

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

In person at Plas Madoc

and on Zoom

Present were: Janice, Geoff, Sally, Penny, Sian, Alan Fay, Lisa Sture

1. Apologies – Catherine, Heulyn, Angela, Hilary, Blue, David
2. February minutes and matters arising – minutes agreed.
3. Project updates:
 - a) Green Coffee – 6 or 7 attended and a lively debate took place. Good and comfortable venue. Good service. Visibility for the group. No interruption for our discussion.
 - b) Incredible Edible and Seed Library – Catherine emailed as follows:

Just a brief update on IE and the Seed Library:

IE are beginning the growing season with a social gathering of Arlais Garden 'caretakers' for 2025.

We are about to begin early poly tunnel sowing (at Richard & Sally Bramhall's)

There will be a Seed Swap event on Saturday, 29th March, 1 - 3pm, in the alleyway by the Herb Garden.

We will lend some support to another Seed Swap event happening the week before at Llandewi.

- c) Pomarium and Forest Garden – Hilary emailed for c) and d) as follows:

Pomarium: As is probably already known, the compost loo built by Tir Coed has been burnt down.

I am hoping to have a meeting with volunteers this month to decide this year's activities, a bit delayed as I haven't been well much of the last couple of months. We will most likely tackle further development of the Forest Garden, together with regular maintenance of the Pomarium itself. We need to implement a scything programme, too.

One piece of good news is that Clive and Philippa, who supplied our first bees, are keen to come on board as volunteers. Any other volunteers are more than welcome!

d) Repair Café and Morsbags

This month's Repair Cafe was, to put it mildly, heaving, with people queueing from outside the side door! It was the busiest since last February (2024), mostly in the Electrics/Electronics Section. The chaps there did an amazing job, wading through the enormous line up of a wide range of jobs, but unfortunately time did not allow for some of the latecomers to be dealt with, and they were invited to come back next month. Nick had a nice number of items for sharpening, and David spent a lot of time fixing a really fiddly lamp. Yvonne worked in fixing a sewing machine, while Iona did her usual great job of providing one and all with Refreshments. Sally and MT did a fantastic job handling Reception, with up to a dozen people at one time waiting to be processed, while Brian and Lucy, Yvonne's and my Assistance Dogs, did a great job of meeting and greeting, entertaining the visitors.

Geoff updated that there was a problem with people arriving early and waiting inside, which makes it difficult for 'fixperts' to come and set up. Perhaps David and Hilary can think about a way round this.

Morsbags

Sian has a talk about Morsbags and Fairtrade to Howey WI and enjoys doing these talks, if anyone knows of any groups who may appreciate one. People do tend to be a bit shy of accepting a Morsbag for free. They have to be given away. A stand could perhaps be set up in Van's.

4. Town council liaison – Sian said she would update us next time about matters in the pipeline, which were still confidential.
5. Future monthly talks-
 - a) March - Eddie from Mellowcroft has withdrawn. PN has filled the March slot with an update on the Presteigne Dark Skies project from Leigh Harling-Bowen, who has very kindly stepped in at the last minute. Thanks to the publicity team for their flexibility. Confirmed with Geoff the school as the preferred venue because of technical issues with sound and video. PN to confirm with the school.
 - b) April - Sarenta King (RWT) on the river Wye and climate change
 - c) May – Guided walk at Gilfach nature reserve – **PN to enquire** how long the visit would be and could it be in the evening. Or a weekend? Transport would have to be shared cars?
 - d) Steven Jones, permaculture and biochar specialist, on improving soils and sequestering carbon, outside at the Forest Garden, June

- e) Tir Coed has been approached but are unable to do Tuesdays.
 - f) David to approach Bewdley energy. Slot could be July onwards.
 - g) Possibility of a talk by Sian and Doriennne about global warming and veganism.
6. Review of the revised TLT leaflet before going to print – still pending.
Also, what use could be made of the Transition postcards? They have space to overprint our contact details.
7. Doriennne and Sian – willing to have a stall at local event, Powys Healthy Llandrindod (Powys Health Board) on 20th. Originally that was with the idea of the Spa Town Trust having a table. This was not approved, so the idea was to have a veganism stall. They said we were not an incorporated body and at least would need insurance. Doriennne has info re sustainable growing for Powys. Can this come under the TLT? **Action: Geoff will follow up** and see if they will accept a TLT representative on a stall. **Sian to email Geoff**
8. From Jeremy - for PACE
-  Greener Together: Empowering Communities, Inspiring Change
Don't forget about this amazing opportunity, made possible by the National Lottery, to help communities across Wales bring their green ideas to life during Great Big Green Week 2025 (7 – 15 June)! Whether you're planning an eco-festival, a sustainability workshop, a community garden project, or an arts-based climate initiative, we want to help make it happen! This funding is designed to support underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, disabilities and youth, and can be used to contribute to your event costs. The deadline for applications is 15th March – PN can supply link.
Lisa – I think this is for about £150 for any green event. Not much info is needed.
Sian – Hilary could use this for a scything event? PN to look at the link.
9. AOB
- a) Geoff – We seem to be on a website of an organisation NGOS1. It is part of a UNESCO thing, Lisa thinks. It is a nuisance as email addresses are published on there. Please disregard any communications from them.

b) PCC are starting to charge for DIY materials for recycling. This is discriminatory, you have to book, you have to have a car. Extortionate charges. Contact your county councillor to complain.

Sian - there is a petition against it. It will lead to people fly tipping and things being put in the wrong bin. Shropshire tried this but are stopping it as it is unworkable.

c) Sally – has been attending THRIVE. They did want 2 people, though they are flexible. 1:1 meeting with the tutor. A really good atmosphere and content. Reminder about what Transition is about across the world.

Coming up with a project or campaign – if anyone has some good ideas. We should be asking people whether there are any projects they would like us to do, as Transition. Start a reading group? How to engage people. Sally could perhaps do a talk at a monthly meeting. Some of the quotes from the course content are reproduced here for your interest:

"You may have already been doing Transition for a long time, but it is helpful to remind ourselves that our local activities are part of an international movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world. Since 2005, thousands of groups have emerged in villages, cities, universities and schools in more than 50 countries across the world.

Transition is about people taking practical action together in their local area to address the big challenges we face. In practice, groups are setting up renewable energy projects, re-localising food systems, sparking entrepreneurship, rewilding cities, creating important community spaces and weaving webs of connection and support."

There is no blueprint for how to do Transition, but there is a set of Transition Principles that guide groups and individuals within their work.

- *Respect resource limits and create resilience*
- *Promote inclusivity and social justice*
- *Freely share ideas*
- *Pay attention to balance*
- *Decentralise power*
- *Experiment and encourage learning*

- *Collaborate and look for synergies*
- *Use our head, heart and hands to build change*
- *Foster positive visioning and creativity"*

"When we are deciding on a project or campaign it is important to think about these criteria:

- *Result in a real improvement in people's lives*
- *Be winnable or achievable*
- *Be widely felt*
- *Be deeply felt*
- *Be non-divisive*
- *Be consistent with your organisation's values*
- *Build power and agency for local people*
- *If a campaign: have a local, nameable individual or institution who has the power to give you what you want"*

Thanks very much for taking the time to attend Sally!