

# Transition Glastonbury

Spring 2010 Newsletter



## 'Transition Education'

In this issue:

**Transition Glastonbury Community Think-Tank days  
post-Copenhagen Transition : What Next?**

**Courses & Workshops for the New Year**

**Interest groups:**

**Food | Transport | Heart and Soul | Health**

**Housing & Energy | Local Government | Resources**



# Transition Education: our theme for 2010

In the last newsletter we reported on the changes in the structure of Transition Glastonbury. We watched and waited with bated breath... would the whole thing fall apart without a core group? Were the changes that we made the right ones? After all this is all a big experiment! So far so good, it seems. We've put some new structures in place: **'match-makers'**, to integrate new people into what's happening; a **support group** to support the working groups and we're starting quarterly **'open space' days** as forums to engage new people and unleash the creative genius of the community. The first of these took place in October and we were really pleased with how that went—see report on next page. Put January 30th in your diary as that's the next (more on it later).

**Last year was an amazing year** in many ways. The Somerset Transition network is well on the way. Post Copenhagen the Transition message seems even more relevant as it becomes obvious Governments are not going to step up to the challenge in time. The power of grassroots change is not to be underestimated. How are we doing here in Glastonbury?

One thing I know is that **how you look is how you see** and often our perception of how Transition Glastonbury is doing partly depends on what side of the bed we got out of this morning! On a bad day, we focus on the fact that there's such a long way to go and we haven't yet engaged the whole town in Transition! Frustration and despair due to our sense of urgency is something we all have to learn to live with. For some of us that drives us to burn-out, and then sometimes it's too much to contemplate and we do the head in the sand thing and pretend none of it is happening.

If you look at a flock of geese flying in formation it looks like there is one leader, but they actually take it in turns to be at the front. It's a good metaphor for how Transition Glastonbury seems to work. Some of us who have been doing this for two years now have needed to step back for a while—we need new people to step forward and actively engage with coordinating things and thankfully this is happening. We have a new Buildings and Energy group coordinator in the form of Johnny Heriz Smith, and Andy Norris from the Skills and Learning Centre has come in with lots of ideas and funding for a whole range of interesting events including a 'Transition Somerset Week' in February (see more in his article). We also need to **trust the way the cycle goes** from the 'out-breath' of activity and creativity and expansiveness to the 'inbreath' of drawing in and being still - read more on this in Dearbhaile's article 'Reflections on the Great Turning'.

On a good day we can see that actually 'Transition' is now woven into the fabric of the community and gradually, more and more, into our collective consciousness. We see evidence of the '100th Monkey' effect where we reach a critical mass and change starts to snowball. We can feel good about the many different ways we have supported this, though we can't take ownership of it. It's much bigger than us - we are simply part of a bigger system that is struggling to re-balance things.

The role of this newsletter is to celebrate this proliferation of 'good sense' and report on transitioning as it evolves in our community. **This edition's special focus is 'Transition Education' which as you will see is happening all over the place!**

# Transition matchmaking

We have started this new service with the aim of helping new people to orientate themselves within the organised chaos that is Transition Glastonbury! Traditionally Matchmakers are nosy people who make it their business to know who's doing what in the community. Well the same is true for the Transition Matchmaker team.. ('speak for yourself Jane' I hear the others squeak). We



offer newcomers an informal meeting where you can get the low-down on what's what - but also let us know what you are passionate about and what you have to offer in terms of skills, time, encouragement, coffers of gold etc.

To set up a meeting email [transitionglastonbury@googlemail.com](mailto:transitionglastonbury@googlemail.com) or call Jane on 01458 833382, or Lokabandhu on: 07852 281750 You can also check out ways of getting involved by looking at the Transition 'Opportunities Shop' which is updated regularly by the working group coordinators. You can see this at: [transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury/workinggroups](http://transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury/workinggroups)

# Transition Glastonbury Open Space Day



**Transition Glastonbury invites you to our next Open Space community think-tank afternoon:**

**Jan 30th 2-6pm (followed by a shared meal 6.30pm)**

You're warmly invited to TG's next Open Space event.

To give you an idea what it's about, here's a review of the last one... The 'Open Space' day in late October attracted over 40 people, with the numbers swelling as the day went on. Held in late October, after the long summer break, it was both a welcome opportunity to come together again as a community and a fertile source of new ideas - which now need you, gentle reader, to help take forwards!

The day was facilitated by Nick Osbourne, a professional consultant and coach living in Glastonbury, who works nationally training Transition groups. Using the 'Open Space' method for organising large groups of people, he led those present through a process in which we swiftly generated a number of topics to explore - headings such as Food - Training - Funding - Resources - Community Networking - Local Economy, and How to Have Fun (while doing all the above!) We then spent the rest of the day exploring them, with a delicious bring-to-share lunch in the middle.

A write-up of some of the points made can be found at [transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury/links](http://transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury/links).

# post-Copenhagen Transition : What Next?



As the dust settles on Copenhagen and it becomes even more obvious that we can't wait for governments to do the right thing, you are invited to the first Transition Glastonbury 'Open Space' meeting of 2010. We'd love you to come along and help us unleash the collective genius and creativity that is in our town and to look at how we transition from where we are now to creating a truly sustainable community. Everyone has something to offer and your ideas and input are vital.

We'll look at the work done in October at the last meeting and build on that as well as dreaming the next steps for Transition 2010... in the evening we'll celebrate and share a meal together. Come to either, or both. For the meal, bring some food or drink to share (no alcohol please).

The Open Space runs from 2-6pm at the Skills and Learning Centre in Benedict St, the meal starts at 6.30pm at the Robert Barton Cafe in Silver St. We'd like to support the work Robert Barton are doing so a donation towards their costs would be great. The first part of the day is completely free thanks to the Sustainable Somerset Project.

It would be great to have some idea of numbers, so if you are intending to come please give Jane a ring on 01458 833382 or Lokabandhu on 07852 281750.

