

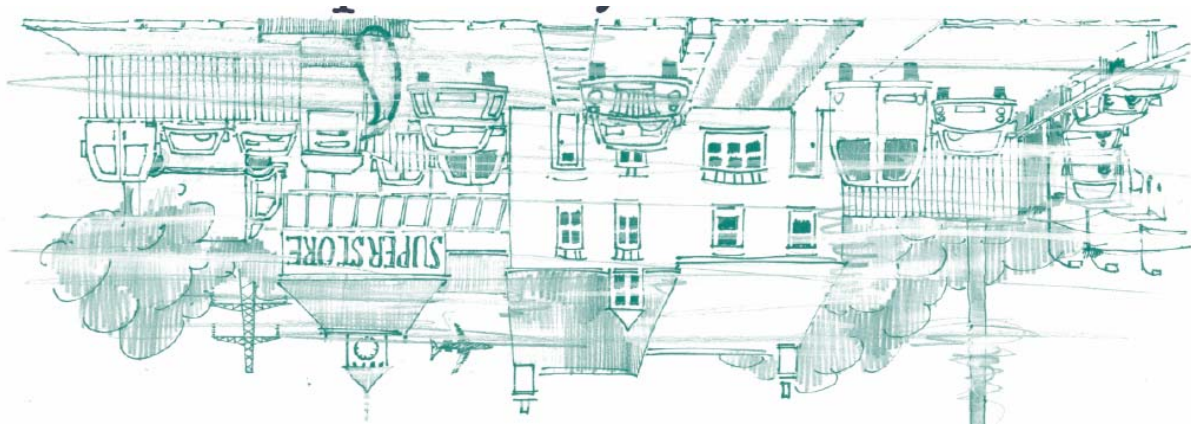
The Transition Network

Tackling Peak Oil and Climate Change, Together



Annual Conference and Shindig

Your guide to our time together...



Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester
April 11th -13th 2008

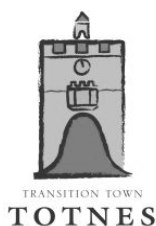
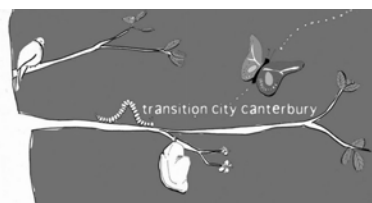


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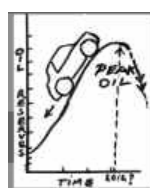
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Acknowledgements

Conference Organising Team.

Rob Hopkins, Ben Brangwyn, Jo Coish and her impending baby, Peter Lipman, Sophy Banks, Naresh Giangrande, the rest of the team who we don't know yet, and to all of you for coming and participating so fully and wonderfully.



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Greetings!

Welcome to the second Transition Network conference. When I say 'conference', that word probably conjures up a mental image that will bear little relation to how these days will actually unfold. There will not be a great deal of sitting on chairs in rows listening to learned speakers telling you all about the wonders of Transition and showing you endless graphs and diagrams. Indeed, other than occasional fleeting glimpses in one or two of the workshops, graphs, especially those of 'creaming curves', have been banned for the weekend.

Rather this 'conference' is an opportunity for the many and diverse strands of the Transition world to meet each other, to share their experiences, their successes and failures, and their hopes for their projects, as well as playing, laughing, and relaxing together.

We meet each other here in Cirencester in extraordinary times. The need for an urgent and rapid acceleration of all our efforts to address peak oil and climate change has never been more keenly felt, yet still at Government level, little seems to be happening other than airport expansion, knocking the tops of mountains in Wales to get at the coal beneath, and speaking, without even cracking a smile, of building 23 new nuclear power stations to combat climate change.



The rapidly emerging Transition movement is proving to have qualities of viral growth that few would have expected. Those of you who attended the first conference in Nailsworth last year (see left) got a taste of that. From Totnes being the only Initiative in the UK in September 2006, by April 2007 in Nailsworth there were 35 communities represented, some formal Initiatives and many 'mullers'. Now there are 48 formal Initiatives and nearly 700 mullers. It is something which is growing exponentially fast.

So the Transition movement finds itself in an extraordinary place. We appear to have a model and an approach which is doing a great job of engaging an extraordinary diversity of people and communities, and interest continues to grow. Yet at the same time there is a challenge. How do we best share what we are all learning as we travel along this path? How do we design the Transition Network to best serve this degree of growth? How do we best support each others' work and all that has already been created?

Given that none of us has the answers to these questions, as well as the notion that Transition is about 'unlocking the collective genius', much of the time at this second conference is, as in Nailsworth, given over to Open Space sessions, where we can discuss, share, inspire and network. There are also far too many workshop sessions to choose from on a diversity of topics designed to deepen your understanding and thinking in relation to your Transition work, a veritable embarrassment of riches. May this be an inspiring, uplifting, celebratory, creative and re-affirming couple of days.

Transition Towns. By Jay Walljasper February 28, 2008. The Ecopolitan.

