the wholesale felling of the trees seems to me rather too much like vandalism. why can't we actually agree as a nation to assign a monetary value to trees, it seems to me that much else in the planning system hinges on economic benefit, witness the arguments for the jobs/economic benefit of development on Woodbury Common that we have just witnessed.

In development debates the value of trees is seen as an amenity value or in more enlightened arguments as a climate stabilising/pollution-reduction value but otherwise the only monetary implication of tree felling seems to be the cost of removing them. If roadside

British timber had a value that exceeded the cost of removal, we'd have only specimen ones remaining!

So my proposal is that all trees have a value that depended on an age/species/condition calculation and that if felled, the landowner would have to cough up to the public purse.

Anyway, please respond to the planning consultation on-line or otherwise: Royal Avenue Car Park, Camperdown Terrace And The Esplanade Exmouth. Ref. No: 18/2174/MOUT | Validated: Wed 26 Sep 2018 | Status: Awaiting decision.

Hemingway's Portal

The Hemingway portal survey closes in a few days. Please take part; on-line it is at is at:

<https://www.hemingwaydesign.co.uk/exmouth-opportunities-queens-drive/>

If anyone you know needs a paper copy of the survey, or needs one in large print, or in any other format please call Anna Herbert on 01395 517535 or email aherbert@eastdevon.gov.uk.

Environment Interpretation Centre (EIC)

I've told you about Noel's pet project before but do you realise that much work has gone into lobbying for a similar concept in years gone past. The need for something of the sort is prominent in the draft Neighbourhood Plan, and we need to keep the pressure up.

A new twist to the project has been suggested by Jo Slater. The proposal that he has put to Hemingway is in his (edited) words:

'... the proposition is that a study and education centre be set up to explain and explore the weather, the tides and the ecosystem. It will be an education centre in the sense that there will be hands on exhibits such as estuary models simulating tides, computer modeling perhaps for the weather, temporary exhibitions covering such things as hurricanes, weather photography competitions and so on. Agencies such as the Met Office could be in partnership gaining a public arena and increasing public participation. There would of course be many educational links with ongoing research drawing in schools, universities and academics; a place to showcase and discuss climate research. This is obviously a long term project which will take years to organize, build and fund and no doubt there would be a series of stages, the first being to talk to all possible agencies. The subjects are not covered elsewhere.'

Jo is working with Noel on this and is looking for collaborators so please get in touch if you want to progress this.

Apple Pressing Day

Anne-Marie is hiring Halsdon Farm's apple pressing equipment and pasteuriser for Sunday 14th October. Her host is Louisa at 6 Oakleigh Road, EX8 2LN. there is good access, and they will be using the kitchen for pasteurising with the public welcome from 12.00 to 16.00.

Transition Exmouth has contributed towards the costs so please all turn up and get stuck in (that means mucky). Bring your own apples (there are plenty about) and bottles and be prepared to donate towards the costs.

Local Grants

A new grant called the Exmouth Community Fund is a trial for Exmouth, replacing the former Parishes Together funding. Details of the fund are currently being ironed out with the deadline for applications to be the 2nd January 2019. Chetna Jones of the Town Council will be circulating full details very shortly giving us plenty of time to prepare.

At COLP we established that groups such as ours qualify for funding so Doreen and I need to receive proposals for your projects. It will be a competitive process, with what I'm told is an Apprentice-style public hearing (what does that mean?), so your proposals need to be good and your arguments need to stress benefit to the town. Lets get going on this now.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan is in a 6 week public consultation at EDDC. Hopefully it can go through to referendum soon.

Below is the link: [Link: http://eastdevon.gov.uk/](http://eastdevon.gov.uk/)

Social Media and Website

Website: <http://www.transitionexmouth.uk>.

You can contact me Adrian Toole, Chair, on transitionexmouth@gmail.com

[@GreenManExmouth](#) continues his tweeting, not always on TE items but always seeking to entertain so be prepared!

We have a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/15416577788/>

and a page: <https://www.facebook.com/transition.exmouth>

Not to forget the ever popular Green Drinks: <http://www.greendrinks.org/Devon/Exmouth>

Other Dates for your Diary

Fracking Anyone?

Monday 8th October, Exeter Phoenix, 18.30- 21.30: The Bentley Effect - Film and Community Meeting. Transition Exeter are screening of 'The Bentley Effect', a story of how a community's heroic stand defeated the fracking industry.

In Lancashire, Cuadrilla are now beginning fracking. In 2015 their plans were rejected at every level of local decision-making, but government overruled democracy and gave fracking the green light. Tireless resistance and campaigning by local residents have left Cuadrilla 1 year behind schedule, and resistance continues. Meanwhile the government proposes to let drilling take place anywhere in UK without planning permission.

