

Minutes of TLT Steering Group Meeting, 7.30pm, 13th May 2025

In person at Plas Madoc

and on Zoom

Present were: Geoff, Sally, Janice, Penny, Sian, David

1. Apologies – Angela, Hilary, Catherine, Blue
2. April minutes and matters arising
 - A short discussion about lifts to Gilfach. All will be catered for. PN will contact someone called Heidi who emailed asking to come. **PN**
 - Transition cards – David still has about 50. He will liaise with Heulyn about applying more of her excellent sticky labels to help us with publicity. **DS/HG**
 - Sign re rubbish bins to help with rubbish at the Forest Garden. David to liaise with Hilary **DS/HM**
 - Sian gave her views on the paragraph in the minutes dealing with veganism and the stall at the Health event. This was not wholly vegan. Two people specifically requested vegan recipe books, which were provided. They were not advertised for sale. It was however proposed that 1/3 of the world's methane comes from animal husbandry and was thus connected to the global warming issue and the furtherance of TLT values.
Sally contributed that her view differed in that she considered the facts about methane debatable and based on questionable and narrow research, wrongly extrapolated and based on poor science. The belief that animals are to blame feeds into the animal suffering agenda. PN as facilitator considered that TLT views are bound to differ between individuals and therefore the contrary views would simply be recorded as such.
 - PN had not yet clarified that the café or canopy at Rock Park might be available in case of poor weather for the June talk, which is an outdoor event in the Forest Garden. She will contact Jenny at the cafe. **PN**
3. Project updates:
 - a) Green Coffee – David reported that a small but lively group had met.
 - b) Incredible Edible and Seed Library – Catherine had emailed as follows:

Not a lot to report from Incredible Edible except that we had a successful 'Plant Fest' on Saturday, found homes for lots of plants we'd grown and ones brought to swap. (£143 in donations)

We are now concentrating on planting out the beds at Arlais and hoping not to run short of water.

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

Pomarium: Plants in the Forest Garden are coming along nicely, and the fruit trees in the open area have been full of blossom, hopefully heralding a good crop later on.

Some kind person or persons have been collecting rubbish on the concrete area, and placing it in empty planters, and other kind people have taken it all away, just before I was going to arrange a group to sort and remove it!

- d) *Repair Cafe: a fairly steady trickle of visitors last Saturday, 10th, slightly lower numbers than usual, no doubt because of the lovely weather. I had to leave at 4pm for another engagement.*

David also attended and reported that it had been successful and good to see Martina back as 'consultant' and Facebook poster.

- e) Morsbags – Sian has made about 2 dozen. Hilary has several and so has Catherine. There is therefore a good store. They need distributing (for free) as recycled cloth shopping bags to save plastic. Sian said that she will try and have a stall at the Christmas market in November and apologises for the wait.

4. Town council liaison – Sian reported that the AGM and elections of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are coming up on 20th so activity is necessarily slowing down ahead of those. Nothing to report.

5. Future monthly talks-

- a) May – Guided walk at Gilfach nature reserve led by RWT, **2.30pm 17th May**. 10 people attending so far.

- b) Steven Jones, permaculture and biochar specialist, on improving soils and sequestering carbon, outside at the **Forest Garden, June 24th**, time to be confirmed (slightly earlier than usual?).

- c) Mat Sheldon from Tir Coed has now agreed to do our **July** talk on 22nd, at the Commodore.

- d) Riversimple have responded positively to David – they could take the **August** slot. David to follow up. **DS**

e) Sian suggested asking Dorianne to speak about her thesis about Powys being able to be self-sufficient with food. Penny remembered this from the Facing the Future event some years ago. Sian had spoken to Dorianne and feels she could do this at short notice if we needed to fill a slot.

6. General publicity. Review of the revised TLT leaflet before going to print – still pending. **PN** to circulate the leaflet again for comments.

7. Llandrindod Carnival 5th July. There are still some free stalls. Janice volunteered to take responsibility for organising this, with the help of Geoff and David who have display material. Janice said she could also give away Morsbags. The table could be shared with the TripTo car share programme. PN suggested that there could be a rota for manning the stall, as there had been previously. There is likely to be a small fee for the stall. Penny proposed that this is paid out of TLT funds. Sian seconded.

Action **JS**

8. AOB

- David will report back after attending an online Transition webinar tomorrow
- David needs details in advance to do posters for monthly talks but is v busy with his village show. **PN/DS**
- Sally mentioned that Rob Hopkins, a founder of the global Transition movement is speaking at this year's Hay Festival (28th?). She offers to book an online ticket for anyone who wants one as there is a booking fee which could be saved. She also offers car sharing as parking is expensive. Penny said she may attend but will decide on the day as she is there doing the horse-drawn hackney carriage anyway.
- David mentioned that the first weekend in September is Newtown Food Festival, plenty going on. Sian said the second fortnight is Fairtrade fortnight. Llandrindod has a strong tradition as a Fairtrade town but not the group is dwindling with those running is being less able to get about and be involved. Janice offered to research becoming involved, though a short discussion ensued about shifting priorities for people, prices, local produce and food miles over fairtrade issues. Sian recognised that sale of Fairtrade goods is patchy and online shopping does not help.
- There was discussion about locally produced food (such as available in the alleyway on a Friday morning). The idea of local food being sold and the money staying in the local economy is attractive to people.

Conversation came round to the idea of a future TLT session on e.g. home-made pasta making, said to be very therapeutic and satisfying! Geoff pointed out that no amount of Fairtrade could be as advantageous to people and planet as buying organic which minimises use of chemicals which negatively affects the health of workers.