The dark and very ominous cloud of global warming offers at least one silver lining: Local communities are stepping forward to help remedy the problem. In years past when national governments, especially the U.S. and Australia, were slow in addressing--or even acknowledging--the climate crisis, a coalition of 200 American mayors led by Seattle's Greg Nickels introduced measures to reduce CO2 emissions in their own cities. And a growing number of towns are now going even farther to create a post-carbon future. Citizens in twenty-eight communities in the British Isles and one in Australia, ranging from remote villages to the industrial city of Nottingham and the inner city London district of Brixton, are undertaking bold measures to slash their carbon footprint by reducing energy needs. And groups in more than 50 communities across North America from Whidbey Island, Washington, to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to St. John, New Brunswick, are exploring the idea.

Calling themselves "Transition Initiatives", these places are home to spirited local citizens making preparations for a future where climate change and a sharp decline in the oil supply bring dramatic changes to our lives. But that doesn't necessarily mean hard times, according to the **transitiontowns.org** website: "If we collectively plan and act early enough there's every likelihood that we can create a way of living that's significantly more connected, more vibrant and more in touch with our environment."

Totnes, a city in southwest England where even the local government has embraced the transition idea, has numerous committees dedicated to studying topics that range from economics and healthcare to the arts. Already in place is a plan to gain more self-sufficiency in food production by creating a directory of local growers. Stroud, a city of 12,000 in England's scenic Cotswold district, has launched a car sharing program.

A Transition Glossary

The weird and wonderful world of Transition has, in its short lifetime, spawned a cornucopia of new words to describe things for which, until that point, no adequate word existed. Therefore, for anyone new to all this, here are some easy to understand explanations of some of the more frequently used terms you might encounter this weekend.

Field, the. (*noun*). Used to denote the wider sphere of Transition activity and people. A term favoured by Heart and Soul groups, but increasingly becoming fashionable with the wider Transition, erm, field.

Muller. (*noun*). From the verb, *to mull*, meaning to study or ruminate; to ponder. A clumsy term, hated by some, used to describe a Transition project at an early stage which has yet to meet the criteria for becoming a formal 'Transition Initiative'. Implies a stage of contemplation and reflection, as opposed to frenzied haring about. Not to be confused with 'mullah', which is something altogether different.

Nut Capital. (*nouns*). A term, originally coined by Transition Town Totnes, to describe the process of planting nut trees in unloved urban spaces. Raises the unforeseen question as to if the first town to call itself this is the capital then whether any other towns can too because surely there is only one capital of anywhere, so what do other nut planting towns call themselves. One can think about these things too much sometimes...

Peak Oil (*noun*). A boring definition is "*when the loss of output (of oil) from countries in decline exceeds gains in output from those that are expanding*" (Chris Skrebowski). We like to think of it as the reason we are all having so much fun doing all this Transition stuff...

Unleashing. (*noun*). The official launch event of a Transition initiative, designed to 'unleash' the energy and momentum generated by the awareness-raising stage of the process. Again, hated by some, due either to its being a rich vein for smutty *double-entendre*, or because they feel it sounds rather silly. It is an optional term, but thus far, 4 Unleashings have taken place, and they were all rather good.

Transition Network Conference: Programme of Events

Friday

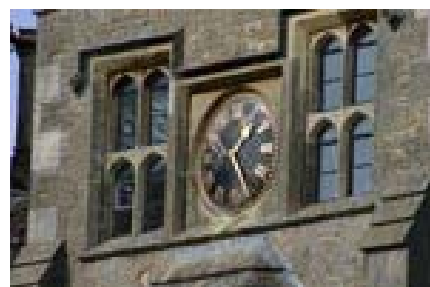
Time	Event
12.30pm	Lunch
2pm	Welcome Welcoming address by Caroline Lucas MEP . Ben Brangwyn on the Transition Network – timeline, future structure, growth, support. Naresh Giangrande and Sophy Banks on Transition Training.
2.40pm	Themed Meet and Greet (dispersed to different rooms)
3.30pm	Tea
4 – 5pm	Workshops Session 1
6.30pm	Supper
Evening	Social and putting up displays
7.10pm	Film screening: “The Age of Stupid” (see below)

Saturday

7-8am	Yoga or something similar: a gentle but invigorating start to the day (?)
9.15 – 9.50am	Mapping who's here: (<i>Sophy Banks</i>)
10.00 – 11.00am	Workshops Session 2
11.10am	An Introduction to Open Space: (<i>Naresh Giangrande</i>)
11.30am	Tea
12.00pm	Open Space Session 1
1pm	Lunch and looking at displays
2.30pm	Open Space session 2
3.45pm	Open Space session 3
4.45 – 5.30pm	Closing session, feedback on the Open Space process
5.45 – 6.30pm	Football match
6.30pm	Supper
Evening	Evening social/ self-organising entertainment...

Sunday

7-8am	Yoga
9.30 – 10.30am	Workshops Session 3
10.45am	Where Do We Go From Here?
11.30am	Tea
12 – 12.45pm	Feedback....
12.45 – 1pm	Final closing: Rob Hopkins



Those Workshops in More Detail (exact room venues for sessions TBA).