Come along to find out more about the situation in the UK, and how we can work together to stop this destructive industry. They tell me that all are welcome but note the 18.30 start.

Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLnRD3neUFo>

More details here <https://www.facebook.com/events/328739984528408/>

Register to attend here: <https://act.350.org/event/let-communities-decide-action-join/14439>

Uprooted Exhibition

Christian Aid's Uprooted exhibition is currently touring the county to raise awareness of the 40 million internally displaced people around the world. Because those displaced inside their own country have not crossed a border, they often lack international recognition and support. Through a series of powerful images and individual accounts, you will learn more about the global crisis of displacement, its consequences and the challenges displaced people face.

8-14 October, Temple Methodist Church, Pebble Lane, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NN (open daily, 09.00 to 16.00. also a talk at the Christian Aid lunch on Wednesday 10 October, 12.00

For further information email Jill Stone jstone@christian-aid.org

www.christianaid.org.uk/events/uprooted-exhibition-come-devon

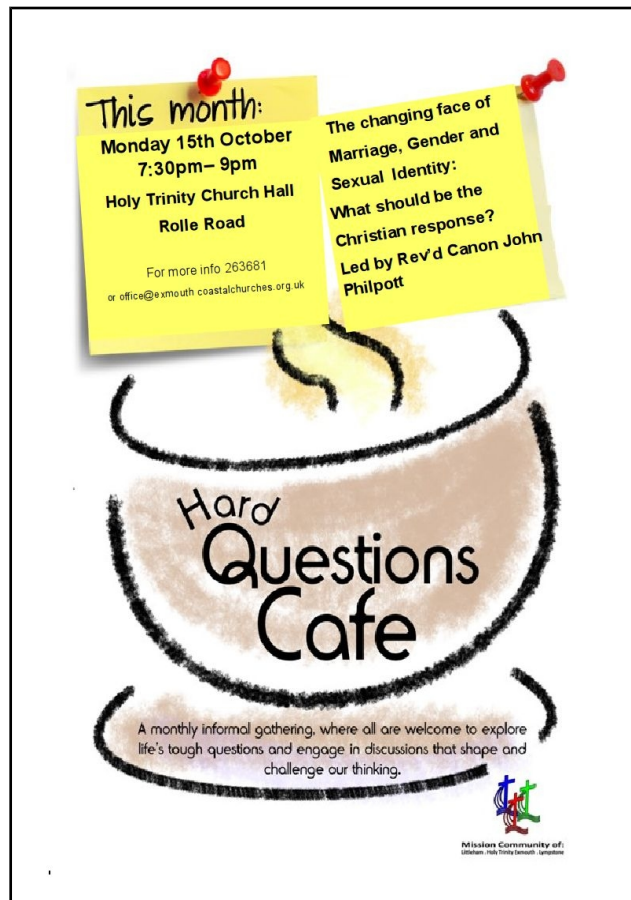
Exeter Vegan Market

Meanwhile, the Exeter Vegan Market on Saturday 13 October Exeter Corn Exchange, Market St EX1 1BW. The market will incorporate an exhibition by vegan artists in collaboration with the group Art of Compassion. So do come along and stock up on all your store-cupboard essentials, along with locally made vegan cheeses, cakes of all kinds, organic vegetables, cruelty-free toiletries, fair trade clothing, and much, much more. Catch

up with friends over lunch from the ever-popular Fairfoods - and don't forget to bring your own bags and containers to help reduce waste! See the EVM [Facebook page](#).

Hard Questions Cafe

Monday 15th October - let the poster tell the story



Buturi Gala Dinner

Saturday 10th November. We have been long associated with this charity so get your smart clothes on and turn out. Again see poster:



And Finally

Do you get the feeling that you are out of touch with current cultural memes? I know I do.

I went reluctantly to a fashionable Exeter eatery for a family celebration and found that I couldn't get to grips with the menu! soft-drinks ie non-alcoholic seemed to be all termed 'mixers' and their fish & chips could not be obtained with peas (or any other vegetable). Who ever heard of fish n'chips without peas? Settling for pizzas, they arrived in the round with inadequate cutting technology on portable stands 30cm off the table and took up most of the space. What eating experience is that?

Cycling in Exmouth I passed a young kid, who was on a skateboard apparently talking to himself; intrigued, I let him catch up and could then see that he had a earpiece in, presumably attached to a mobile phone. What parent would let an 8-year old loose with one of those on a skateboard? He appeared oblivious to me.

My young friends down the road are busy gadgeting up their house so that they can issue instructions to someone called Alexa, for example: "Alexa, play Stairway to Heaven.". Good choice but when she can't comply, which is frequently, they shout at her!

This is not all just a joke, If I'm out of touch with what's going on in most people's heads, how can I ever engage with them?

ENDS