For those of you who haven't attended an 'Open Space' meeting yet - it's basically a way of running meetings that is largely self-organising and good fun. It has no agenda other than what we draw out from the people who turn up, based on what's really current for them and relevant to our main focus which is "Post Copenhagen: Transition 2010 - what's next?" We form small groups each holding a different focus and you are free to circulate among each group or stay in one place. Scribes on each table keep a record of what's being discussed and then at the end we can all look at what happened in the other groups. It's a dynamic free-flowing process, sometimes chaotic but never boring! As we don't want this to be just a talking shop, the second half of the Open Space will focus on what needs to happen to take some of the ideas to the next stage.

*Transition Glastonbury invites you*  
to our next Open Space community  
think-tank afternoon: **Jan 30th 2-6pm**  
(followed by a shared meal at 6.30pm)



# Sustainable Somerset

Sustainable Somerset is a new project run by Somerset Skills and Learning in collaboration with Transition Somerset.

So far five Sustainable Somerset launch events have happened in different places. By the end of last year they'd managed to attract 500+ new people to sustainable activities and information delivered by transition town representatives.

The next phase of the project will include: the FREE use of Somerset Skills and Learning centres at weekends, FREE I.T. drop in sessions, a FREE medieval medicinal garden design course for Glastonbury Abbey, FREE Transition Town Training, and more - eg a willow-weaving workshop that will progress to a large scale community willow sculpture facilitated by Serena del la Hey (creator of the willow man of the west), FREE Access to a 'be the change symposium' which aims to create a new transition group in Bridgwater, FREE community resilience courses and FREE longer courses based on Sustainability.

Courses themes so far include Biodiversity and Sustainability, Nutrition and Healthy Cooking, Growing Vegetables without Chemicals, Discover Local Wildlife, Bread Making, Making Solar Panels, Creative Knitting, Dress Making, Rags to Riches, Bee Keeping.

## Celebrating Transition Towns

Celebrating Transition Towns week will be taking place from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> of February and will include a 'Be the Change Symposium' held at Bridgwater Arts Centre on **Saturday 13th** from 10am–3pm. Events will be going on all week at the 5 centres involved in the project: Glastonbury, Ilminster, Wellington, Williton and Burnham.

In Glastonbury on **Saturday 20th** of February there will be a whole day event at the Somerset Skills and Learning building in Abbott's Court on Benedict Street. The event begins with a 'healthy eating' workshop 10am–12pm. Then at 1pm green activist and highly entertaining speaker, Tracey Smith will be giving a flat bread workshop and presentation based on her book 'Talking Rubbish'. This will be followed at 3pm by a video conference linking Transition Glastonbury and Sustainable Frome to discuss post Copenhagen (Somer-Hagen?) and future local action, all followed by a series of short films called the 'Powerdown Show' created by the Transition Network. Also look out for Linda Hull who will be telling people about 'Somerset Land and Food', a mapping project aiming to bring more land into production for community use. To book a place contact Somerset Skills and Learning 01373 452018.

Look for other Transition Glastonbury events in the week which include a **Valentine's day Transition Tea - ('The Age of Cupid')** on Sunday 14th at the Skills and Learning Centre from 3-5pm get more info on the week at: [www.transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury](http://www.transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury). You can join in and discuss the project at our online forum [www.ci-skills.co.uk](http://www.ci-skills.co.uk)



# Facilitating the Great Reskilling



It seems the time is ripe for us to focus on step 8 from the “12 steps for Transition Towns”. This is generally referred to as “Facilitating the Great Reskilling”.

If we are to respond to peak oil and climate change by moving to a lower energy future and relocalising our communities, then we’ll need many of the skills that our grandparents took for granted. One of the most useful things a Transition Town project can do is to reverse the “great deskilling” of the last 40 years by offering training in a range of some of these skills.

Research among the older members of our communities is instructive – after all, they lived before the throwaway society took hold and they understand what a lower energy society might look like. Some examples of courses are: repairing, cooking, cycle maintenance, natural building, loft insulation, dyeing, herbal walks, gardening, basic home energy efficiency, making sourdoughs, practical food growing (the list is endless).

A local ‘Great Reskilling’ programme will give people a powerful realisation of their own ability to solve problems, to achieve practical results and to work cooperatively alongside other people. They’ll also appreciate that learning can truly be fun.

## Transition Somerset gets skilled up

The Transition network has been set up to meet transition training needs throughout the whole country. This autumn Nick Osborne (who is part of the network and lives in Glastonbury) set up a series of trainings especially for Transition Somerset. There was a whole week-end of Transition Training, a talk training which skilled a whole group of people up to give talks about transition, and ‘Weaving Magic’ which looked at the nuts and bolts of how we communicate, resolve conflicts, make decisions with an emphasis on community building and creating positive working relationships. The whole series was very successful and well attended. Nick seems to be on a mission to bring a bit of structure and clarity into transition groups so that they can flourish instead of flounder. Well done Nick and deep appreciation for all the hard work you have put in to creating these enjoyable and informative trainings.

## Breaking news: free Transition Training

Breaking news is that there will be a free Transition Training, funded by the Sustainable Somerset project, towards the end of March but as we go to press the date is still not set in stone so watch the Transition Glastonbury calendar for further news on this: [www.transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury/calendar](http://www.transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury/calendar)



On 13th Jan Crispin students hosted a Community Climate Change Debate with representatives of Transition groups on the panel of speakers. Other speakers included a senior lecturer in Human Geography from Exeter University, and the South West regional development manager from the Environment Agency, plus the Communications Executive from Hinkley Power Station. The weather forecast (snow!) meant some participants couldn't come (including the Chief Executive of Bristol's Centre for Sustainable Energy.) The line-up was great and a huge credit to the student-organisers - it would have been good to have more people. Nevertheless it was still an inspiring evening partly because it was arranged and run by the students and partly because of the interesting views aired.

The consensus seemed to be that nuclear wasn't the (entire) answer, that local is good and that, even post Copenhagen, there's loads to be positive about! A recipe book created by a student was available; using food from within a ten-mile radius; he also made and served impressive canapés and locally sourced drinks for the evening.

Crispin are also running ongoing after school training sessions in outdoor learning for staff from local primary schools.

## Somerset Youth Volunteer Network



Transition Glastonbury partnered with the Somerset Youth Volunteer Network, based in Silver St, Glastonbury, last year. They are a great organisation with a strong commitment to supporting community resilience, sustainability and

encouraging young people to get involved in green issues. We asked Nick Phillips to give us an update. He says -

Our big event last year was Revolution 09 which was a 3-day conservation and music festival which we ran at Fyne Court near Bridgwater. A film of the event can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2keSnZTYbHg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2keSnZTYbHg)

We are now planning a similar event for 2010 and are currently recruiting a group of young people to oversee the project.

We also have a new project starting which matches young volunteers with those over the age of fifty so that they can both experience volunteering from the viewpoint of the other age group. We are looking for anyone from either age range who might be interested in getting involved.

Our other big project is called Action Sparks. This will see us take over empty shop units for two or three months at a time and turn them into youth and community action centres. We'll be running various workshops for young people, families, school children and the long term unemployed as well as supporting young people to run their own activities out of each Action Sparks Centre.

# Transition Education at Paddington Farm

Forest School is an opportunity for children and young people to get involved in educational and recreational activities outdoors.

Sessions may take place in our woodland, orchards or an interesting spot on the farm. Activities include games, shelter building, building and respecting fires, pond dipping, cooking on an open fire, making things with tools. Forest School takes place in all weathers! Bring wellies and water-proofs.

Forest School sessions will be resuming at Paddington Farm with an all-ages Tree Planting session from 11am-1pm on Saturday 30th January.

We have number of oak and ash saplings which need planting around the farm so we are inviting anybody to come along to help dig, plant and make tree guards. This session is offered for free, but we encourage everyone to make a donation towards ongoing farm projects.

**Sessions for 3 - 7 year olds** resume on Saturday February 6th, 11am-1pm

**Sessions for 8-11 year olds** start Wednesday 10th February 4-6pm

**Sessions for 12-19 year olds** - we are developing this group - start date to be confirmed, but this age group could also come to...

**Farm School** - 9.30am-1.30pm - come and help with the animals and join in some of the physical jobs on the farm - sawing logs, working with fire, the right use of tools, building and making things for the farm.

All of the above sessions are free of charge, but we warmly invite donations - all donations go towards the cost of materials for ongoing projects on the farm. As a small charity we are constantly seeking funding to support new projects but your donations can be quicker and less painful than funding applications!



# Heart and Soul...

## **Reflection on the Great Turning** *by Dearbhaile Bradley*

As a transition town, we're heading towards a more resilient local community, full of networks of people living increasingly more sustainable lifestyles. It can be hard to see that some days.

In a society that values only 'results', that places such an emphasis on the measurement of 'success', it is not always obvious what is being 'achieved'. We want visible, measurable, quantifiable evidence of our increased sustainability. How many times have you been told 'there's no point, it won't make any difference'? How many times have you felt it?

I spent my late teens and early twenties campaigning vigorously for Fair Trade. I flung myself good and hard against a most stubborn rock and exhausted myself. I didn't think I'd achieved anything. Now Fairtrade goods are more widely available than I ever dreamed they would be. I've no idea what, if any, difference my passionate advocacy made. And I never will.

What I think now is that becoming sustainable calls for the reshaping of thinking itself. It is this aspect of the change we find most nebulous, are most resistant to - planting vegetables is so much more tangible. And the change in thinking called for is the shift from 'push' to 'flow'. To learn to understand that change comes in waves, that each wave crests, has a peak of expression and then in the drawing back into itself, the 'undertow' it sinks in and becomes part of us, quietly, unnoticed.

In moving out of the mind-set of 'progress' this linear understanding that underpins the errors of the Industrial Growth Society, the endless upward and unsustainable 'push', it helps to understand the new shape of thinking that matches sustainability. In a sustainable world there is a full cycle to growth, we grow in circles and progress is wave shaped. The return to stillness is as important as the outward movement into expression. Not all that is of value can be measured.

*Dearbhaile Bradley © 2010*

# The View from my Window

Johnny Heriz-Smith, Transition Glastonbury's new Buildings/Energy coordinator, writes -

I have an office looking over Glastonbury High Street. What I see are as many shops open now as before the recession. Through my window I don't see any evidence of a recession. This is really unusual. Many towns have lots of empty shops. I am told that it is because Glastonbury's economy already operates at a lower level than most towns in the UK, which makes sense to me. We have never had upmarket retail outlets here. Our businesses are not the most market sensitive.

In conversation, people say they are being prudent – spending less, being careful what they buy – and businesses are the same. There are of course real victims – redundancies and few new job opportunities for young people. Architecture is recognised as one of the hardest hit professions, serving as it does the construction industry. As an architect I have had to make redundancies in my own company.



Behind the scenes, businesses that rely on borrowing money to operate are in great difficulty. The terms on which developers, for instance, can borrow money from banks are prohibitive. It appears that banks are preferring to build up their own reserves (or pay back government loans) at the moment.

Should I be wringing my hands in despair? I certainly hate having to make people redundant; I don't like the uncertainty of the next year hanging over me. But has this all been a 'bad' thing? Well, no. If the economy has been operating unsustainably - if the banks have been lending too much money, if equally we have all been borrowing too much money as individuals, then at some time we have to pay the price, and that time is now.

It is on the other hand annoying that the 'we' that have to pay this price does not include the faceless businesses that control the world economy. It is their facelessness that stops us confronting them now. In this, our Governments are as impotent as we are.

Sticking for the moment with the bigger picture, on the one hand if we are being more prudent – flying less, consuming less, using less fuel – then the recession has achieved what thousands of Carbon Trust adverts and give-away light bulbs hasn't. If the 'recession' lasted forever, if recession becomes a way of life, then we will have made a landmark stride towards a low-carbon economy. Hooray, may the recession continue! The longer it does, the more affordable housing will be, the more we will support farming and grow our own food, and so on, and so on. In this, economics is a more powerful force for change than conscience.