Workshops Session 1 (Friday 4-5pm)

1. **Working with Local Authorities.** *How best to approach local authorities, and what useful insights might we draw from the work Transition Initiatives, Post Carbon groups and others in our building relationships with our local government?* Presented by **Daniel Lerch of the Post Carbon Institute**
2. **Permaculture and Transition.** *The Transition model is underpinned by permaculture principles, but what exactly are they, and how might they best underpin our work, and what does permaculture have to offer our work?* **Patrick Whitefield**
3. **The Heart and Soul of Transition.** *How best might we help ourselves and others move through the powerful feelings that can arise from this work? What tools are being developed to assist in this work?* **Sophy Banks**
4. **Telling Transition Tales.** *The idea of Transition Tales is very powerful, one of finding creative ways to enable people to envision a powered-down Transitioned world. This work can be done with adults and with children, but rather than being a workshop about how to do Transition Tales, this is a creative storytelling workshop where you create them! Bring your imagination, creativity and sense of making the impossible possible.* **Hannah Mulder**
5. **Peak Oil and Climate Change. What they are and how they overlap.** *An opportunity to refresh your knowledge on peak oil and climate change and on how the two overlap. What is peak oil, and what is the latest prognosis on climate change, and what happens when we look at the two issues together?* **Chris Vernon.**
6. **Transition and Local Food.** *Strengthening our local food economies is going to be one of the key elements of Transition work. If we were to think of our current situation as being akin to 1939, with the need to urgently and collectively rebuild local food systems, where might we start, what organizations, resources and support is available for doing so.* **Claire Milne**
7. **The Transition Network; structures, governance and constitution .** *As the Transition movement grows, the Transition Network is attempting to build a structure to most effectively inspire, support, encourage, network and train these emerging initiatives. How does it plan to do that what will that structure look like, and how will it function?* **Ben Brangwyn**
8. **Local feast or local famine? Putting food security on the map.** *Can existing UK farmland keep us fed, clothed and housed? A recent study says yes, for the UK as a whole. In this workshop, geographic information expert Mark Thurstain-Goodwin will use powerful data and mapping technology to zoom in to the local scale – and discover that England on its own sees a shortfall leaving 9 million people hungry, with even more marked disparities between smaller regions. The analysis makes clear that there are solutions at hand, but also signposts how climate change and flood risks need to be central to our plans.* **Mark Thurstain-Goodwin**
9. **Engaging Local Businesses in Transition.** *This session will cover why it's essential to engage your local business community with Transition, how you can recruit companies for your projects and which business projects have been delivered in Totnes (including the innovative Oil Vulnerability Auditing). We will also discuss the critical success factors for working with businesses in a professional capacity.* **Fiona Ward and William Lana**



Workshops Session 2 (Saturday 10 – 11.00am)

1. **Organizational models and structures for Transition Town groups.** *How can we set up Transition Town groups that are effective in achieving their aims, that are responsive to their members without decision making being slow and cumbersome? How can we build in a culture of empathy and creative handling of conflicts? This workshop will present some models and share experiences.* **Gary Alexander & Paul Baker**
2. **Local Energy Systems.** *Many Transition energy groups are starting to explore the practicalities of decentralized energy systems, locally owned and managed energy systems which harness local energy sources to power local communities. Transition Penwith is one of the most advanced in this field.* **Charmian Larke**
3. **Your vision of the Transition Network.** *Visioning is one of the key principles of transition. In this session, we're going to blue sky how we'd like the Transition Network organisation to be operating in 3 to 4 years' time. What would you be expecting from them? How would you be interacting? Who would be working within it? What involvement would you have in decision making? What would you be able to offer? What would they not be doing? Where should it be located? How would you expect it to be funded? Would we still be aiming at the mission of "Inspiring, Encouraging, Networking, Training and Supporting"? Depending how far we get, we may start thinking about the steps to get there.* **Ben Brangwyn**
4. **Engaging Young People.** *Engaging young people in Transition will be key to its long term success and to its take up in our communities. A number of Transition Initiatives have now been working with their local schools and devising innovative ways of engaging young people. This workshop will explore some useful tools for this work.* **Ed Wade-Martins and Hannah Mulder**
5. **The 12 Steps of Transition.** *At the heart of this process is the 12 Steps of Transition, the collection of tools, insights and activities that underpin the first couple of years of most Transition Initiatives. This workshop will go through each step, offering space for people to share their experiences of using them, and their insights and suggestions.* **Rob Hopkins**
6. **Communication.** *A good poster is worth a thousand words. Or perhaps a film shown in the local cinema, or a really arresting website? How we communicate Transition is one of the key aspects of the success or otherwise of our work. This workshop will look at ideas for design, communication, and how to make the most of your visual outreach.* **Jody Boehnert**
7. **Post Peak Medicine.** *An exploration of the role of herbal medicine in a more localized healthcare system.* **Mandy Dean**
8. **Reviving the Cottage Economy.** *It is only a few generations since most people produced for the majority of their own needs directly from the land. In this session Molly Scott Cato considers how livelihoods and local trade will be revitalised in the post-transition economy.* **Molly Scott Cato**
9. **Cities in Transition.** *Attempting to apply Transition thinking to our urban areas offers a unique challenge. This workshop will be a forum for sharing what seems to be working at that level and the struggles unique to working on that scale.* **Sarah Pugh and Paul Paine**
10. **Takers to Sustainers - Challenging Convention.** *Transition as a grass roots movement can help us let go of the way of life that is destroying the natural world of which we are a part. Together as mature adults, we can remove the blind-fold of consumerism and demonstrate we are capable of much more than we are given credit for. And more, Transition communities will help political and business leaders understand that there is another way and that people will accept change and soon be demanding it. Transition washes away the notion that ordinary people are too ignorant or selfish to change, often an excuse for doing so little in the face of the greatest challenges humanity has known.* **Ciaran Mundy**

Workshops Session 3 (Sunday 9.30 – 10.30am)

1. **The 'F' Word.** *Ah, the big question. Funding, and how to get some. Although Transition initiatives can roll along quite happily for a while with no funding, after a while financial input is needed to allow key projects to emerge. How best to approach funders? What do they want to hear? How best to maximize your group's chances of success?* **Cath Peters and Fiona Ward**
2. **Local Authorities.** *At the moment the Transition Network's advice to Councils who get in touch is that Transition is a process they support but not one that they drive. However, if you are a Town, Parish or District Council and you want there to be a vibrant Transition Initiative in your community, what do you do? How might Councils become proactive in getting Transition Initiatives underway?* **Cllr. Bill Evans and Cllr. Linda Hull**
3. **Energy Descent Pathways.** *The last of the 12 Steps is the creation of an Energy Descent Action Plan, but so far the only one in existence is Kinsale's which was, in effect, a student project. Now Totnes, Lewes and others are starting the processes of developing theirs, and in this workshop you can catch up with the latest on the process and how it is evolving.* **Rob Hopkins and Adrienne Campbell**
4. **Enabling Local Energy with ESCOs .** *Energy Services Companies or ESCOs are not a new concept. Many ESCOs are already in operation, some in the UK, but they are used to a far greater extent elsewhere in the world. In Scandinavia, for example, community ESCOs commonly operate large biomass district heating schemes. ESCOs can exemplify the concept of distributed generation and can offer the opportunity to bring people 'closer' to their sources of energy. Energy Service Companies should not provide a fixed offering, but a service solution that befits the client's needs.* **Chris Roland**
5. **Transition Transport.** *Transport is our key Achilles heel when it comes to our oil dependency. Breaking our addiction to the car and shifting towards more locally powered and efficient transport sources will be key. What strategies might be most appropriate for Transition transport groups?* **Peter Lipman**
6. **Education and Training – an introduction to Transition Training.** *Transition Training has been an amazing success, sold out each time it runs, and giving participants an empowering and inspiring crash course in Transition. This workshop offers a taste of what the training contains in an experiential way, as well as allowing space for feedback and for ideas as to how Transition Training might evolve.* **Sophy Banks and Naresh Giangrande**
7. **The Transition Timeline.** *One of the key pieces of work the Transition Network has been involved in is the Transition Timeline, which is about pulling together from the latest thinking and modeling on peak oil and climate change a 'map' of the next 20 years, a scenario of how things might unfold and the terrain upon which our energy descent plans can be designed. This workshop will present work-in-progress and unveil what will prove a very useful resource for Transition Initiatives.* **Shaun Chamberlain**
8. **Avoiding Transition Towner Burnout.** *Being at the cutting edge of Transition Initiatives can be exhilarating and empowering, but it can also be exhausting, and lead to our taking on more than is good for us. This workshop will explore tips for avoiding burnout, how to notice when it is creeping up on us, and how to also support our fellow Transitionistas in avoiding this common pitfall.* **Mike Grenville**
9. **Transition Universities?** *How can we develop a Transition University aimed at education and re-skilling for the transition towards a post peak oil, zero carbon, re-localised future? What courses are needed, would it be a new university or a network of courses already offered, how can we make it happen?* **Julie Richardson**
10. **TBA.**



Biographies of your Wonderful and Gorgeous Workshop Hosts

Gary Alexander is a Senior Lecturer in Communications and Technology at the Open University, and author of *eGaia, Growing a peaceful, sustainable Earth through communications*. (Lighthouse Press, 2002). See his website www.sustainability.open.ac.uk/gary. He is currently working to implement the visions in his book through practical projects in his local town, Diss in Norfolk. DissConnected will be a prototype for a 'connected community' that has much in common with transition towns. See www.dissconnected.net.

Sophy Banks first qualified as an engineer and worked for many years teaching electronics and designing IT systems. Later qualifications and work in psychotherapy, family systems and energy work give a wide range to her skills spanning outer and inner worlds. She co-founded the Heart and Soul group and has been an active part of the central organisation of Transition Town Totnes. In October 2007 she and Naresh started Transition Training, delivering high quality training to support the Transition process. This is now supported by a national Network Training Forum. After twenty years of competitive football she's too old to be slide tackling in the Hackney marshes mud and now lives in Devon, cycling and walking on Dartmoor whenever she can.

Paul Baker runs Paul Baker and Company, which is set up to help people solve problems and live more authentic lives, as well as to share tools for doing this. He has a background in permaculture, NLP and alternative health. He lives near Bristol and is a member of the Transition Bristol team.

Jody Boehnert is a graphic designer who runs a small studio **iambe**. She founded EcoLabs in 2007 as a network for designers & artists addressing sustainability and systemic change. She helped Duncan Law establish Transition Towns Brixton in early 2007 and now serves as Secretary. She has also very recently co-founded Ecodemia to embed environmental issues in higher education.

Adrienne Campbell is a permaculturalist who trained as a scientist and co-founded a progressive primary school. As one of the founders of Transition Town Lewes she is currently in the business and Energy Descent Action plan groups, and supports other transition initiatives in the South East of England. Adrienne loves bees.

Molly Scott Cato is an economist, mother and academic. She is author of the wonderful, indeed seminal, '*Market, Schmarket*', is a member of Transition Stroud, and publishes www.gaianeconomics.org, recently voted the UK's best green blog.

Shaun Chamberlin worked until recently with David Fleming as Lean Economy Connection's Tradeable Energy Quotas Development Director, as well as a specialist in climate change and the energy peak. He is also currently working with the Transition Towns movement developing the Transition Timeline to help provide a context for their local-level work, and is a member of DEFRA's Personal Carbon Allowances Advisory Group. He also publishes www.darkoptimism.org.

Mandy Dean is one of the founders of Transition Bro Ddyfi, based in Machynlleth in Wales and is a qualified medical herbalist.

Bill Evans is our most venerable and esteemed workshop host at 73; he is married with a large family with four generations of diverse cultural stock. A lifelong socialist political activist and Quaker, Bill served 12 years as a Warwick district councillor till 2007 and has been a Leamington town councillor since its formation in 2002. He is also a member of executive of local Action 21 in Warwick District.

Naresh Giangrande worked in films, and then for many years was Managing Director of his own landscape company, and also taught meditation. He has also lived and worked in many communities for many years, and was a trustee of the Braziers Park eco community until recently. He co-founded Transition Town Totnes and Transition Training. He now works on the Totnes project and Transition Training designing and delivering training both nationally and internationally.



Mike Grenville is a meditation teacher and technology journalist focused on the mobile messaging industry. His environmental activism has put him behind a number of front page newspaper stories particularly on GM crops. His Changing Worlds courses raise awareness of the need for the Transition Town response and help participants face the challenges of the great turning. Mike has stripped off to campaign for cycling and against GM and the Iraq war, and is co-founder of Transition Forest Row, although his workshop will be delivered, we are promised, fully clothed.

Linda Hull is a community worker in Glastonbury who was recently elected to Glastonbury Town Council. She has worked in the local food and sustainable tourism sectors, and is taking forward the Transition Glastonbury initiative. She has worked with District and County Councils on a climate change communities campaign and with recruiting energy efficiency advisors to audit energy use in the community.

Charmian Larke FRSA. From librarian at the Department of Energy, to energy consultancy and windfarm development, Charmian has learnt many skills relevant to the transition to a low carbon future. She has travelled via. ministerial briefing, the hot rocks project, regional and local energy planning and project development work.

Daniel Lerch manages the Post Carbon Institute's Post Carbon Cities program, providing resources and assistance to local governments on peak oil and climate change. He is the author of the excellent *Post Carbon Cities: Planning for Energy and Climate Uncertainty*, the first major local government guidebook on peak oil and global warming. Daniel has worked on urban planning and sustainability issues for over ten years in the public, private and non-profit sectors. He authored one of the first local government policy assessments of peak oil while a Policy Associate at Metro, the regional government of the Portland, Oregon area. Daniel has a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Rutgers University in New Jersey and a Master of Urban Studies from Portland State University in Oregon.

Caroline Lucas was first elected to the European Parliament as one of the Green Party's first MEPs in June 1999 to represent the South East of England region, and was re-elected in 2004. Caroline is a member of the International Trade Committee and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. She also sits on the Parliament's Temporary Climate Change Committee. She serves as Vice President of the Animal Welfare, Health and Consumer and Globalization cross-party Intergrups, as Co-President of the Peace Initiatives Intergroup and is a member of the Parliament's Permanent Delegation to Palestine. She co-authored the very influential *Fuelling a Food Crisis* report last year and is a great champion of the Transition movement.



Claire Milne. Having seen her own health seriously compromised by a childhood devoid of healthy, sustainable food, Claire is now passionate and committed to working with communities to transform into hubs of healthy, sustainable food. Having previously worked in London as Coordinator of the Food Poverty Project, at Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming, Claire now works in and around Bristol on an array of food, health and sustainability initiatives including Bristol Food Hub, Bristol Food Links, Ragmans Lane farm and Transition Bristol.

Hannah Mulder is an actor and one of the founder members of the Transition Town Totnes "Transition Tales" initiative. She is a member of "Tarte Noire", a women's Playback Theatre company, who create spontaneous theatre created through a collaboration between performers and audience; someone tells a story or moment from their life, chooses actors to play the different roles then watches as their story is immediately recreated and given artistic shape and coherence.

Dr. Ciaran Mundy's has been a member of the Steering Group of Transition Bristol since January 2008. He is co-founder of One World Wildlife (est. 2000), Adopt Wildlife (est. 2003) and LowFlyZone (est. 2007). He takes an active interest and role in various conservation projects in the UK and overseas. His recent work with WWF UK examines how we can better communicate the urgent need to accept, initiate and demand the changes required for sustainable societies. He has a PhD in ecology (biodiversity of agricultural soils) and several years experience running his own businesses in wholesale distribution, IT consultancy and property development.

Paul Paine helped establish Transition Nottingham in May 2007 and is a member of the steering group. He works as community gardener on the largest allotment site in the UK and is involved in other community and permaculture projects around the city. He lives in a housing cooperative which he is slowly trying to make more sustainable and resilient.

Cath Peters is a professional fundraiser with 15 years experience of working for mental health and disability charities. Her focus has been on developing relationships with corporate, trust and government funders contributing to income targets ranging from £1m pa to over £50m pa.

Prior to working in the voluntary sector, Cath spent 13 years working as a strategic planner in a variety of advertising agencies developing high profile campaigns aimed at persuading people to buy things they didn't need, at prices they couldn't afford, to achieve an image that was a figment of a creative team's imagination!



Sarah Pugh is a Permaculture teacher and has been involved with the Bristol Permaculture Group and urban gardening projects since 2000. She has been working with Transition Bristol since its beginnings in January 07.

Chris Rowland is a director of the newly formed Energy Service Company called **OVESCO** and a contact for the TTL Energy Group. Chris's worked has worked in design and build for the past twenty years. After taking part in a number of TTL open space events in 2007, Chris decided to leave

his job as in Crawley and work in his home town 'Lewes'. OVESCO was formed as a not for profit community based company to make projects happen in Lewes and help the town to power down and supply sustainable energy for the future.

Mark Thurstain-Goodwin is the director of GeoFutures (a spatial insight consultancy using data analysis and geographic information (GI) science to help clients make reliable management and planning decisions), and he combines a geographical education with extensive first-hand experience of commercial data analysis. After graduating from Girton College, Cambridge, Mark worked as a commercial property analyst for four years at PMA, before undertaking a Master's degree in Geographical Information Science (GIS) at the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) at University College London and becoming a Senior Research Fellow at UCL. He founded Geofutures in 2002. Mark also retains a close working association with UCL. He is continuing his PhD research and regularly publishing in related academic journals.

Chris Vernon is one of the editors of the indispensable OilDrumEurope. One of his areas of particular interest is the overlap between peak oil and climate change. He lives in Bristol, is involved in Transition Bristol, has been a contributor to the Transition Timeline project, and in his day job he works for Orange.

Ed Wade Martins is a founding member of Movingsounds, a multi-media arts education group who use artistic practice to explore all kinds of environmental social issues. He has run workshops for the last 8 years with young people, schools, community groups, businesses, charities, and public bodies using music, film, performance, capoeira angola and visual arts. He also plays music and performs Live with The Manjinga. As a passionate environmentalist since childhood he is excited to combine his creative practice with environmental education.

Fiona Ward is the TTT Business Projects Coordinator. She has worked with blue chip organisations for over 15 years, delivering strategic consulting services and systems driven business efficiency projects. More recently she has delivered environmental improvement services for small and medium sized local businesses.

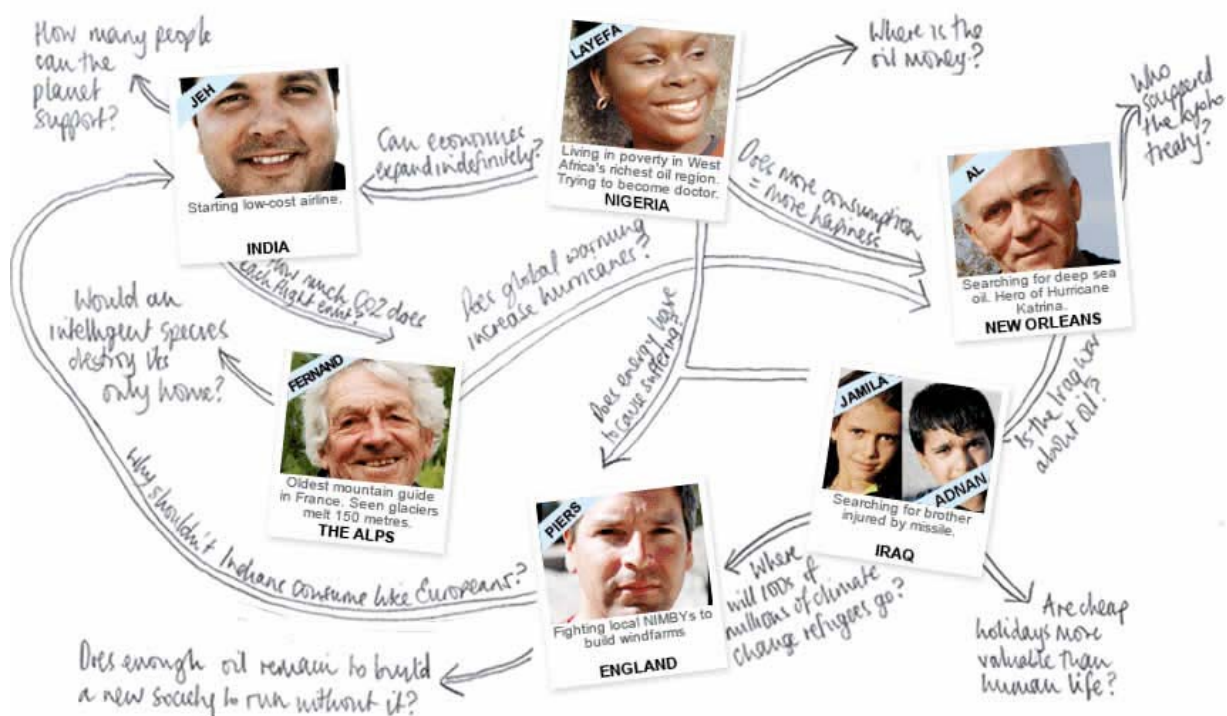
Patrick Whitefield is one of the leading permaculture teachers in Britain, indeed in Europe. He combines a deep knowledge of the subject with an inspiring and professional teaching style. He's written three books on permaculture: *Permaculture in a Nutshell*, *How to Make a Forest Garden* and *The Earth Care Manual*. He's currently working on another book, *The Living Landscape*, how to read it and understand it, a subject especially close to his heart. He also practices as a design consultant and is a very active member of Transition Town Glastonbury.

For Your Friday Night Viewing Delectation

We are delighted that you will be among the first people to see "The Age of Stupid". Formerly know as "Crude", this is the new cinema documentary from the Director of "McLibel" and the Producer of the Oscar-winning "One Day In September".

THE AGE OF STUPID

This enormously ambitious drama-documentary-animation hybrid stars Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching "archive" footage from 2007 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change while we had the chance? This wee flow diagram should give you the general idea of what The Age of Stupid is all about.... don't panic, it'll all make perfect sense on the big screen...



The directors, Franny Armstrong and Lizzie Gillett, will be present and will answer your questions at the end of the film. For more information visit www.crudemovie.net. The film will run for 83 minutes.

Meet the Transition Network's Trustees

Peter Lipman (Chair) works on the Liveable Neighbourhoods and Low Carbon Travel programmes at sustainable transport charity Sustrans and is chair of trustees of the Centre for Sustainable Energy, www.cse.org.uk. He has been involved with the steering group of Transition Bristol since it got going and is very interested (frustrated at times) by the different challenges of the transition process in a city environment. He looks far better in shorts than any of the other Trustees.



Brian Goodwin teaches Holistic Science at Schumacher College. Trained as a biologist and a mathematician, he had an academic career that included appointments at Sussex and the Open University, where he was Professor of Biology. His educational vision gradually broadened to include issues of planetary health and the role of humans as participants in shaping a new global culture of participation based on local communities. Brian is unable to attend the conference but sends his very best wishes.

Ben Brangwyn had put his ecological aspirations on the back-burner, spending many years quite successfully infiltrating the world of business and hi-tech, with occasional forays into charity work. Like many before him, the strain of disconnecting from a long-lost inner Gaian core was taking a heavy toll, especially with peak oil and climate change looming fast. However, finding out how to be part of the solution wasn't proving to be easy. And just when it was all looking a little tragic, an encounter with Stephan Harding of Schumacher College re-energised the eco-warrior.



At that point, realising he could no longer be part of the problem, he backed irrevocably away from his bizarre day job of manipulating pixellated abstractions while feigning enthusiasm and started planting acorns with a vengeance. Once he ran out of acorns, a synchronous confluence of disparate elements - a long-term fixation on relocalisation, a limerick, Rob Hopkins and a "Life Beyond Oil" course at Schumacher - helped put his energies where they might do some good. And ever since, he's been putting all his efforts into helping nurture the accelerating emergence of a network of communities that aspire to implement the fast developing transition model.



Pamela Gray is a well respected scientist and award-winning entrepreneur who has enjoyed a long and varied career working in the US and UK. For the past 5 years she has focused exclusively on factors affecting human health, paying particular attention to those that relate to our use of fossil fuels. Pamela is a strong advocate of localized medical systems and of the need to integrate conventional medicine with the best of alternative and complementary techniques. She is deeply concerned about the implications that peak oil and climate change have for the future design and management of our health and medical systems and is in the process of producing a book on the subject. pamela.gray@transition-health.com.

William Lana is co-founder and owner of Greenfibres an organic textile company started in 1996. He is Chairman of the Soil Association's Organic Textile Standards Committee and of the Ethical and Environmental Marketing Group. He is also a trustee of a number of charities including the Environmental Justice Foundation, Transition Network, and the Naturesave Trust as well as an elected member of the Organic Trade Group. In a previous life William worked in the City and on Wall Street in the 80's, and in Brussels in the 90's for the External Relations Directorate of EU Commission. He has 2 kids Megan (12) and Max (10), and lives in Totnes.



