



TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow

November 2020 Newsletter



Could you help Transition Chepstow keep doing the good things we do?

As has been the case for many other voluntary and charity organisations, the Covid-19 epidemic has significantly affected our fundraising efforts as a voluntary community group. One of our main sources of funding for our ongoing costs (such as public liability insurance) has been from donations gathered at our large events such as Apple Day, which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year. Our volunteers continue to work on our local projects, and we need your help to raise the funds needed for us to continue.

If you could make a one-off or monthly donation to help Transition Chepstow continue working towards a more sustainable future, please contact our Treasurer Andrew at:

treasurer@transitionchepstow.org.uk.

Transition - Bounce Forward

Transition groups have been crafting a vision of a better future for over a decade, that speaks to the needs for community resilience and a society with a focus on caring. So instead of bouncing “back” to how things were before the Covid-19 pandemic, Transition Network invites us to bounce forward together.

As the first step of [Transition: Bounce Forward](#), four online “What Is” events were held at the beginning of September, and you can read about and view these below: <https://transitionnetwork.org/news-and-blog/what-is-webinars>

Upcoming sessions will be looking at “What If” and “What Next”, and you can join upcoming webinars from:

<https://transition-bounceforward.org/>



Autumn Clean Chepstow

Community litter picking is back and 14 volunteers collected 4 bags of general waste, 4 of recyclables (plastic and cans) and 2 of glass on a lovely day in September. We ‘deep cleaned’ around the river bank, St Mary’s church and the railway station. Generally the area wasn’t in bad shape but there were many cigarette ends. Smokers of Chepstow, please dispose of your butts responsibly!

The next session in October took us along the Coast Path between Garden City and Bulwark. For walkers, this may be their first or last view of Wales. For local residents, it’s a path to the shops, to school or work, a place to walk dogs, go for a run or just hang out. Sadly, for some, it’s a place to drop litter. Our 12 volunteers collected a one-tonne builders bag full of cans and another of plastic, along with 3 bags of general waste and 3 of glass. (Not to mention the odd supermarket trolley, tyre and traffic cone) This despite bins strategically placed along the path. Please take your litter home or put it in the bin.

The next litter pick is **Saturday, 14th November**, meeting at 10am at **Thornwell, Tenby Lane Car Park NP16 5GH**. Please wear a face covering and bring gloves and hand sanitiser for a socially distanced morning of activity.



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Caring for our community orchards

We have planned four dates for volunteers to help out in our community orchards. Tasks will include pruning, checking stakes and clearing growth around the trees. We will be organising the events to ensure they are COVID safe and this will mean we will have less opportunity for training those with less experience. We hope that our training events can restart in 2021.

Please do join us for some fresh and gentle exercise! All events are 10am to 1pm on the following dates: Sunday 15th, Saturday 21st and Sunday 29th November, Saturday 5th December 2020.

Join the [Transition Chepstow Facebook](#) group or email orchards@transitionchepstow.org.uk for more details.

And don't forget, details of Chepstow's Orchard and Wildlife Trail can still be found on our [website](#).

Be. Community Leadership Programme

BE supports community volunteers by offering a blend of training courses, online learning, accreditation and networking opportunities. This offer is available at no cost to volunteers across Monmouthshire and also areas of Newport that include Caerleon, Marshfield, Graig, Langstone and Llanwern. Register for upcoming sessions below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/be-community-leadership-programme-18657790658>

Welsh Government grant

The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) have £50,000 available of a Welsh Government grant funding for projects in the Welsh part of the AONB. The Sustainable Development Fund can be used to support innovative and sustainable projects involving local communities within and adjacent to the AONB. You can find out more [here](#).

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has launched a Grant Scheme which will offer £1bn of grant funding which aligns with BEIS' new mission and priorities: fighting coronavirus, backing business, unleashing innovation and tackling climate change. The scheme will also encourage green investment, supporting the Government's net zero and clean growth goals. More details can be found [here](#).

Anti-idling campaign launched to tackle pollution

[Monmouthshire County Council](#) launched a campaign in September to raise awareness of the pollution caused by cars left idling when waiting or when dropping off outside schools. The best solution to tackling pollution from vehicles is to walk or cycle, but in Monmouthshire's rural communities and for those with mobility issues it's not always possible. Motorists can still make a difference by switching off their vehicle when stationary. Idling vehicles in school zones can be especially hard on young lungs. Vehicle exhaust in the air contains many pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter, that are linked to asthma and other lung diseases, allergies, heart disease, cancer and other health problems. As many as one in five asthma cases in children in the UK is linked to traffic fumes and other pollution, totalling 40,000 cases a year. The council is also working with local schools, providing a toolkit for teachers and launching a competition to design an anti-idling poster.



Climate & Ecological Emergency Online Conference

Friday, 13th November 2020 10am-5pm

November 13 marks two years of Climate Emergency Declarations made by Councils in the UK, starting with Bristol. To date 300 UK Local Authorities (75%) have declared a 'Climate (and in some cases Ecological) Emergency, alongside more than 20 universities and a variety of other organisations including health authorities, professional bodies and the UK Parliament. While the UK Government has said it will go carbon zero by 2050, many of these local declarations are leading the way, aiming for 2030 or earlier. According to FutureGov: "Our public institutions are uniquely positioned to be catalysts for change. In the climate era, as we face one of the most challenging decades of our time, let's use the full power of councils to strengthen our local communities and create a true sense of place and purpose."

Engaging communities is at the heart of change and is a central focus of this conference that will showcase examples of how to inspire, involve, educate and inform, building truly transformative climate action. Register below:

<https://climateemergency.org.uk/>

Future of Food and Agriculture Online Event

Saturday, 28th November 2020 10am-5pm

What we eat and how we grow it are changing. The need to feed a growing population, tackle hunger and obesity, and avoid trashing the planet is driving the next food and agricultural revolution. New Scientist Live's Future of Food and Agriculture is an online event for everyone who cares what's on their plate. Hear how science and technology is making it happen in a day of inspiring talks, demos and interactive sessions at this one-day virtual event. Register:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/future-of-food-and-agriculture-tickets-124063560449>

Transition Network Survey

This has been a year of rapid change for so many people. The Covid-19 crisis has caused widespread suffering and disruption, while highlighting and deepening the faultlines of existing inequalities. The world's response to Covid-19 demonstrated that rapid social change is possible, but how can we ensure that it is the type of rapid social change that we are all longing for? It feels important to reflect on this together, finding a way to hear from as many perspectives as possible. Within this rich and evolving ecosystem of social change, how can we in the Transition movement find the best match between the skills, practices and approach we have developed over the years, and the pressing needs of our times? Through this survey and follow-up conversations we want to support good decisions about where to focus energy and attention and try to reach a clearer collective sense of the contribution that our movement makes to the wider ecology of change.

If you consider yourself an ally or have been involved with Transition activities, then please fill in the survey from the link below before 1st December 2020 and contribute to a collective evaluation of what the Transition movement is achieving and how it might need to adapt to respond to current and emerging challenges:

<https://transitionnetwork.org/news-and-blog/evaluation-survey/>

Transition Chepstow Website Refresh

Keep an eye out for the upcoming refresh to the Transition Chepstow website! You should see a new look and updated content near the end of November on our site at:

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

