

Transition Chepstow Newsletter December 2008



Seasons Greetings! As you may have seen, everyone involved with Transition Chepstow has had a busy few months. We've been raising awareness of the group through film showings at the Chepstow Festival 2008; we launched the My Chepstow Bag; had two very successful stalls at the Creative Cultivators street markets and we've started to make Chepstow the most insulated town in the UK! Hopefully this end-of-year newsletter will bring you up to date with our progress...

Plastic Bag Free Chepstow

The working group has made a successful start to its campaign. Around 5000 fair-trade/organic reusable bags have been distributed throughout Chepstow and the number of shops wanting to get on board is growing all the time. We are currently evaluating our progress, asking individual businesses what steps they are taking to go Plastic Bag Free and deciding on our next steps. We have recently applied for funding to produce 'We Support Plastic Bag Free Chepstow' window stickers. Hopefully, if our application is accepted, you will see them in shop windows throughout Chepstow in the next couple of months.



Help shape Transition Chepstow in 2009!

Our first Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th January 7.30-8.30pm in the Regency Room at the Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort Square NP16 5EP. All Transition Chepstow members are welcome to attend. Our monthly Steering Group Meeting will take place after the AGM, followed by informal drinks in the Beaufort bar where you can meet and chat with others involved in Transition Chepstow. Please let Steve Rawlings know if you plan to join us by calling 01291 625977 or email secretary@transitionchepstow.org.uk

The Big Launch – Wednesday Evening 25th February, Drill Hall, Chepstow

To help celebrate Transition Chepstow's first year of achievements and promote plans for 2009, we are holding an official launch event in February. The event will announce the arrival of Transition Chepstow to a wider audience and will help draw in even more local talent and enthusiasm to the initiative. Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Towns movement, will be giving an inspiring and insightful presentation and we are working hard to bring you other captivating speakers for the event. Together with local music and a showcase of local produce, it promises to be a great evening – so put it in your diary now! Please check out our website in the New Year for more details or contact Marcus via info@transitionchepstow.org.uk

Making Chepstow the UK's most insulated town

Following our successful pilot to raise awareness of the benefits of loft and cavity wall insulation and the grants available for installation, the Energy group are working with the South East Wales Energy Saving Trust to mail almost 1,000 more homes. In January, leaflets will be sent to local residents and we will follow up, door to door, to encourage them to insulate their lofts and walls, using the very generous government grants available. We need volunteers for the weekends of 17th/18th and

24th/25th January, 31st Jan/1st Feb and 8th/9th February to help with this. We will meet at 10:30am for a 30-minute training session followed by 3 hours of door knocking in teams of two. Please e-mail Tim at energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk to get involved; your help is much appreciated.

Tree Planting Festival

During January and February 2009 we will be working with Chepstow Town Council to help plant approximately 50 fruit and nut trees in the town. These trees will have numerous benefits including creating natural habitats, producing food locally and helping to make Chepstow an even more beautiful place to live. If you know somewhere we could plant some of these trees or would like to help us with this initiative please contact Marcus via info@transitionchepstow.org.uk

Have a Greener 2009

How can you make a difference in 2009? That was the question we asked members of the local community who visited the Creative Cultivators market on Saturday 6th December. We asked shoppers for their ideas for a green, sustainable and eco-friendly New Year and they rose to the challenge, hanging their ideas on a Christmas tree, supplied by Chepstow Garden Centre. Here were the 5 most popular ideas for how Chepstow residents can make a difference in 2009:

- 1. Recycle, Recycle, Recycle** - An extra 3 million tonnes of rubbish will be generated over the festive period, (that's 5 sacks per family), so make the most of doorstep collections for food waste, metal, glass, paper, and card, and give unwanted Christmas presents, and clothes to charity.
"I will recycle my newspapers" Jason age 24.
- 2. Walk, ride, or take the train** - By leaving the car at home, you can save money, reduce CO2 emissions and improve you health. Or why not car share when going to work or out on a social occasion?
"I will cycle to the gym" Janet, age 52
- 3. Stop using plastic bags** - Supermarkets hand out 17 million plastic bags every year (that's 300 for every man woman and child), which causes 60,000 tonnes of plastic to go to landfill. Use you're My Chepstow bag – a cotton, reusable alternative.
"I will use the Chepstow Bag instead of plastic bags" Hope, age 10.
- 4. Save energy and money by turning off electrical appliances** – UK householders could collectively save over £900 million a year just by switching appliances off properly when they are not in use and avoiding standby.
"I will turn off my light when I go out of my room, Katie, age 4"
- 5. Buy less & buy local** - Shopping at farmers markets is cheaper, reduces food miles and CO2 emissions, and boosts the local economy. *"We will buy our fruit and veg from the community centre market", Molly, age 9*

What will you do to make a difference in 2009?

To ensure that you receive more information about Transition Chepstow and our future events and activities, please email: info@transitionchepstow.org.uk or visit: www.transitionchepstow.org.uk.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!