

Minutes of Transition Wilmslow Monthly Meeting December 2017

Chris Frankland, Garry Olson, Helen Lederer, Helen Wright, Pippa Jones, Pat Baker, Andrew Backhouse, Heather Calderbank, Mel Harris. Anita Willoughby, Maddie Bean, Anthony Jones.

Apologies: John Handley, Jean Hill, Ali Berry, Denise Renshaw

We were delighted to welcome Helen Wright woodshade@live.com

Minutes of November Meeting accepted

1. Earth Hour:

Official Earth Hour is Saturday 24th March 8.30pm. In the past we have had a one hour candle lit sing song upstairs at The Old Dancer.

- Pippa has written to The Old Dancer (contact Tandy Palmes marketing.sedgwickriley@gmail.com) to check that this date is free of major sporting fixtures etc and they would be happy to host on that date. If not could consider another date?
- John will feed back in January any discussions with Doug MacDonald and Alan Hill; suggestions have been to have a longer evening (bringing in other musicians?); to organise food (Old Dancer can do this, eg pie and a pint, but this needs to be agreed well in advance and negotiations about numbers, cost etc with Tandy).
- Comms team will need plenty of notice to make a poster and to get date on to social media
- There will need to be a full group mailing to tell all our mailing list
- We have never really tied in with climate change. Could energy group or others make some suggestions? Get people to make a pledge? Other action? Donation to WWF? (who organise Earth Hour); tie in with plastic reduction pledge?

2. Foraging

- Pippa has been in touch with James Wood, will feed back before next meeting. Two dates mooted, Nov 3rd mushrooming, may 5th; agreed May 5th unsuitable because BH weekend, will ask for alternative date. Agreed will ask for suggestions for alternative place, eg fringes of Lindow Moss?

3. Dawn Walk

- Pippa has discussed this with John who thought it was a good idea in principle; group thought it was a great idea, Dawn Walk has always been very popular and brought lots of people in. Helen W

suggested Equinox might be a good date (March already quite busy, could be a good focus for September; official date is Sunday 23 September; dawn time will be 06:22!)

- Group discussed that we could raise profile of Moss if we got the publicity right; Mel agreed to find out who the producer of Open Country is to see if we could get radio interest; we have in the past tried to get local journalists interested but without success (but that doesn't mean we can't try again).

4. Community Garden:

- Garry has applied for the garden to be part of Wilmslow Wells Open gardens
- Working group in November very successful, Pauline took photos, planted 2 damsons, range of raspberry canes, blackcurrants, gooseberries and perennial herbs. Pauline has photos. Pippa will contact for a short piece for website.
- Mel and Garry put together an application to the community fund at the airport for 9 new beds. Second application for up to £1000 from the East Cheshire Community fund for seeds, plants etc. S016 Funding for water in community garden: need to meet with Ruth McNulty. Garry has met with Nick Brierly who is an expert in grounds maintenance, confident we can up with a scheme to tap into the culvert. Garry has contacted Marianne Hodgkinson. Garry will pick this up when he gets back.

5. Walks:

- Brownie etc walks: people happy to continue with Lindow Moss walks
- John happy to develop walks programme for youngsters on same basis as before (training up people who are happy to lead groups; ideally 2 of us per walk).
- Pippa and garry will meet up late January to put together a Transition Opportunities pack for childrens's groups detailing opportunities for walks and community garden sessions.

6. Town Centre:

- Chris and Jean have met with Ruth McNulty to discuss development of the walk from Parkway to Sainsbury's/Library with input from Romany Society.

7. Energy Group:

- Helen will write a few lines about latest developments re energy: (a) energy surveys on new houses (Geoff L was planning to contact Jones homes); (b) Helen L wrote to energy NW re balancing energy (c) Andrew will be working with Transition Northwich on energy surveys (d) How do we ensure we have fulfilled commitments to WTC re energy surveys?

Offer to do energy survey of Esther McVey's office in Chapel Lane? Geoff Levermore giving a talk to U3A January. Have a flyer "turn rhetoric into reality and have an energy survey".

<http://wilmslowu3a.org.uk/interest%20groups/science.htm>

8. **Letter to Esther McVey:** Joy has written a draft letter from energy group to Esther McVey: suggest edit to say could she support Chancellor re plastic bottle recycling
9. **Energy Group: Low energy dinner** Tuesday 19th December 50 Sagars lane 7pm : all welcome; bring a low energy contribution!
10. **Invitation from Andrew to Sheffield carols** 7.30pm Railway Inn Handforth

11. Plastics:

- Lots of enthusiasm especially post Blue Planet 2 to do something about reducing plastic use.
 - Andrew will book a Market stall 21st April to encourage plastic reduction especially reducing one off plastics eg coffee cups, straws, also plastic toys. Agreed need some innovative ideas to engage people. Horrify people with a net of plastic bottles? Making things from plastic? Get people to realize plastics comes from petroleum and that may be driving fracking etc?? Andrew, Helen W, Anthony, Helen L. will meet up to discuss.
12. **Tomorrow the film:** Pippa has sent poster to John and Geoff for circulation amongst their environmental colleagues, and to Ali, Flo and Andrew for circulation to High Schools. **Please also circulate the poster to anyone you think may like to attend, we have plenty of tickets left and it would be great to have a good turnout.**
 13. **Geoff Levermore** talking on climate change at U3A meeting Tuesday 16th January upstairs at The Library. Open to all, £2 charge to non U3A members, email in advance to secure a ticket via Graham Beech gb.u3a@talktalk.net
 14. **Next Meeting:** 11th January. Chair TBC.