

TLT Steering Group Meeting, 7.30pm, 11th February 2025

In person at Plas Madoc

and on Zoom

Present: David, Geoff, Blue, Penny, Sally, Sian, Alan, Janice

1. Apologies – Catherine, Doriene, Angela, Hilary, Heulyn
2. January minutes and matters arising – minutes of the AGM were accepted as were the minutes of the steering group on the same day.

Future talks – on the agenda again. **PN to contact Hilary**, who emailed ‘I've had confirmation from Eddie for the March social meeting, and am just awaiting some photos to pass to David for him to create one of his super posters’

to obtain Eddie's contact details. There was a question as to what he will speak about and a recognition that it would not be appropriate to rehearse the battle with the council which had formerly taken place, but rather stick to sustainability issues.

David has a contact for a possible talk from Bewdley water sourced heat pumps. Riversimple – to get back to David.

CAT – Alan said they have an open day which is free, on 25th April, but you have to book

PACE are doing weekly seminars online on a variety of relevant and interesting topics.

3. Project updates:

a) Green Coffee – this took place at Bradleys and was well-attended. It was a bit echoey as well as the coffee being more expensive, but the atmosphere was nice and we will do the same for the next couple of months to avoid confusion. A lively discussion took place.

b) Incredible Edible and Seed Library – email from Catherine:

Incredible Edible

We are creating a garden plan for the coming season, emphasising basic food production rather than experimenting with unusual crops. The new arches will give opportunities for a lot of climbing crops.....beans, peas and squashes.

We are meeting with Caroline Stanley from Mind, who are taking on the Dance centre building to explore possible collaboration on cookery classes.

The Seed Library

We'll hold a Seed Swap at the end of March.

Catherine is working on a new edition of the Basic Seed Saving booklet as there are only a few left from the initial print run. She is also creating postcards for saving seed from individual crops.

Dolau W.I. have booked a Seed Saving talk in September.

Also proposal from Doriene regarding a shelter being erected by Tir Coed at Arlais Garden. An email from them to Doriene read:

'Tir Coed is keen on the idea of building a shelter in the community garden and is going to discuss it with her team. We do need to have a few points clarified.

- 1) Would the community garden take responsibility for it once it has been built?
- 2) Would Tir Coed be able to use it for groups sometimes?
- 3) If we covered the cost of the course, provided tools and tutors etc, could they fundraise for materials?

The meeting considered that as it is not our ground, Steve Gealy at PCC would need to be consulted. Would ownership pass to TLT? What sort of courses would be envisaged? It was felt that more information was needed before this shelter could be agreed to. **PN to request** this from Doriene.

c) Pomarium and Forest Garden – Hilary emailed:

Not much happening at the Pomarium. I've applied for our 6th Green Flag; Catherine has stepped down as a volunteer to make way for other commitments and will be sorely missed, many thanks for your service, Catherine: someone tried to set fire to the lovely new compost loo, built for us by Tir Coed, and glass is still being smashed on the tarmac: just the usual stuff.

The compost loo had been set on fire. This had been built by Tir Coed. It was not known who held the key. It was aimed at volunteers workers, for their use.

PN to ask Hilary/Doriene

d) Repair Café and Morsbags – from Hilary: We had another busy Repair Cafe last Saturday, 8th Feb.. A good steady stream of visitors, with most items repaired or taken home to complete. I think I have already reported that opening in December and January was very successful, and we will continue to open next winter.

4. Town council liaison – welcome to Blue (Chris) Owen as additional rep. alongside Sian. Sian raised a SurveyMonkey online survey which is circulating concerning a monthly market in L'dod. All to please complete

and give views. It is to be found on L'dod Solutions FB page and also the TC page. Alan mentioned there is also a rural transport consultation, by 13.2.25.

Blue said he had an article in the Shropshire Star and also had attended the Senedd for the TC and had presented regarding Local Places for Nature. Various funding streams were available from April. The rose garden in Temple Gardens was an example. Blue intends to put together ideas for further places to be developed, where people can be in nature, grow food, increase biodiversity. Blue commented that there is no community centre in L'dod.

It might be possible to see where Ashfield are at present and look at revamping in some way. This is an exciting opportunity. Alan has some info about Ashfields. Sian said as it was outside the town boundary, it was not a concern of the TC. There will be more than one site under consideration.

David raised the issue of Severn Wye reportedly pulling out of the Hive, which is used by Repair Café, because their funding is running out.

Blue said this would be taken back to the Town Council for consultation. Janice thought that the Oasis Centre (Foodbank) might pick up some of the activities.

