

# Transition Chepstow Newsletter October 2009



## News & Events

### Re-use & Recycling Working Group

Formerly known as 'The Bag Group', this group has branched out into new areas of re-use. They teamed up with ComBaT (Communities of Bulwark and Thornwell) to hold a '**Give It Away, Take It Away**' event on Sunday 27th September at the Severn Bridge Social Club, Bulwark. The aim was to promote the re-use of items rather than throwing them away. People brought goods (such as household items and toys) that are still useful, but no longer needed, to the Club's car park. People were then welcome to take away any items they could make use of. Anything which was left over went to one of the re-use charities: Tools for Self-Reliance, Resieclo, or Homemakers. Monmouthshire County Council and Keep Wales Tidy helped to sponsor the event and it made for an enjoyable community day as well as making better use of unwanted items.

The R&R Group has also continued its work to make Chepstow plastic bag free. The fortnightly prize draw on local shoppers with their **My Chepstow Bag** has run through the summer, giving people an incentive to remember to take their re-usable bags when they go shopping.

The group used International Plastic Bag Free day on the 12th September to highlight the carrier bag issue and toured Chepstow town centre handing out My Chepstow Bags.

Alison made a wonderful 'bag lady' costume for the occasion (see picture).

In addition, we have submitted a response to the Welsh Assembly Government's consultation on a carrier bag levy, drawing on our experience over the past year.



### Health & Consciousness Group: 'A New Consciousness'

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm to 9.30pm**

Coach & Horses, Welsh Street, Chepstow.

All are welcome to attend this group discussion of the latest ideas, e.g. Sheldrake, Lazlo. For more information, please call Margaret on 01291 621690, or send an email to Liz: [sustainablehealth@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:sustainablehealth@transitionchepstow.org.uk)

## **'Low Carbon Communities Challenge' Meeting**

**Friday 16th October, 7.30pm to 9.30pm**

Regency Room, Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort Square, Chepstow.

All are welcome to attend this meeting to explore an exciting new opportunity to gain financial and advisory support for our transition initiative.

For details of the scheme, see:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\\_we\\_do/consumers/lc\\_communities/lc\\_communities.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/lc_communities/lc_communities.aspx)

## **'10:10' Meeting**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm**

The Bailey Inn, Yorkley

The 10:10 challenge aims to get people and organisations cutting their carbon footprint by 10% in 2010. This Transition Forest of Dean event will help you find out how you can do it too! For more information, see:

<http://www.transitionforest.org.uk/>

## **Deep Time Cabaret**

**23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Clearwell Caves, Near Coleford, Gloucestershire

Many of the earth's resources that for we take for granted are running out.

According to their web-site "the show utilises myth and absurdism" to provoke us to consider these issues. For more details, see:

<http://www.horseandbamboo.org/deeptimecabaret.htm>

## **Chepstow's First Ever Apple Day!**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 11am to 4pm**

The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow.

A celebration of everything apple related! Come along to help decide where new apple trees are planted in the town, see how a cider press works and take part in the apple tart baking competition! Learn about the importance of apples in health and our in culture. There will be an apple varieties display, cider and perry tasting sessions. Apple juice and apple foods will be also available. FREE entry.

For more information, please call Marcus on 07944 468052 or send an email to

[food@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:food@transitionchepstow.org.uk)

## **Transport Group**

The transport group has been involved in three key projects recently and the latest updates are:

- Hardwick Hill – Nitrogen Dioxide levels exceed national objectives on a small section of the hill. Monmouthshire County Council is therefore required to write and implement an air quality action plan. The Council is holding seminars/workshops on this on Wednesday 21 October at 3 pm and 6 pm at The Chepstow Hotel. All residents have been invited and Dave Berry will be attending from Transition Chepstow.
- Wye Valley Cycle Path – Sustrans will shortly submit a fresh application for the proposed path running from Sedbury to Brockweir.
- Wales National Transport Plan – Transition Chepstow has submitted a response to the Welsh Assembly Government consultation.

## **Energy Group**

The Energy Group has been busy! Working in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council a grant application for £100,000 was submitted in to the British Gas Green Streets initiative. Transition Chepstow's bid aims to make Chepstow Leisure

Centre the greenest in Wales by using energy saving and generation measures, with a permanent display to encourage householders to save energy too. The bid also includes funding for educational material for all key stages on the environment. All fingers are crossed as the results of the application are due out later this month.

The Energy Group has been looking at setting up a solar buying co-operative. Here several people interested in buying solar or photovoltaic panels would use their bulk buying power to purchase panels at a significantly reduced cost. If you are interested, please contact Tim Melville at [energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk) or call 01291 628495.

The Current Cost Meters which are proving very popular which South Wales Energy Advice Centre have kindly lent Transition Chepstow. These measure your electricity utilization at a point in time and over day and week periods. On average, people using them are able to save between 10 to 20% off their electricity bills. If you have been using one of the loan units for more than a month; or if you would like to borrow one, please contact Tim Melville at [energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk) or call 01291 628495.

### **Group Meetings**

**Energy Group** - For details of the next meeting, please contact Tim on 07971 566936 or email [energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk)

**Food Group - Wednesday 11th November, 7.30pm**

Regency Room, Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort Square, Chepstow

Help plan and develop sustainable food supplies for Chepstow. We are currently planning more allotments and fruit tree planting in Chepstow, piloting growing with 'mums and toddlers' and visiting local veg growers. Do you have great ideas? Come along and share them over a drink or two! Contact Marcus on 07944 468052 or at [food@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:food@transitionchepstow.org.uk)

**Health & Consciousness Group – the third Thursday of every month**

The group was established to address the 'heart and soul' transition we are all going through alongside the changes to our external world. The next gathering is on Thursday 15th October at the Coach & Horses, Welsh Street, Chepstow from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. For more information, please call Margaret on 01291 621690 or email [sustainablehealth@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:sustainablehealth@transitionchepstow.org.uk)

**Re-use & Recycling Group - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October from 7pm to 8.30pm**

Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort Square, Chepstow. The on-going *Plastic Bag Free Chepstow* initiative will be discussed as well as plans for promoting re-use and recycling in the area. For more details about this group, please call Janet on 01291 625977, or send an email to: [plasticbagfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:plasticbagfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk)

**Transition Chepstow Steering Group – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 19:30 to 21:30**

Regency Room, Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort Square, Chepstow, NP16 5EP.

Come along and help shape the direction of the Transition Chepstow initiative. Followed by drinks in the bar. For more information, contact Marcus on 07944 468052, or send an email to [info@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:info@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

**Transport Group** – To get involved, please contact Dave Berry via [transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk)