

Transition Chesterfield AGM 2016 Secretary's report on activities June 2015- June 2016

Potato Day



Our eighth annual potato day on 30 Jan 2016 at the Pavements was bigger and better than ever before. We estimated we sold over one quarter of a million seed potatoes! As well as 41 varieties of seed potatoes, 7 varieties of alliums (onions, shallots & garlic); 15 pea and bean varieties on sale there was a seed swap, a range of discounted other vegetable seeds, free cooked potato dishes to sample and free advice from gardening experts. Over 150 pre-orders were taken before the event via a

dedicated website using paypal, and the whole event raised £1,151. Around 30 volunteers helped out before, during and after the event. Surplus potatoes were sold, or donated to around 30 schools. Huge thanks to Steve Sansom who organised and everyone who helped.

Inspire Community Garden



In 2016 members of Transition Chesterfield formed a separate charity to manage a new demonstration organic garden following permaculture principles. The *Inspire Community Garden*, located off Ashgate Road, is

an abandoned acre plot which the group hopes to turn into a productive area where people can get involved in working the land, growing food and developing a sense of community. The site will also offer opportunities for the community to witness demonstrations of more sustainable living. Congratulations to all who made this possible, with particular thanks to the trustees Steve Sansom, Chris Bates, Lindsey Fallon and Chris Allen.

Repair Cafes and Green Teas



Repair Cafés are events or meeting places where people can get broken stuff repaired for free, diverting waste from landfill and helping people learn how to fix things for themselves. In February 2015 we started

regular bi-monthly sessions at Monkey Park and these have been well attended. A variety of items has been mended by our team of volunteer fixers including: ripped and broken clothes, lawn shears, wheelbarrows, broken radios; kettles, clocks; electric scissors; vacuum cleaners, toasters; and small items of furniture. Thanks to Margaret Hersee for organising and all our volunteer fixers.

In 2015 we replaced our monthly green drinks with green teas, a friendly social for anyone that would like to meet people interested in green issues. Held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Monkey Park. Thanks to Steph Fatcher for organising.

Abundance

There are hundreds of fruit trees in Chesterfield where fruit goes to waste. Abundance Chesterfield is a project to harvest the fruit and distribute it free of charge to tree owners, schools, nurseries, homeless shelters and communities. Surplus apples were collected in summer 2015 and pressed into juice at the Brampton Food Festival in October. Thanks to Katy Martin and all the volunteers who helped pick and press apples.

Seed swap



Seed swaps are free events where people bring any spare fruit, vegetable or flower seeds to swap for free, an excellent way to get unusual and hard to find varieties or to extend the variety of vegetables grown. Seed swaps were organised at the Brampton Food Festival/Chatsworth Rd Festival in Oct 2015 and at Potato Day in Jan 2016. This is generally a popular activity, and a good way to talk to new people about Transition. Thanks to Martin Baxter for organising.

Skillshare workshops

In August 2015 we held a *Seed saving* workshop with Alan Booth, a local Seed Guardian for Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library. In July and Oct 2015 we held a *Cooking with Weeds* and a *Cranks Cookery Workshop* in a series of low carbon cookery workshops. Thanks to Anne Frazer and Kate Kirby who led the two cookery workshops, and Sandra Fraser from Loundsley Green Community Trust.



Car-free walks

In 2015 Transition received funding from Chesterfield Borough Council's Community Chest for the design of a leaflet for a walking leaflet. This describes a very pretty, quiet and mainly off-road circular walk from the railway station to the hospital. The walk map and description can be found online and the link was circulated to all the hospital employees in September 2015. Thanks to all the volunteers who researched/checked the walk.

Divestment

Transition Chesterfield is one of 13 groups across Derbyshire who set up an online petition calling for Derbyshire County Council to dis-invest its £290 million investments in fossil fuels within 5 years. Not only is this bad for climate change but is a financial risk for the pension funds. In January 2015 members of Transition met with the Pensions and Investment Committee and presented the case for divestment including the significant financial risk. <https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-derbyshire>



Climate Action



In late 2015 Transition Chesterfield joined a new Chesterfield Climate Alliance to organise a march in Chesterfield to show that people in Chesterfield support urgent action on climate change. As world leaders gathered for the UN Climate Conference in Paris, around 50 people walked through town and gathered for short speeches. Several members of Transition also joined the national Climate March in London the following day.

Publicity and Meetings

Thanks to Steve Sansom for managing the website www.transitionchesterfield.org, Chris Brooks for managing the twitter account @transitionchez and Steph Futchter, Chris and Ed Brooks for updating our facebook page. In addition to the regular monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month we have organised visits to a zero carbon home in Birmingham and an eco-home in New Whittington. We also helped support Community Climate Action Network's annual conference in March 2016 at the Loundsley Green Community Centre.

Lisa Hopkinson (Secretary), August 2016