Julie Richardson has over 20 years' international experience working across a range of sectors and organisations covering different aspects of sustainable development. She has worked as a senior environmental policy advisor to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and as Principal Sustainability Officer for Jonathon Porritt's Forum for the Future. In 2005, she was awarded an MSc in Holistic Science at Schumacher College and since then has undertaken a range of projects to show how new thinking in science can be applied to sustainable development. In May 2006 she was appointed Director of the Landscape Project for the Dartington Hall Estate. The Landscape is a pioneering initiative to attract sustainable land based ventures to the estate with the aim of strengthening the local economy. She recently co-authored *The Triple Bottom Line: Does It All Add Up?*

Rob Hopkins is co-founder of the Transition Network. He spent many years teaching permaculture and cob building, mostly when living in Ireland. Now based in Totnes, he is a member of Transition Town Totnes, works part time for Transition Network, publishes www.transitionculture.org, is author of the just published 'Transition Handbook' and generally spends far too much time thinking about Transition stuff. He is also a Trustee of the Soil Association, is a family man with 4 sons, and is deeply in love with the raised beds he just finished building.



We are delighted to welcome to the list of 'mullers', Transition Ambridge



On March 24th, Pat Archer discussed with her friend Cathy Perks the possibility of forming Transition Ambridge. The exchange went like this...

Pat. Well, it's something the Soil Association has been talking about for a long time. Transition is a way of actually making a difference

Cathy. How?

- P. Its a bit like we did with the school meals at Loxley Barratt, but on a far bigger scale, and it wouldn't just be about food.
- C. Hang on... you want everyone to eat local produce or grow their own or what? And if its not just food....
- P. OK. I'll start again. The Transition Movement says we've got to do something about climate change, and we've got to reduce our dependence on oil..
- C. Everyone's been saying that for ages
- P. Yes, but Transition communities are actually doing it.
- C. How?
- P. Lots of ways. Food is just the start. Energy Descent Plans. Community orchards. Woodchip boilers. Economic localisation. The Totnes Pound...
- C. The what?
- P. Totnes, you know, Devon. They've created their own currency which you can only use locally.
- C. Good grief! It all sounds pretty ambitious!
- P. Well, it's got to be.
- C. And you'd be expecting the whole of Ambridge to get involved?
- P. Oh definitely the whole of Ambridge, and other villages, Borchester even...
- C. Borchester?
- P. Well, most of the places that are doing it already are Transition Towns, there are a few villages though...
- C. You can see why if you're trying to get people out of their cars, better public transport.
- P. Yes but..
- C. That's the trouble though... if you give up your car, there's no other option
- P. Well you can cycle...
- C. Like Nigel? He thinks it's a good idea.
- C. I think you might have a job selling it to the whole village...
- P. Well, I'm going to carry on with it anyway, see how far I can get....



Two members of the audience at the recent Positive Energy conference at Findhorn act out the Pat/Cathy script the day after the piece went out on the programme. The writing on the bucket reads "Ambridge Organics", and "TVA" (Transition Village Ambridge).

Dum de dum de dum de dum etc....

Finding Your Way Around at the Royal Agricultural College (we don't want to lose you!)



What A Virus Looks Like

The rampant spread of the Transition virus! These maps are a few weeks out of date, the newer ones are like a sea of blue. For the most up to date lists of mullers and formal Transition Initiatives visit <http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/Mulling>.



Transition Initiatives in England (formal TIs in green, mullers in blue)



Scotland, Wales and Ireland



The Rest of the World

Aren't Google Maps great?!

*"My heart is moved by all it cannot save
So much has been destroyed.
I have cast my lot with those
Who age after age perversely
With no extraordinary power
Reconstitute the world".*

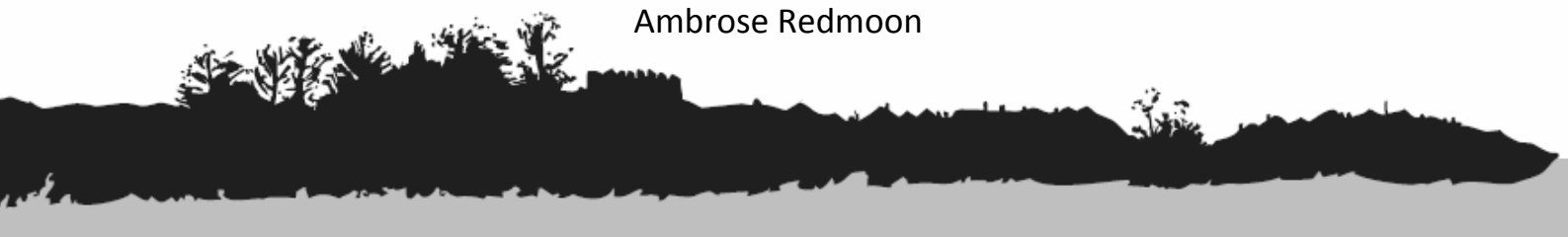
Adrian Rich

*"I would say that the Transition movement is the most exciting,
most hopeful, most inspirational movement happening in Britain
today... the brilliance of the Transition movement is that it
demonstrates so effectively that the changes we urgently need to
make in order to address peak oil and climate change are
positive changes in themselves. By making these changes we can
not only tackle the environmental crisis, we can also lead more
fulfilling lives"*

Caroline Lucas MEP

*"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that
something else is more important than one's fear. The timid
presume it is the lack of fear that allows the brave to act when
the timid do not. But to take action when one is not afraid is
easy. To refrain when afraid is also easy. To take action
regardless of fear is brave."*

Ambrose Redmoon





Thanks for coming! Safe home...

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