On the other hand, there are two equally strong forces that will do anything to end this recession and return to unsustainable 'growth' – firstly the self-interest of faceless business, secondly our own addiction to consumerism. How can we change either of these?

As Glastonbury is to the UK, so Portugal is to Western Europe. For decades Portugal has lagged behind the other booming economies, held back luckily by oppressive government. As a result it has low-level industry and huge areas of relatively cheap fertile land abandoned by the young. At a time like this it offers a fantastic opportunity to create new communities, made even more exciting when you see how the government has embraced sustainability.

I visited one such place near the Spanish border last month, pretty well at its inception. It is truly inspiring to see politicians and the local authority not only accepting but actively promoting this

venture. Clearing away ferns and brambles on the hillside terraces, you see decades-old vines, fruit and olive trees, and in the valley untilled fields. Further along the hillside are abandoned small-holdings. The group have negotiated an over-arching permission to rebuild these buildings, or *qintas*, using rammed earth, timber frame and other low impact materials that the Portuguese have themselves moved away from lately, preferring concrete. One ambition here is to build a living model of how we can return to sustainable living. This particular group has other ambitions, of which more perhaps another time.

Everywhere you go in Portugal, there are wind turbines strung beautifully along hilltops.

Which brings me back to the UK, where, from April next year, all new sustainable electricity generation will attract such good funding that wind turbines should be popping up all over the place here as well. The FIT's (Feed In Tariffs) will be 24p/kW produced, plus a further 5p/kW not used in your house. In a good windy site, an investment of, say, £24k for a 5kW turbine (suitable for a large-ish house) will see a return within about 5 years, thereafter being pure profit. The scheme is promised to last 20 years. This is seriously investible. Who pays for this? We all will, through increased fuel bills. We have been pushed to do this by the EU.

Can we create lifestyles and communities like those appearing all over Portugal now, in the UK? It's much harder here, because of the expense of, and pressure on, land, as well as a hugely conservative and inflexible planning system. If not, should I abandon ship, and move out there? What loyalties do I have to this overcrowded country? What keeps me here? These are some of the questions I ask myself when I look out of my own window today.



## Health

The **Transition Glastonbury Health Group** has had an exchange of information with the health group at Transition Totnes, which has been working on the link between sustainable health and growing healthy food locally. Andrew Johnson the contact person for the health group has written an article considering several aspects of this: 'Food, Health and Transition' which is available for anyone to read on the Food page of the TG Wiki, link: <http://transitiontowns.org/Glastonbury/ReadItHere>

Andrew is also going to be a support tutor on the forthcoming Medieval Medicinal Herb Garden Design course which will be at the Abbey starting in February (tel: 0845 6880488 for more information). Other transition workshops and courses related to health are currently being planned for this year, For more information contact Andrew Johnson tel: 01458 833382 email: [andrew.health@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrew.health@yahoo.co.uk)

# Courses & Workshops for the New Year

Spring is traditionally a time to learn new skills, and the TG are proud to announce a remarkable line-up for you - many never offered before, even in Glastonbury (-:

Our coordinator (who wishes to remain anonymous) writes to say - In the spirit of sharing our knowledge & skills the following courses may be offered by local people interested in Transition – let us know and if there is enough interest we will organize times to suit participants where possible. These may take the form of discussion groups, one-off workshops or ongoing courses, payment will be by donation.

*Self-build with Empty Yogurt Pots. ~ Goat droppings – the new cavity wall insulation? ~ Bonsai your children ~ Tap dance your way to Transition ~ Cost Effective Energy Production through Tantric Sex ~ Macramé as a Spiritual Path ~ Using Conflict to Keep Warm This Winter ~ Self-raising Awareness ~ Keeping up with the Jones – your Guide to Transitional Superiority ~ Recycle misguided*

*Christmas Gifts/Partners/ Offspring etc ~ Growing Unfeasibly Large Vegetables with Devic Assistance ~ Micro Generation – Children’s Group ~ Wind generation from Cauliflower & Pulse Dishes ~ Bed Sharing for Winter Warmth – Setting Up a Community Scheme ~ Hamster Husbandry ~ Cultivating the Moral High Ground with your Neighbours ~ Knit your own Hemp Underwear ~ Home Brewing – Reasons to be Beerful Part III ~ Campaign for Real Kale ~ Starting fires by Rubbing Things Together ~ Be Ahead of the game – DIY shroud design & Coffin Carving ~ Weaving with Pet hair – turn an annoying waste product into a useful garment!*

We are hoping that there is something for everyone here but if you have hidden talents that you would like to share with others please send us your suggestions.



**Unsolicited advice for ‘new age’ seekers:**  
“Will I become an enlightened being at my new age workshop?”

Yes, of course I want to experience the joy of prosperity consciousness...

...I just wondered why the wealth-generating love-stones work best on your rockery!

**Definitely! Alternative realities will unfold before you!**

cartoon credit Julian Gower [pandimensional.co.uk](http://pandimensional.co.uk) (cards on sale at Growing Needs)

# Food

## Farewell to Fruition

December saw a sad farewell to our local veg shop, Fruition. Tim we wish you all the best in future ventures and thank-you for all the good energy you put into the town centre. I'm missing those wonderful soups! Even more important to support our local food coop at Bridies as well as the Farmers Market and the Tuesday Market, all the local Box schemes and Earthfare and Torganics all of whom are doing their bit for local food resilience.

Also congrats to Caroline Lewis (who was the food group coordinator) on the birth of little William - we wish you & James a gentle transitioning into family life and thank-you for the oodles of good-will and hard work you put into the food group! Any food group queries can be sent to Patrick Whitefield at: [ka.tonga@virgin.net](mailto:ka.tonga@virgin.net) but he is teaching a Permaculture course at the moment so is away from Glastonbury for the next month or so. Anyone who fancies helping coordinate a food group gathering in the next few months do get in touch: there's some great potential speakers.

## Brides Yard 2010 - *a whole new set of events*

Bridie's Yard Organic Food Co-op was established in 1997 and sells fresh local fruit & vegetables, wholefoods and superfoods at fair prices. It costs 1p to become a member. Opening times are 5 - 8pm Thursdays, 9am - 6pm Fridays. We are situated at the Street end of Beckery Old Road, behind the Morlands Estate. You will find a friendly and relaxed shopping experience awaits you!

There are a whole new set of events at Bridie's Yard to set the year off to a flying start, and most of the proceeds we raise will go into our 'flooring fund' to raise money to upgrade and replace our flooring throughout. For the time and effort it would take a few of us to do some funding applications, it is quicker and more fun to hold interesting community events to raise money:

- ◆ Thursday 28th January 4-8pm **RAW FOOD INTRODUCTORY COURSE**. Andrew & Angela present an easy and informative approach to introducing more satisfying and tasty living foods into your diet to support your wellbeing. Special community price of £25 (includes ingredients - normal price £70).
- ◆ Sunday 31st Jan 2-8pm **BRIDIE'S AMBIENT IMBOLC CELEBRATION** - a warm cosy Sunday afternoon with fire, food, friends, family & fun. Bring kids & grannies for an afternoon of ambient dj's, arts & crafts, and community Imbolc ceremony (to take place before dark). Donations welcome.
- ◆ Thursday 11th (4 - 8pm) Friday 12th (10am - 6pm) and Saturday 13th February (10am - 4pm) **BRIDIE'S YARD QUALITY TAT SALE** - clear out your cupboards and unclutter your attic, basement and garage. You can either set up a stall at our sale and make a contribution to our fund, or donate your stuff and we will raise the money. There will be food & fire and a lot of fun! We also welcome stands for local community groups who would like to let people know they are out there.



- ♦ Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st February NOMADIC ACADEMY OF FOOLS performing **SHAKESPEARE'S RICHARD II SCRATCH** - this production creates a dream-like performance without props or set and where all of the performers have learnt the whole play and are therefore able to play all of the parts! Shows start 8pm. All work paid by donation. Food & teas available.
- ♦ Saturday 27th Feb **KNOW ONE'S FOOL** - pure improvised fooling by JONATHAN KAY. Show starts 8pm. By donation. Food & teas available.

**We are hoping that by combining events and shop opening times there will be multiple reasons to come and get to know Bridie's Yard and all it has to offer.**

### **Bove Town Chicken Co-op**

The Bove Town Chicken Co-op is very proud to announce that the 6 hens have now moved to a proper wooden chicken coop, after being housed in a disused greenhouse for their first 18 months with us. All 7 members chipped in and commissioned Dennis, a local craftsman, to build it, using recycled pallet planks. It has all mod cons, including outside nesting boxes and proper wooden perches, instead of the IKEA shelving they had to sit on before. The move must have been a bit traumatic for the hens as there were no eggs the following day. Now, 2 days hence all is back to normal.



### **Healing Waters Community garden** - a report by Juliet Yelverton

Healing Gardens is a beautiful community project on the southern slopes of Wearyall Hill. It gives an opportunity to young and old alike to enjoy nature, grow healthy organic vegetables and to participate in creating wildlife areas. We are currently applying for BCTV funding for a youth led project and have also received funding for a children's garden and a cob oven build. This is just the start! A number of different dowsers and earth healers, having visited the site of the gardens, say uniformly that it is a place of powerful energies that support this project to create beautiful gardens. A 12 year old boy visiting recently said 'Coming to the Gardens is more of a spiritual experience than an agricultural one'. Where did he get this from? I don't know. There is something more at work here than I understand. When I bought the house that was to become Healing Waters, I became aware of the spring that was in the centre of the 6 acre field which is now the site of the gardens. I thought that it was just about clearing the spring and getting it to flow again. But actually the flow is greater than the spring, as pointed out to me by a Greek Earth Energy Healer. He said that there are power spots all over the field.

Since starting the gardens, there have been remarkable results and people experience a deep peace when participating here. It is a beautiful site, south-facing and in alignment with the Tor and Chalice Hill and Weary Hill, as well as being in the influence of the Michael Line. In fact from the spring in the centre of the gardens you can see all three sacred sites. I believe that these energies have supported the wonderful teachings that have happened in the gardens, the Lakota Sweat lodge ceremonies, and Chongtul Rinpoche Teachings, and the Magdalene Ceremonies, as well as giving us very fertile gardens which grow great vegetables. The gardens are about eco-friendly practises that bring people and especially children back to the land, and also about being a place of meditation and ceremony.

If you would like to be part of the Gardens, you can join the Association, or hire the teaching space, or just be a day visitor. For more information, email me at [healinggar-denscp@googlemail.com](mailto:healinggar-denscp@googlemail.com) or telephone 01458 834721. Many Blessings Juliet

## **Fruit Trees for All**

The Glastonbury 'Fruit Trees for All' project was initiated by Patrick Whitefield of Transition Glastonbury with support from Roger Forsey of the Glastonbury Conservation Society and Matt Harwood of the Hundred Monkeys Cafe.

It's had an enthusiastic response from 27 local people who have been able to buy 71 maiden apple, pear and plum and plum trees for their gardens through the scheme at wholesale prices from Frank Matthews Ltd in Tenbury Wells. The 26 bare-root Red Falstaff and Scrumptious apples, 20 Concorde pears, and 25 Victoria Plums were distributed to buyers in the courtyard behind the new enlarged 100 Monkeys cafe on Saturday 23rd January. Planting and aftercare advice sheets were offered to all buyers, along with a planting demonstration using with two new apple trees destined for the new-look courtyard planned for the rear of 100 Monkeys - accompanied by 100 Monkeys Hot Apple and Ginger, recommended by Matt as the perfect accompaniment for the occasion!



## **Reskilling for food security in Somerset**

With the explosion of interest across the nation in "growing your own", Somerset Community Food are delighted to have won 3 years new funding to leave a legacy of more land for food growing in our county!

Project co-ordinator, Linda Hull, says: "As changing climate and fossil fuel depletion start to impact on agriculture and food security, we have a fantastic new opportunity to equip and reskill ourselves in all aspects of local food production. This is really great news for Somerset!"

