

Minutes of Transition Horsham General Meeting on 31 January 2013

Present: Helen Whittington - Carrie Cort - Maggie Weir-Wilson - Adam Lea- Alan Sloan
Beryl Wakefield - Paul Wakefield - Chris Morris - Alison Marshall - Kristine Amann
Martin Chick - Alison Caldwell - Jake Clausen

This was the first meeting of 2013 which gave us an opportunity to review the events that had taken place last year. These included:

Green Drinks - Held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Malt Shovel Public House in Springfield Road from 8pm. This is an opportunity for people to socialise, exchange ideas and network or just come for a chat and catch up. Organiser Adam Lea.

Community Allotment - In July 2012 TH took over a south facing allotment on the Chesworth Allotment site. It had been left unattended for about 1 year and inundated with weeds. A working group (Amanda, Maggie, Ben, Tim, Adam, Alison and Sarah) was set up in July (and after a huge amount of back breaking work and with the use of a brushcutter (supplied by Chris) it is now beginning to take shape with five beds cut so far. Future plans for the allotment are to create a natural pond for wildlife, erect a greenhouse and a shed (from recycled materials if possible). More people will be needed to carry out these ideas so it is planned to have a stall in the Carfax on the 16 March, followed by an open meeting on the 28th March to publicise the allotment and encourage others to join in this project at the same time making it "fun" to be part of this enterprise. Transport for moving manure and large items is a big issue so any offers of help would be most welcome. Organisers Tim Sammans and Maggie Weir-Wilson.

Ecover Refilling - This is held on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12 noon at the same time as the Quaker Coffee Morning. Bring your empty bottle to be refilled with either washing up liquid, laundry liquid, fabric softener, all purpose cleaner or toilet cleaner at a very competitive price. Olive oil imported by small Spanish producers and cooperatives will also be available at times and this will be advertised in advance. Organiser Helen Whittington.

Green Readers - This is more of a social meeting when a group of people get together (usually last Tuesday of the month), have a coffee ... or two ...and swap ideas and comments on environmental themes. Organiser Liz Thorns.

Energy Group - TH put in an application to WSCC for funding to set up a social enterprise to run a solar power register, this was refused so the energy group is thinking of other ways to encourage greater use of renewable energy sources and other sources of funding. Their aim is to promote a community solar power project whereby solar panels are installed on the roofs of local public buildings and schools in an effort to contribute to Horsham becoming self-sufficient in renewable energy. Local residents would then be invited to invest in the project and in return could receive cheap or free electricity. Organisers Tom Kinally and Alan Sloan.

Swap Shop - The idea of Swap Shop was for people to donate goods they no longer wanted and take away (free) anything that they did want helping to re-use "stuff" and avoiding it going into landfill. Organisers Beryl and Paul Wakefield.

The Steering Group meets about every 6 weeks, the minutes are posted on the website and anyone interested is welcome to attend. At their last meeting they reviewed how TH works and how to take it forward.

At present TH has its own website, overseen by John Medway. Our fb page has 36 members and is monitored by Maggie, Alan and Mike Andrews. It usually has good comments and links which are of interest. We are also supported by other organisations such as HOGS and the Quakers at our various events. Commercial organisations will NOT be put on the website.

The steering group will continue to arrange a Transition Horsham programme of events for interest and information throughout the year, and encourage feedback and ideas. Projects are run by others with particular interests, such as the Energy Group or Community Allotment, and are headed by a 'lead person' or organiser who will take responsibility knowing that they have the full support of the Steering Group. Also, the "lead person" would be welcome to join the Steering Group or come to any of the meetings at any time.

Regarding insurance, TH has public liability insurance which covers any claims arising from accidents occurring at meetings, at the community allotment and also up to 3 public events per year. Should any person or group wish to run an event that was NOT under the TH banner they would need to provide their own insurance or extend the TH insurance to make adequate cover.

Proposed Calendar of Events for 2013

February 23	Seedy Saturday 10am-2pm	To be opened by Bob Sherman, Chief Horticultural Officer of Garden Organic
March 28	Open Allotment meeting	
April 25	Film	
May 30	Bicycle Workshop	
June 27	Picnic at the allotment	
July 25	Talk on "Mindfulness"	
August 29	No meeting	
September 26	Talk by Alan Sloan on "Energy"	
October 31	Talk by Carrie Cort on "Recycling"	
November 29	Film	
December 12	Christmas party	

DON'T FORGET OUR FORTHCOMING EVENT!

SEEDY SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2013 - 10 - 2pm FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Bring your seeds to swap, packet for packet, or pick up what you want for a donation.

Stalls will include:

Wakehurst Seed Bank with scientist Nicola Keough to answer those seedy questions

Horsham Organic Gardeners Society promoting organic gardening

Learn how to make Seed Bombs with Josie

Horsham, Southwater Horticultural Societies

Transition Horsham - the Community Allotment

Jams and Chutneys

Find out about recycling with Carrie

Your local Warnham Nature Reserve

Olive oil from Spain

Transition Horsham, what we do and why

By kind donation from Newbridge Nurseries, Horsham, seeds that are generally past their date but worth a try.

There will also be a 'Seedy Raffle'