



## Transition Wilmslow Christmas Newsletter 2018

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Don't forget it is the Christmas Artisan market on 15<sup>th</sup> December: do your bit for Plastic Free Wilmslow and remember your containers instead of bringing home more plastic!

There has been a great deal of very depressing environmental news in 2018, including atmospheric CO2 concentrations never seen before, worse predictions of global warming and the shocking realization of the extent of plastic pollution and the effect of environmental pollution from traffic. However, there is so much that we can do locally, both in our own lives and as part of our Wilmslow community, to mitigate these impacts. Please join us! It's interesting, fun and good for you! Our meeting dates are on our website. Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House. All welcome.

## The 2018 Transition Wilmslow Lecture:

Our lecture series is now well established, and we had a full house at the Guild in November for Professor Sarah Bridle's brilliant lecture on food and climate change. The 2019 lecture will be given by Dr John Whitelegg and will address the importance of sustainable transport policies.

## Food Group:

2018 has been a year of expansion, sunshine and happy community endeavour in our garden at The Temp. We secured nearly £2000 from Cheshire East and Manchester Airport community funds which we spent on materials to make and plant up six new raised beds. We had lots of help from TW members and others to build the boxes, shovel manure and soil, plant vegetables and herbs and spread wood chippings to keep weeds down. We were really pleased to welcome a teenage group from CVS one unusually rainy weekday morning: they moved a mountain of chippings. The amazing hot summer meant watering was a challenge. Our water butts in the hedge greatly helped, and we took it in turns to bring water down to the garden every Tuesday evening during the driest spells. Individual boxes were

adopted by groups of Beavers and Brownies as well as Year 6 from Lindow School. They all enjoyed afternoon sessions at the garden, planting, weeding and watering, playing games - and then harvesting at the end of the summer. The big potato cook-in is always a favourite. We put up signs welcoming people to the garden on Tuesday evenings to help with regular maintenance and harvesting. RHS Britain in Bloom visited and declared our garden 'outstanding'! Plans for next year include raising money for three more boxes to fill in the gap, and further sustained outreach work with local groups and schools.

#### Energy Group:

The Energy Group has started to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month with no fixed agenda. This is resulting in far more imaginative ideas and discussions. Flo Collier has taken on the thermal imaging camera - let her or Andrew know if you are interested in having an energy survey. We have surveyed at least 187 buildings (mostly houses) since we got the camera in 2012 and we are 2 off the target we set ourselves for Wilmslow Town Council's grant in 2014. Let us know if you'd like to save money and the planet by having an energy survey of your home or business.

#### Plastic Free Wilmslow:

Transition Wilmslow started off Plastic Free Wilmslow, which is now operating as a separate body, drawing in new people as well as many of our regulars. It is a challenge to us all, to reduce our use of plastics, reuse more, and recycle where possible. The more we learn about what is in our clothes, additives in make up, as well as food, the harder it is. But we have made good progress in starting conversations, whether through market stalls, the Town Council's welcome involvement, and work with businesses. I am delighted that Rise Coffee Shop is plastic free, Jacksons Fish and Chips have switched to cardboard trays from polystyrene, and several shops like the fishmongers and butcher on Chapel Lane and Waitrose accept reusable containers. Lots of bars and cafes have taken out plastic straws and offer refills for drinks bottles. There is discussion about setting up a plastic free shop, and the Plastic Unwrap at Waitrose drew lots more attention to the unnecessary use of plastics on many products. Watch out for the next of these - and I believe a WI is keen to be involved.

We appeared in [wilmslow.co.uk](http://wilmslow.co.uk) with our very successful "plastic drop" at Waitrose recently.

#### Wilmslow Community Shop

Lisa McClory came to tell us about a group who would love to create a community-owned grocery store in Wilmslow, which would be run as a charity by local members. The shop would be similar to other community-led projects such as Earlams in Styal and the Unicorn Grocery in Chorlton. We would stock goods from

local producers and avoid plastic packaging by providing goods which can be purchased in refillable containers.

If you would be interested in being part the Committee to set up the shop and in having some input into the shop's operating model, please contact [lisa.mcclory@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.mcclory@gmail.com).

There's a google form here to register your interest.

<https://goo.gl/forms/VFqbPAcYQAmQ0Vbv1>

Lindow Moss:

You will have seen that the two linked planning applications for Lindow Moss are to be discussed at the planning committee (4 years after they were first submitted) next week. We have supported the application in principle on the basis that it is the only proposal that will allow the vital (and urgent) restoration of the Moss (<http://www.wilmslow.co.uk/news/article/18416/decision-due-on-plans-to-build-14-houses-and-cease-peat-extraction-at-lindow-moss>). All of our submissions to CEC are on the Lindow Moss page of our website.

Neighbourhood Plan:

We are delighted that Lindow Moss has been identified as a Heritage Asset on the draft Neighbourhood Plan which is going to WTC for approval next week. If approved by WTC it will go to CEC and the Inspector, and then returned to the Community for a referendum. If approved, it will be a vital document to guide future planning and decisions about our town.