Newly appointed Hannah May will bring her expertise in volunteer support and management to the creation of a new skill sharing Timebank. She says - "Over the past 13 years I have worked in Volunteer Support, initially as a volunteer, then as a trustee and as a member of staff with various small and large charities to develop, promote and support volunteers. I am looking forward to combining my passion about volunteering and local food and getting out there and meeting you and beginning our journey on this project."

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food scheme, the main themes are:

1. Mapping land currently in production and identifying landholders willing to make new land available for food growing.
2. Facilitating access to land for increased food growing.

3. Sharing skills & resources by identifying local, skilled practitioners & knowledgeable elders; providing & promoting training; supporting involvement through volunteer time-bank credits.
4. Creating a partnership of relevant organisations.
5. Developing a Tool Bank.

In the first instance, Hannah will be recruiting 25 volunteers to assist us in a mapping exercise to identify land currently producing food and more importantly potential land available for growing food. She says: "As the project develops I hope to engage volunteers in all aspects of the organisation - from trustees, people wanting to get involved in allotments, gardening mentors, health champions, supporters to run the tool bank, conference organisers - the list is endless!"

Sharing skills and resources and the creation of a tool bank are all designed to give more people the ability and confidence to grow more local food for themselves and their community. The Tool Bank will offer practical ways of sharing both large and small scale tools needed for food production and processing. Examples include cultivators, apple pressing equipment and hand tools.

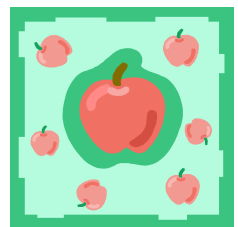
As a volunteer with Somerset Community Food you will be able to earn time credits. By giving practical help and support you will be able to 'deposit' your volunteer time in a virtual bank and then 'withdraw' your time when you need something done yourself. Everybody's time is equal, an hour for an hour. We will be developing an effective skills sharing network covering food growing, distribution and storage, cooking skills and healthy eating to name but a few.

Linda will be starting off by forging partnerships with skilled and experienced advisors to the project. This network will be formed by building on the extraordinary variety of work undertaken in the last ten years by producers; distributors; consumer, professional and community groups.

Formal partners include the Wessex Reinvestment Trust whose role will be to create community investment packages and appropriate leases to enable people to secure long term ownership or medium term control of land for food growing. The Soil Association will support the development of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in Somerset through this project, while Somerset Primary Care Trust is providing a major contribution to matched funding and expertise on food related health issues.

Informal partners include many of the Transition Towns which have developed in Somerset over the past two years and involved local people in a new wave of food-related projects. Other informal partners include allotment groups, food co-ops, Chapter Seven, Mind, schools, children's centres, in fact anyone who is involved in food production or wants to get started on growing their own or gaining access to land for food related purposes.

If you are interesting in volunteering in any capacity, if you are trying to gain access to land or know of parcels of land that could be brought into production please get in contact. Call Hannah or Linda on 01458 254269 or email [hannahscf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hannahscf@yahoo.co.uk) or [linda.hull@communityfood.plus.com](mailto:linda.hull@communityfood.plus.com)



## **Food Inc** - Showing March 2nd & 3rd at Wells Film Centre

In *Food, Inc.*, filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on America's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that has been hidden from the consumer with the consent of government agencies. Food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment. We have bigger-breasted chickens, the perfect pork chop, herbicide-resistant soybean seeds, even tomatoes that won't go bad, but we also have new strains of E. coli—the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. We are riddled with widespread obesity, particularly among children, and an epidemic level of diabetes among adults.

Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (*Fast Food Nation*), Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore's Dilemma*, *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin, *Food, Inc.* reveals surprising—and often shocking truths—about what we eat, how it's produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here. Trailer:

[www.foodincmovie.com](http://www.foodincmovie.com), blog: [takepart.com/news/tag/hungry-for-change](http://takepart.com/news/tag/hungry-for-change)



## Buildings/Energy group

Transition Glastonbury now has a combined 'Buildings/Energy' group, replacing the LIMBS (Low-Impact Buildings) group. We're delighted that Johnny Heriz-Smith, a local architect from Heriz-Payne Ltd, has put himself forwards as co-ordinator. He was part of G-CAN, the very first manifestation of Transition Glastonbury, so it's great to have him back. He has a special interest in energy efficiency and how householders can be helped to make their homes warmer and more eco-efficient at minimal cost.

Johnny says - "We will have 3 monthly evening meetings as before. The first is pencilled in for March 2010 - exact date and venue to be confirmed. The theme will be retrofitting existing houses. With the Elections looming we will look at how this may be financed by each Party, so also look at the Great British Refurb campaign and other initiatives. Hopefully we will get some feedback from last September's Open EcoHomes Event too, and updates from LIMBS/Energy members".

If you could offer any help in coordinating events for this group, contact Johnny on :t: 01458 835865 e: [johnny@herizpayne.com](mailto:johnny@herizpayne.com)

## **Mendip Open Green Homes and Gardens Event** - a report by *Anthony Ward*

September 10-13 2009 saw the first Mendip Open Green Homes and Gardens Event—MOGHAG for short! This was a joint project initiated by Transition Glastonbury Low Impact Buildings Group and co-ordinated by Mendip Environment Community Interest Company.

A recent report on this project found that 77.1% of the estimated 416 visitors to the 27 open green homes were inspired to do more renovating their own homes and 51.9% reported being encouraged to do more on making their own gardens more sustainable. The importance of this can be seen in the context of the fact that there are 47,000 homes in Mendip and 27% of UK carbon emissions come from home energy use.

The aim of the project was 'to motivate people in the Mendip area to reduce energy use in their own homes and gardens by giving them an opportunity to visit eco-renovated and newly built eco-homes'. 27 homeowners - many recruited through Transition groups in Glastonbury and Frome - offered to show visitors around a wide range of old and new homes and gardens featuring energy saving and eco renovation including high insulation, straw bale and timber frames, wood burners, Solar PV electricity, airsource heat pumps, rainwater harvesting, composting and food growing.