There was mention of the town wifi which was patchy. This had come in pre-Brexit with European money.

5. Transition Assembly – news from David Strachan who attended last weekend. It was a diverse group. Very inspiring. Funded by Transition Together, whose funding runs out this year, but with a 6-month extension. David met Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition movement. Of interest were: reaching out to wider groups, creating more interest groups, asking what people want and need rather than simply putting on events without consultation, publicity (with some good materials). There is an online course, Thrive, for 6 weeks from 19.2.25. Also 'Scale Up 2025' – sign up by 19.2.25 for 24.2.25. **David's fuller summary follows these minutes.**

Alan thought national projects fail as nothing happens.

Geoff considered that where a seed is sown, things do happen but can take a long time to get going.

6. Future monthly talks-

- a) February – Jennifer Rudd of Swansea University on Wales, climate change and Wales achieving net zero (Zoom only)
 - b) March - Eddie from Mellowcroft – **Hilary to give Eddie’s contact details to PN** please
 - c) Sarenta King (RWT) on the river Wye and climate change, possibly April? **PN to confirm**
 - d) Steven Jones, permaculture and biochar specialist, on improving soils and sequestering carbon, outside at the Forest Garden, June
7. Group visits: Robert Hall of RWT was offering a Gilfach visit - TBC
 8. David’s Christmas Social post-it sticker exercise (Word cloud) is not quite enough for a separate presentation at present
 9. Review of the revised TLT leaflet before going to print. People had not considered it. – Deferred. **All to consider** and feed back.
 10. Updating the website – minutes of meetings to be uploaded, or not? Decided old ones to be archived, make sure any archive is up to date and then the most recent 3 minutes could be available to view, to help attract more people into the group. **PN to ask Tony Swinbourne** to facilitate.
 11. AOB – David raised that there are new Repair Café posters and posters about this month’s talk to be distributed. Angela is away and another volunteer is needed for this task. **Blue volunteered** to assist – thanks Blue.

SUMMARY from David

National Transition Assembly, February 2025

Brilliant, inspiring but tiring! I felt motivated to attend partly out of curiosity, partly from a nagging feeling that we are still not engaging a wide enough community. Friday was an opportunity to visit supporting group Transition Wilmslow's Tiny Forest woodland project followed by a shared meal including fresh produce from a local community garden. The Assembly proper was attended by some 130 very diverse people from groups all over the UK and started Saturday with stirring opening words and poetry. It seems that the majority of groups run Repair Cafes and food-growing projects, which is was a vivid and (I found) touching reminder that we are part of a great movement.

In the course of the next 2 days I took part in break-out groups exploring various topics, too much to report here but included Wales and Borders reps who agreed to remain in contact with each other and explore possible collaboration of some sort. Sunday

included looking critically at a proposed national governance framework to resource and support Transition groups.

Two opportunities require your swift decision to participate! -

THRIVE

This six week online course is for existing Transition groups and will support you to develop, grow and increase your impact. Perhaps you are facing challenges as a group, are struggling to attract new people, or would like to explore a new direction and focus. If so this is the perfect course for you. The course takes place over 6 weekly evening sessions.

To participate we ask that 2 or more members of your group sign up together, to ensure that learning can be embedded and shared within your group. Our next Thrive workshop will take place in February and March 2025.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfILVs7wjtQ3qtuFEvhoLjxWeUVh4Sq2nWI9EcEDv7_0Rk7ww/viewform?pli=1

SCALE UP

Scale Up is designed to support thriving Transition groups to significantly increase your impact. It's a flexible, modular programme including funded mentoring support, an optional residential and peer learning sessions. It is a unique opportunity to deepen your work and increase your impact. Read the programme overview here. Applications will open on 6 January 2025 and close when all places have been filled or 3 February [NB - DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED], whichever is

sooner. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWOI9-tPJHNSNg4WhTJAsdOZB9RNATGgr09jE4Md-pwpRs4g/viewform>

...and 2 other ways you can connect:

Assemble Online event, 2-5pm 8th March

To allow those who couldn't attend to feed into the Assembly conversation, this online session is open to all. You are very welcome to join, to share your reflections and questions and (for those who went) help us tell the story of the Assembly. Register at <https://events.transitionmovement.org/transition-together/assemble-online/>

VIVE

Join hundreds of Transitiony folk on this community and climate-focused social networking platform - with none of the perils and pain of Facebook and the like!

<https://vive.transitiontogether.org.uk/>