



TRANSITION TOWN DORCHESTER NEWSLETTER



www.transitiontowndorchester.org

MAY NEWS 009

May seems to be a month where outdoor things really start coming alive including swarms of bees making the most of the warm weather - its a good thing that local beekeepers and our friends in LETS are there to help us manage them - we need those pollinators!

Transition Town Dorchester is also experiencing a springtime buzz with a sudden flurry of activity following the event "Looking for the Big Idea". This was a most unconventional agm - but a great success with almost 50 people coming along to enjoy the cake and games, share ideas and celebrate our first year. We're already taking up the suggestions and planning activities as a result. Thanks to everyone who came and promised to invite a friend to a future event - word of mouth is by far the best way to raise awareness about peak oil and climate resilience and its always nice to be invited to something new. More stuff about the ideas and agm info is on the website.

This month we've got the first of our outdoor events as we prepare for our Earth Oven Workshop and also begin the Dorchester GardenShare project. The Youth Group is also beginning and we're helping promote a 'real nappy' campaign - so something for almost everyone! For more information see the website www.transitiontowndorchester.org or email info@transitiontowndorchester.org

Transition Training...2nd and 3rd May, Dorchester



Working with [Dorset Agenda 21](#) and Lush who funded the venture and with Sophy and Naresh from the Transition Network, Dorchester hosted Transition Training for 25 people across Dorset's Transition Towns. The training has been a great way to help us begin to understand more about how people react to the shocks that impending peak oil and catastrophic climate change force us to face, and what we can do together to create a more positive future vision and keep motivated. There are now 5 local people who've experienced this training and as a result we think that its time to step up our heart and soul and awareness raising activity - so watch this space!

Earth Oven Workshop - Saturday 30th May, Batcombe

If you haven't yet spent any time amongst the bluebells in Batcombe woods, this event is an ideal opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, learn some new skills, meet new people and get muddy. Jon (our earth oven expert) leads this fun event which is great for young and old alike. At just a tenner (under 18s free if accompanied) this is a bargain. Courses like this usually are over £100 so places are disappearing fast. If you want to join in please print and send the [booking form here](#)

Real Nappies Events

21st May 9am-noon, Martinstown Village Hall

22nd May 9am-noon, Boys Brigade Hall, Dorchester

26th May noon-2pm, County Hall Foyer, Dorchester

In Dorset alone, about seven million used disposable-nappies are thrown out every year. Landfilling them costs Dorset taxpayers about £250,000 a year and every disposable nappy ever used is still in the site it was dumped in (the chemical parts can take up to 500 years to decompose). The carbon impact of each baby's disposable nappy consumption is around 550kg of CO₂; so, when the county council said they were offering parents £30 towards the cost of real nappies, we thought it would be good to help them. If you know of anyone with a baby or a bump - or if you have either yourself then find out more at one of these drop-in events or online at www.dorsetforyou.com - real nappies also cost about £500 less too

Dorchester Gardenshare project - NEW - NEW next meeting June 10th

People interested in the Dorchester Gardenshare project are happy to have started things off at the beginning of this month. The idea of Gardenshare is to connect people who want to grow a garden (or are one of the hundreds of people on the Dorchester allotments waiting list) with people who have too much garden or more than they need. There are more than 150 garden sharing projects happening in the UK so there's lots of advice on how we can run this scheme and we're now looking for a volunteer co-ordinator (about 1 day per week) and for people who are interested in being 'garden owners' or 'gardeners' as part of the scheme. More stuff will be going on the website soon but in the meantime if you want to be a gardener or are a garden owner please email gardenshare@transitiontowndorchester.org

Youth Group - NEW - NEW Members INVITED

Along with the International Baccalaureate students at Thomas Hardy School and with Dorset Youth Association we're setting up a youth group for young people who are interested in Transition activities. There's already been a meeting to get together with some of the existing groups and start thinking about some of the activities that young people want to get into - if you want to help or are interested in joining please contact Marion or Toni at info@transitiontowndorchester.org

Casterbridge Food Co-Op - next order 27th May

The Food Co-op is expanding its range to include some locally sourced products this time including local flour from Tamarisk Farm at West Bexington and Dorset Honey mmmm! Amazingly the price of the local stuff is as low as in the supermarkets and its organic so very hard to resist. The group are also planning some social events for later this summer so if you want to avoid the supermarkets, buy more sustainably and enjoy sampling local produce (including local beers) then email foodcoop@transitiontowndorchester.org

Green and Pleasant Organic Farm Walk - Monday 1st June 6:30pm

Sydling Brook, Upsydling, Dorchester, DT2 9PQ Tel: 01300 341 262

This event is an organic farm walk and talk at the wonderful Green and Pleasant Organic Smallholding at Upper Sydling. Dan and Natalie run their organic veg-box scheme and local vegetable production in the idyllic peace and quiet of the Sydling valley. This walk and talk is a chance to understand what it means to farm organically and what motivated Dan towards a low carbon lifestyle. Contact Dan or Natalie by emailing greenandpleasant@googlemail.com

Local Events

Don't forget to check out our regularly updated online calendar to see Transition events and all kinds of other related events: www.transitiontowndorchester.org/events.html Also worth a mention is Nick Wimberley's bike ride in support of the Dorchester Opportunity Group. Nick is one of our Steering Group members and is proving that pedal power is the future way to travel as he spends 6 days cycling across the widest part of Britain. To sponsor Nick ring 01305 751707

News from Transition Network and Transition Culture

For news of what's happening on Rob's Blog and in the wider Transition world see Transition Culture www.transitionculture.org or the [Transition Network Newsletter \(May 2009\)](#)