Visitors got a 'hands on' opportunity to see and discuss products, services, new technologies and materials and get practical info and advice from 'real people'. 59% reported they were now better able to tackle improvements in their own homes and crucially 54% also reported they had a better appreciation of the costs involved. 78% of visitors were not surprisingly homeowners but 18.2% described themselves as 'just curious', 8.4% were tenants and 4.2% were tradespersons and professionals. A remarkable 99.2% of visitors reported being 'pleased to have come to the Open Days'!

Participating householders who included Transition Glastonbury's Trish O'Carroll and Johnny Heriz-Smith in Glastonbury were generally very positive and inspired about the event however some were 'overwhelmed' by the sheer numbers of visitors and very tired by the end of the open weekend. Happily 24 of the 27 eco-homeowners reported being willing to participate again in 2010 if the event was repeated and there was 'less paperwork'!

Will it happen again in 2010? On the positive side a clearly effective model has been established for how to deliver such an inspiring event and new working partnerships between local Transition and Green Groups and a professional co-ordinator – Hannah Solloway – employed through Mendip Environment Community Interest Company, underpinned the success of this event.

However, although this event delivered a practical service to local people, meeting some key climate change and energy saving objectives of local councils and central government, lack of funds continually threatened the project. It cost £10,500 to run and whilst money came in from Mendip Strategic Partnership, SCC Councillors Community Budget and SCCs Renewable Energy Officer, the project also relied on sponsorship and donations from Wessex Water, Solar Sense, The Sustainable Energy Academy and others, its co-ordinator had to wait several months for funds to be raised to pay for her work on the latter stages of the project.

The evaluation report (see link) by co-ordinator Hannah Solloway highlights the many inspiring achievements of this groundbreaking local eco-renovation and energy-saving project but also the fact that if it is to be repeated and improved a more stable source of funding will be needed and there will need to be wider publicity and much less paperwork.

Finally I want to say a personal thanks to all the volunteers from local Transition and Green Groups who formed the monthly working group and made MOGHAG 2009 possible – Tim, Andy, Marke, Peter, Tim, Steve, Melvyn, Cara, and above all to our extraordinarily resilient, resourceful and talented Co-ordinator, Hannah Solloway for her dedication and commitment to seeing it through to success. Her presence or absence may be crucial to the success of future MOGHAG initiatives as will be the support of Mendip Environment Community Interest Company.

## Local Government and Transition

### **Somerset County Council Mapping Project** - a report by Dan Hurring

In January 2009, as part of Somerset County Council's (SCC) commitment to become the UK's first Transition Authority, the then-leader of the administration, Jill Shortland, commissioned a wide-ranging mapping of all services and directorates operated by the Local Authority. The Audit would look at 12 broad categories based upon some of the core themes of Transition, such as Transport, Energy, Housing and Education, in addition to others that better covered the council's own responsibilities such as Tourism and Culture.

During the timeframe of the project to date, SCC has undergone a change in administration which in turn has meant a slight rethink of the project and a delay in its release. The first draft of the Audit went to the Sustainable Development Team at SCC in September. The 2nd draft has now been completed and is awaiting final review. It is hoped that this period will be completed by the end of November and the report can finally go to press by the end of the year.



The change in administration presents the biggest challenge to the Transition Resolution but also to the local groups to find new means of engagement that avoid political alignment. In the light of budget cuts, wage freezes and new regulations, the mood of optimism amongst many within County Hall, which Transition was a beacon for, has changed to a sense of resignation. The positive, though, is that the Resolution has not been abandoned, and, as long as we can keep it on the political agenda and high profile, it will not be.

# Local Economy group



## Like real money - only better!

Transition Glastonbury will soon be launching a new 'Local Economy Group' to:

- ♦ explore how a local currency can improve Glastonbury's economic resilience.
- ♦ how peak oil, carbon emissions and climate change will likely affect them (and their profit margin), and to learn from their entrepreneurial skills.
- ♦ build partnerships with local, regional and national organisations that share our enthusiasm for sustainable economic development

The group will be supported by Avalon Fair Shares, who have co-ordinated Glastonbury's Community Time Bank project for the last seven years (and before that the local Avalon LETS scheme) - and who co-produced the Sunrise SOL Transition Pound with the Sunrise Off-Grid Transition Gathering earlier this year - see picture.

If you would like to get involved with this group, please contact Jon Cousins at Avalon Fair Shares, 3 Abbey Mews, 56-58 High Street, Glastonbury BA6 9DY. tel: 01458 831118.

[jon.cousins@cooptel.net](mailto:jon.cousins@cooptel.net)

# Resources Group

## A message from the coordinator

Dear Transition Town Glastonbury, I have been talking to Andy Norris at Somerset Skills and Learning and we have made plans to merge databases with the aim of creating one of the most extensive Reuse Craft Databases in the UK! The contacts in the database are people who have seen the value of what most throw in land fill or incinerators. These people are assets in our current global times. That is why we are offering potential work opportunities...

Andy and I are going to prepare a schedule of workshops set to begin late spring this year in Glastonbury. The workshops will be run by myself and Reuse Craft people from all over the UK. But most importantly Local People Too! Now we know that there are lots of creative types around Transition Glastonbury, so if you are interested in running a Reuse Workshop then please send an email stating so to [kieran@sseeds.co.uk](mailto:kieran@sseeds.co.uk). You could get paid for it and possibly get access to some of the UK's festivals because there will be a Reuse Craft Area in the Tin Town Transition Space! There we will be running the same workshops, and even encouraging others to see the

value in Reuse by attempting to sell these works of Reuse Craft to the public.

On the other hand if you are interested in learning a revolutionary Reuse Craft skill, then please register your interest in receiving the workshop schedule for this year by sending an email titled "I WANT TO LEARN REUSE CRAFT" to kieran@sseeds.co.uk.

We plan to grow and support Reuse Craft Groups by involving people and financing Reuse Pioneers. By early February we will have a database of Reuse Pioneers and a rough outline of a workshop schedule to begin for the summer. I will then be away for a couple of months trying to find other examples of Reuse Craft from the Americas !

Kind Regards, Kieran [kieran@sseeds.co.uk](mailto:kieran@sseeds.co.uk)

PS—to be added to the database email Andy Norris at: [sustainablesomerset@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sustainablesomerset@somerset.gov.uk)

PPS—And if anyone knows Kirk who was a star in some of last year's reuse craft workshops can you please ask him to return the Kiwi Farm Innovations book because it's full of great Reuse ideas from New Zealand !?

## Transition Glastonbury calendar cont. from back cover

### February

**Sunday 14 Transition Tea** 3-5pm: 01458 833382 Bring Cake to share. SSL.

Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th Feb: from 10 am- 1pm Abbey Open Days Free entry to Abbey with living history tour and a workshop about making herbal potions using medieval recipes. Learning about sustainable living from our historical roots

Thursday 18th Willow Weaving workshop: 01458 833382 to book. SSL.

Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st NOMADIC ACADEMY OF FOOLS performing SHAKE-SPEARE'S RICHARD II SCRATCH - a dream-like performance without props or set and where all of the performers have learnt the whole play and are therefore able to play all of the parts! Shows start 8pm. All work paid by donation. Food & teas available. Bridies Yard.

Saturday 20th Healthy Eating workshop, Talking Rubbish Workshop, February Video Conference Glastonbury/Frome followed by the Powerdown Show (a series of short films) Free. 0845 688 0488 to enrol. SSL.

Saturday 20 to 7 March: Felling Fortnight including 20-21st Coppicing Weekend at Tinkers Bubble. Free event suitable for people with no former experience. Food and lodging/camping space provided. For information, phone Tinker's Bubble at 01935 881975

Saturday 27th KNOW ONE'S FOOL - pure improvised fooling by JONATHAN KAY. Show starts 8pm. By donation. Food & teas available. Bridies Yard.

# March

2nd & 3rd Food Inc - the movie, [Wells Cinema http://foodincmovie.co.uk](http://foodincmovie.co.uk)

Weds 3rd 1-4pm start of 4-week afternoon course 'Design a Medicinal Garden for Glastonbury Abbey'. 0845 688 0488 to enrol

Friday 5th Past Technologies, Future Promise - Hand Spinning with Drop spindle, Weaving and Lucet. Call 0845 688 0488 to enrol. SSL.

Saturday 6th and 20th 9.30am-3.30pm. 2-day course 'Design a Medicinal Garden for Glastonbury Abbey'. 0845 688 0488 to enrol

Saturday 6th Poetry and Prose to Preserve our Planet - Session 2. SSL.

Friday 12th Past Technology, Future Promise - Candle Rolling and Dipping. SSL

Saturday 13th Poetry and Prose to Preserve our Planet - Session 3. SSL.

21st Sunday **2-6pm Community 'Open Space' think-tank** Transition Glastonbury's Spring Equinox community consultation, all welcome. SSL. Followed by—

21st Sunday Transition Glastonbury evening meal 6.30- 9.30 (venue TBC).

Thursday 25th and 27th Design a Medicinal Garden for Glastonbury Abbey

Saturday 27th Sustainable Somerset Finale: Competitions and workshops taking place throughout the day. Call 01823 355 733 for all the details Call 0845 688 0488 to enrol.

[www.learnsomerset.co.uk/coursefinder](http://www.learnsomerset.co.uk/coursefinder)

# April

3rd April Easter Saturday 10am - 4pm Exhibition of Sustainable Skills in Somerset at the Glastonbury Assembly Rooms. Workshops and exhibits in the main hall, related to gardening, crafts and sustainable living. Crafts include leatherwork (how to repair and make useful items), crocheting (surprisingly versatile when applied to reusing materials!), growing and using medicinal herbs, tyre gardening, and part of the travelling Green Roadshow. Plus lectures downstairs with high profile speakers.

**Venues:** SSL = Somerset Skills & Learning, Abbott's Court, Benedict Street, Glastonbury.

**Bridies Yard** = Street end of Beckery Old Road, behind the Morlands Estate



# Transition Glastonbury calendar

## Jan—April 2010

This calendar lists events organised by Transition Glastonbury, plus others relevant to transition.

### January

Thursday 28th 4pm - 8pm RAW FOOD INTRODUCTORY COURSE. Bridies Yard. Andrew & Angela present an easy and informative approach to introducing more satisfying and tasty living foods into your diet to support your wellbeing. Special community price of £25 (includes ingredients -normal price £70).

Sunday 31st 2pm - 8pm BRIDIE'S YARD AMBIENT IMBOLC CELEBRATION - a warm cosy Sunday afternoon with fire, food, friends, family & fun. Donations welcome.

Saturday 30th Poetry and Prose to preserve our Planet Session 1. Free. 0845 688 0488 to enrol. SSL.

**Saturday 30 2-6pm Transition Glastonbury community 'Open Space' think-tank** Free. Call 01458 833382 to book. SSL. Followed by—

Saturday 30th: **Transition supper** at The Robert Barton Trust Cafe. Bring food to share 6.30-9.30pm Call 01458 833382 to book. By donation.

### February

Saturday 6th Solar Panels - Facts and DIY tips. Free. 0845 688 0488 to enrol. SSL.

Thursday 11th (4 - 8pm) Friday 12th (10am - 6pm) and Saturday 13th (10am - 4pm) BRIDIE'S YARD QUALITY TAT SALE - at Bridies Yard in aid of a new carpet. Turn up and take part, donate stuff or come along, do your own stall and make a donation. A great chance for a clear out.

**13th-20th Transition Week** starting with: Saturday 13th Be the Change Symposium Free. To book: 01373 452018. In Bridgewater

Continued inside back cover...

**Venues:** SSL = Somerset Skills & Learning, Abbott's Court, Benedict Street, Glastonbury.

**Bridies Yard** = Street end of Beckery Old Road, behind the Morlands Estate

# Transition Glastonbury

## Bringing together

*the head, heart, and hands of*

## our community

*in the face of climate change and  
the end of cheap oil*

